



# Cooper River Bridges Demolition

## CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA

After the new Ravenel Bridge opened in Charleston in 2005, JV partners Cashman and Testa began the process of demolishing the Grace and Pearman bridges, which had carried traffic over the Cooper River since 1929 and 1966, respectively. Demolition was planned as a reverse-engineering project with the help of Weidlinger Associates. Both Cashman and Testa brought specific expertise to the project: Cashman brought construction management and marine expertise, and Testa, which had been demolishing bridges and been a demolition contractor since its start, brought excavation, earthwork, and a variety of demolition tools and techniques.

### PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

- Removed bridge sections via both explosive demolition and lowering by jacks into barges.
- Used unique equipment to perform all demolition work, including cranes and hydraulic machines on barges.
- Removed foundations to final elevation of -65 feet.
- Constructed a 1,250-foot-long observation pier.
- Reconstructed city streets and installed all new utilities in footprint of the old bridge approaches.
- Provided local neighborhood groups with updates of construction and changes in traffic routes.
- Used optimized techniques to clear the shipping channel following demolition within the allotted 24-hour window to maintain access to Port terminals.

Location:	Charleston, SC
Contractor:	JV: Cashman & Testa
Contract Dates:	May 2005 - Sept. 2007
Dollar Value:	\$61 million
Awarding Authority / Owner:	South Carolina Department of Transportation (SCDOT)

The Cashman-Testa JV team demolished and ultimately recycled the superstructure and substructure portions of two 2-mile-long bridges that had spanned two rivers.

