Sunshine Skyway Bridge

Following a tragic ship collision that caused the collapse of the original bridge in 1980, Sunshine Skyway Bridge was rebuilt larger and stronger. Fast forward to today, the cable-stayed bridge is a Florida icon and a primary thoroughfare in the Tampa Bay area.

In the summer of 2016, another accident occurred. Watson Bowman Acme received a call that a tanker truck had caught fire and damaged the bridge, including a section of Wabo®Flex joints. As a major transportation system, the bridge could not be shut down, so a quick repair was critical. To make things more challenging, the Wabo®Flex would need to be fabricated - as a rare joint, no stock was readily available.

The WBA team rose to the occasion. Within a day, WBA’s Field Service was on scene to assess the damage. Meanwhile, their Customer Service & Sales teams worked around the clock to expedite the order and get replacement Wabo®Flex joints manufactured from scratch. Within several days, the joints were fabricated and shipped, and within one week from the original call they were installed by DBI Services with the help of WBA Field Service. Thanks to a team effort, Watson Bowman Acme delivered incredibly quick turnaround to minimize lane closure for this important transportation system.

WBA PRODUCTS USED

- Wabo®Flex
  Molded rubber segmental system

INSTALLATION

2016

BUILT

1987

I-275 crossing Tampa Bay, St. Petersburg, FL

OWNER

- Florida DOT

CONSTRUCTION TEAM

- Parsons Brinckerhoff, engineer
- DBI Services

SIZE

- Height: 430 ft. (131 m)
- Longest span: 1200 ft. (366 m)
- Total length: 4.14 mi (6.7 km)
- Clearance below: 180.5 ft. (55m)

DAILY TRAFFIC

- 50,500