

BRIGHTMAN STREET BRIDGE FALL RIVER, MA

The existing Brightman Street Bridge is a 922-foot (281 m) long, four-lane wide drawbridge spanning the Taunton River between the town of Somerset and the city of Fall River, Massachusetts. It was authorized in 1903 by the state legislature, and building took place between 1906 and 1908, when it opened full time on October 10, 1908.

At the time of its completion, it was the widest bridge to span the Taunton River, and it now serves as the pathway for Route 6 and Route 138 to cross the river into Fall River. Other than the one-lane Berkley-Dighton Bridge 8 1/2 miles to the north, it is the only non-highway bridge spanning the river between Fall River and Taunton. Along with the Braga Bridge, it is one of the two major crossings of the river. Starting in 1983, plans were put in place to replace the bridge with a new, higher and wider span ¼ mile upriver, which would span from a proposed flyover intersection with Route 79 on the Fall River side, to a new access road through the former site of Slade's Ferry Park in Somerset.

During the driving of piles it was feared that the piles were not located in the correct horizontal location and that they were not plumb. Due to the nature of the construction site, conventional surveying would have been problematic since the ability to obtain a stable base was difficult. BCG was called in to solve the problem and did so using a combination of conventional surveying and laser scanning that provided a dense point cloud to enable the MHD to determine if the structures were true. The project is under construction and is projected to be completed in November 2012 at a cost of \$186 million.

