

Burnside Bridge

Multnomah County, Oregon



Client:

Multnomah County
Portland, Oregon

Contract Value:

\$7,857,535

Project Timeline:

Started: January 2006

Completed: January 2008

Project Highlights:

- 3.75 million pound counterweight supported by complex rigging system while detached to replace trunnion pins & bearings
- Installation of seismic restrainers
- Installation of lift span motors, brakes and controls
- Replacement and repairs of corroded steel
- Installation of electrical systems
- Installation of storm water collection and treatment facilities
- New counterweight link arms
- Gear and bearing repairs



Portland's Burnside Bridge is a real heavyweight. Unlike every other bridge that features a Strauss Trunnion Bascule draw span, the Burnside Bridge's roadway is concrete, and the bridge's 3.8 million pound counterweight is one of the largest in the country. That fact plus the age of the bridge caused unique challenges when it came time to rehabilitate the bridge's main span. Unexpected obstacles that arose during the project, however, were overcome by the project team's experience and ability to think outside the box.

The structure could only be completely closed on weekends, requiring that work done during that time be conducted around the clock with crews working 12-hour shifts. When the bridge was open for use, one leaf had to be operational at all times, a specification that required AAC to replace all motors and brakes at the same time that the concrete roadway was being replaced—a task that required a high degree of coordination.