

= Benton City ? Kiona Bridge =

The Benton City ? Kiona Bridge is a steel box girder and cable @-@ stayed bridge carrying two lanes of Washington State Route 225 over the Yakima River in Benton City , Benton County , Washington . The current span was opened to traffic on July 4 , 1957 and measures 400 @-@ foot @-@ long (121 @.@ 9 m) by 26 @-@ foot (7 @.@ 8 m) wide . Two bridges had previously connected the cities of Benton City and Kiona before and were located 300 feet (91 m) downstream . The first bridge was open by 1901 , and the immediate predecessor bridge was closed and torn down in 1964 . The bridge is owned and maintained by the Washington State Department of Transportation , and was added to the Washington Heritage Register on January 25 , 2002 .

= = Description = =

The Benton City ? Kiona Bridge is located about 150 feet (46 m) from the southern terminus of Washington State Route 225 (SR 225) in Benton City , just south of downtown . The unincorporated community of Kiona is just south of concurrent highways Interstate 82 (I @-@ 82) / U.S. Route 12 (US 12) , where SR 225 terminates . The bridge is 400 @-@ foot @-@ long (121 @.@ 9 m) by 26 @-@ foot (7 @.@ 8 m) wide , carrying two lanes of SR 225 , linking Benton City to I @-@ 82 / US 12 . While SR 225 on both sides of the bridge features bicycle lanes , the bridge does not . The bridge does feature 4 @-@ foot @-@ wide (1 @.@ 2 m) sidewalks raised 10 inches (25 cm) above the roadway surface .

The bridge , as well as the remainder of SR 225 are considered a major collector road by the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) , which the Federal Highway Administration defines as linking towns to larger arterials . Every year , WSDOT conducts a series of surveys on its highways in the state to measure traffic volume . This is expressed in terms of average annual daily traffic (AADT) , a measure of traffic volume for any average day of the year . In 2012 , WSDOT calculated that 9 @, @ 500 vehicles traveled on SR @-@ 225 along the bridge .

= = History = =

= = = Earlier spans = = =

The first span recorded was built by 1901 . That bridge was destroyed during a flood along the Yakima River in late 1917 . This bridge was recorded on the Pasco quadrangle produced by the United States Geological Survey in 1914 . The letters " US " were inscribed in one of the approach spans of the bridge as a way marker for travelers through the region . Major flooding happened along the Yakima River near Benton City in 1894 , 1917 , 1922 , 1933 , and 1948 . A new bridge was built after the original span collapsed in the flood . By 1954 the second bridge was considered no longer sufficient for the traveling public with a roadway less than 17 feet (5 @.@ 2 m) wide . The second bridge was torn down in 1964 , seven years after the opening of the current bridge .

= = = Current span = = =

The first proposals for the current bridge were submitted in November 1955 , with a cost estimate of \$ 140 thousand (equivalent to \$ 3 million in 2015) . The bridge was designed so that there was a clearance of 2 feet 9 inches (0 @.@ 84 m) higher than the 1933 Yakima River flood level . The new bridge was to be built 600 feet (180 m) downstream from the previous bridge , but was built 300 feet (91 m) upstream instead . The second bridge had been in place for 40 years and was seeing an average of 1 @, @ 700 cars @-@ per @-@ day over the bridge . By comparison 9 @, @ 500 cars on an average 2012 day travel over the current bridge .

Everett McKellar of Chelan won the contract to build the bridge , designed by Homer M. Hadley in

1956 . Hadley designed the Lacey V. Murrow Memorial Bridge across Lake Washington and the Third Lake Washington Bridge was named after him . The cost of the bridge came out at just over \$ 196 thousand (equivalent to \$ 4 @. @ 1 million in 2015) , and was opened to traffic on July 4 , 1957 .

The bridge is believed to be the first steel box girder bridge built in the United States , and is considered a prototype of the cable @-@ stayed bridge of which a very similar design by the Germans was completed , the Stroemsund Bridge in Sweden . Similar bridges include a timber @-@ stayed bridge designed in Germany in 1784 , the wrought @-@ iron stayed Albert Bridge in London designed in 1873 , and the Chow Chow Bridge in Grays Harbor County . The bridge was listed on the Washington Heritage Register on January 25 , 2002 .