

# Veterans Memorial Bridge



Photo taken while bridge was under construction. (Montaup stacks can be seen in the background on the Somerset side on left.

<b>Official name</b>	Veterans Memorial Bridge
<b>Carries</b>	<span><b>6</b></span> <span><b>138</b></span> US 6 / Route 138
<b>Crosses</b>	Taunton River
<b>Locale</b>	Somerset, Massachusetts and Fall River, Massachusetts
<b>Maintained by</b>	MassHighway
<b>Design</b>	two-leaf bascule bridge
<b>Longest span</b>	200 feet (61 m) <sup>[1]</sup>
<b>Clearance below</b>	60 feet (18 m)
<b>Construction begin</b>	May 17, 2007
<b>Construction end</b>	Fall 2011
<b>Opened</b>	October 11, 2011
<b>Coordinates</b>	<span><span><span><span><span>41°43′35.18″N</span> <span>71°9′6.24″W</span></span></span><span><span>﻿</span> / <span>﻿</span></span><span><span>41.7264389°N 71.1517333°W</span><span><span>﻿</span> / <span>41.7264389; -71.1517333</span></span></span></span></span>

The **Veterans Memorial Bridge** is a [bascule bridge](#) connecting [Somerset, Massachusetts](#) and [Fall River, Massachusetts](#). The bridge carries [U.S. Route 6](#) and [Route 138](#) over the [Taunton River](#), with connecting ramps to [Route 79](#), and includes a bike path on its north side. The \$290 million bridge was dedicated to area veterans on September 11, 2011. The bike path was also dedicated in a separate ceremony that same day in honor of Pvt. Michael E. Bouthot, who was killed in action in Iraq in 2006.

The Veterans Memorial Bridge now serves as the pathway for [Route 6](#) and [Route 138](#) to cross the river into Fall River. Other than the one-lane [Berkley-Dighton Bridge](#) 8½ miles to the north, it is the only non-highway bridge spanning the river between Fall River and [Taunton](#). Along with the [Braga Bridge](#), it is one of the two major crossings of the river. This has led to the bridge having vital importance anytime there is a problem on the Braga; since the northern detour takes approximately twenty miles and the southern detour (over the [Mount Hope Bridge](#) and the [Sakonnet River Bridge](#)) is over twenty-five miles, it immediately becomes the major path for people coming in and out of the city, and vice versa.