



# THE SAN FRANCISCO-OAKLAND BAY BRIDGE SEISMIC SAFETY PROJECTS

CALTRANS

BAY AREA TOLL AUTHORITY

CALIFORNIA TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

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## PRESS RELEASE

### BAY BRIDGE USES GOOGLE EARTH TO REVEAL ICONIC CONSTRUCTION PROCESS

#### Self-Anchored Suspension Span To Be Built On Bay and Google Earth

**Oakland, Feb. 5, 2010...** The Bay Bridge Seismic Safety Projects is leveraging the popularity of Google Earth to allow Bay Area residents and bridge enthusiasts around the world to monitor progress of this historic construction project. The new East Span of the Bay Bridge debuted on Google Earth in December 2008, the first time Google featured a construction project in the program, enabling users to envision the finished bridge.

Google Earth users can now use the application to monitor the ongoing construction of the Self-Anchored Suspension Span (SAS), the most iconic element of the seismically retrofitted Bay Bridge. Sections of the SAS will appear in Google Earth soon after they are lifted into place out on the Bay. Deck and tower sections that are being lifted will appear green on Google Earth, and will turn solid after they are in place; the remainder of the under-construction bridge is transparent.

Users will see how construction of the SAS is progressing, and, when clicking on the bridge, can click-through to the project Web site [BayBridgeInfo.org](http://BayBridgeInfo.org), where they will find detailed real-time information on each SAS deck lift, from size and weight to high-resolution videos and photos showcasing various facets of the construction process.

“This is an unprecedented opportunity to take information about the SAS to a whole new level,” said Bay Bridge Public Information Officer Bart Ney. “Google Earth offers such a rich interactive environment that allows people to experience the bridge in a whole new way.”

With the “3D Buildings” layer activated on Google Earth, visitors can see the Bay Bridge from any angle as well as experience the bridge in ways they cannot in the real world, from “driving” across the side-by-side decks of the new East Span to “climbing” the SAS’s 525-foot-tall tower.

“Google Earth’s immersive environment combined with the in-depth media we’re going to provide on [BayBridgeInfo.org](http://BayBridgeInfo.org) will be the next best thing to being there,” said Ney.

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