



Minnesota Department of Transportation
District 1 – Duluth
Interstate 535 John A. Blatnik Bridge

Fact Sheet

March 2012

Background

- Bridge #9030
- Original construction began in November 1958
- Original construction cost: \$15 million
- Opened to traffic on December 2, 1961
- Average Daily Traffic Volume: 29,500 vehicles (2006)

Design

- Designed by Howard, Needles, Tammen & Bergendoff (HNTB)
- 7980 feet long, 58-70 foot variable roadway width
- Second longest bridge in Minnesota (Bong Bridge is 8320 feet)
- 120 foot maximum clearance over St. Louis River
- 52 total spans with 600 foot long center span
- Main spans: continuous steel through truss arch
- Approach spans: continuous steel multi-girder
- Carries 4 traffic lanes (2 in each direction)



(Photo courtesy of Cindy Lillegaard)

Recent Inspection History

- Routine Inspections – October 2007, August 2008, July 2009, August 2010, July 2011
- In-depth Fracture Critical Inspections – August 2007, July 2009, July 2011
- Underwater Inspections – August 2004, September 2008
- Sufficiency Rating – 53.8 (2010)

Improvement History

- Approach span widening, new deck and roadway lighting – 1993-1994
- Complete repaint – 1995-1998
- Outline Lighting System – 1996
- Steel repair and spot paint – 2008
- Center span suspender cable evaluation – 2010
- Partial superstructure paint, steel repairs and new expansion joints – 2012 (planned)