

The bridge passes through three jurisdictions. We are in Virginia right now. In front of us you can see just about all that is in the District of Columbia, 650 feet. Now, this 650 feet begins at about the point where that diamond-shaped sign is that tells you there is a drawbridge, and ends beyond the drawspan or bascule leafs. You will notice the speed limit is 60 miles an hour, and you have three traffic lanes each way. There is a traffic light which hangs over one lane of traffic.

We will discuss this a little more, very shortly. This is the tower from which the man who operates the drawspan has a commanding view of both approaches.

This is looking from the tower toward Maryland. You will notice above the car between the two trucks in the westbound lane, which is facing us, a traffic light which hangs over the inside lane. And directly below us, where the vehicle is heading eastbound, that is the bascule leaf which raises.



This is looking from the tower toward Alexandria, Va. Here I want to show you, first of all, the traffic light which is just above this truck. And here in the middle of the photograph is a barrier gate [arrow]. This is a gate which swings from the side of the bridge to stop traffic when the operator is going to operate the drawspan.

Before he can swing this gate, he has to have the traffic stopped. And this is somewhat of a problem to the operators I have talked to.

First of all, they have to sound a horn or a siren, to warn the motorists that the drawspan is going to open. The traffic light turns from green to yellow and finally to red. And finally, when the traffic is stopped, the barrier starts to swing from the side of the roadway, and it has three red lights on it. They are hard to distinguish now, but there are three red lights which flash.

The barrier crosses the three lanes of traffic. The same situation exists on the approach from Maryland.