At its highest point in the center of the river, the new I-280 Maumee River Crossing roadway will be approximately 130 feet above water level. Gradually ascending to that height is the purpose of the bridge’s approaches.

A series of 181 reinforced concrete piers are the support structures that will carry the approaches to the river’s shorelines. The piers are constructed above 8-foot diameter drilled shaft foundations, some as deep as 100 feet, which contain an epoxy-coated reinforcing steel cage and high strength concrete.

Concrete segments, the building blocks of the bridge itself, are erected between each pier and assembled using specially-built erection trusses. This technique is used for the approaches on both sides of the river, as well as entrance and exit ramps at Front Street and the Greenbelt Parkway.

APPREACH FAST FACTS

Number of Piers: 181

Length of Bridge: 8,800 feet
(Seaman Street to Greenbelt Parkway)

Number of Spans: 190

- 108 for the approaches
- 74 for the entrance and exit ramps
- 8 for the main span over the Maumee River

The new exit ramp from I-280 southbound to Front Street is over 3,000 feet long.
The Maumee River Crossing is being constructed out of 3,057 precast concrete segments. The 60- to 100-ton segments are poured at the Casting Yard off Front Street, numbered and stored at the casting yard site. As segments are needed, they’re transported by truck to the I-280 construction site.

Five T-piers were constructed on the east side of the project. The unique piers carry the approaches over the Norfolk and Southern Railroad. All five of the T-piers were completed by December 2003.

To build the bridge’s new entrance and exit ramps, specialized equipment – called an erection truss – hoists and positions the 14 to 16 segments needed to span the distance between two piers. As the truss holds the individual segments in position, ironworkers assemble them using epoxy, then steel cables are placed and tensioned to complete the span. Typically one span can be erected per week.

Approaches

[ REACHING CRUISING ALTITUDE ]

For additional background materials on the Maumee River Crossing, call the project Hot line at 419-244-7696 or visit our Web site at www.lookuptoledo.org for the latest project updates.