

Thank You

for traversing the Highway 65 bridge over the Mississippi! This short strip-map guide and object annotation will detail for you some of the features of the bridge that are sure to give pleasure to the discerning pedestrian. Please hang this guide on the provided line at the other end of the bridge. Waypoints are marked for you to stop and enjoy the particularly notable points of interest. The numbers on these waypoints are based on the number of steps your humble guide required to reach the spot in question from the end of the bridge. The first number is paces counted from the north (Pillsbury) side, the second is counted from the southern (Gold Medal) side. These pace counts are approximate only, fitting the somewhat-varied stride of a man about 6' tall with a 30" inseam. However, if the waypoint markers are intact, they will help guide you regardless of your pace. Notes describe the up and downstream sides of the bridge. Upstream is toward Nicollet Island and the Hennepin bridge, and downstream is toward the Guthrie and University. Please enjoy.



For more information about this and other city interface projects, you can review the work of the University of Aesthetics at www.sf0.org.

north

10/760 - A grapevine twines around the railings on the upstream side, a lovely reminder of nature harmonizing the urban landscape.

35/733 - These stairs lead down to St. Anthony Main, the oldest part of Minneapolis. Some really lovely taverns and restaurants are down here, along with idyllic walks along the river.

Pillsbury
sign

112/655 - This cutout provides good photo posing opportunities, though the view is marginally less dynamic than the other cutouts. Downstream on the south side is a good view of the Guthrie Theater (cobalt blue, cantilevered bridge); near that is the historic Gold Medal Flour/Mill City Museum building between them some daring and historically grounded architecture that will anchor the bustling riverfront on that side of the river for decades to come.

Nicollet Island

140/638 - Downstream are those leggy, alien looking powerline structures, each one seeming to evoke a different era of human accomplishment in energy. They no doubt carry forth the electricity generated by the squat brick building on the Pillsbury side, the Hennepin Island Hydroelectric Plant. Looking toward the Gold Medal side, at the base of the Guthrie now you can see into the eyes of playwrights Anton Chekhov and George Bernard Shaw, giants in the history of staged drama.

230/541 - Another cutout. Looking upstream you have a good view of Nicollet Island, which is a dynamic, beautiful study in the contrasts of the city. You can't see it from here, but there's a gorgeous neighborhood at the far end, like a tiny faerie kingdom. Go over there and see! Look across at the south side and you'll see the Post Office. From here the various structures of that long stone building echo the falls, the building tops cascading upon one another, tumbling downward toward you. This tumble effect is a key feature in Minneapolis architecture.

347/428 - Speed limit sign. Chekhov and Shaw are really staring now, the haunting gray of their limpid eyes slipping past your conscious mind's defenses. Upstream, witness the spine of Nicollet Island and its lovely Pavilion, site of numerous weddings and society affairs!

south

north

Nicollet Island

426/349 - Look down into the river! It's easy to feel hypnotized by the powerful yellow and brown effluvium below, its horrific beauty a roaring testimony to the effects of industry upon Nature. In time will these waters run clear again? Too soon to say.

605/162 - Look down! There are cylindrical things in the river! What are they, you might wonder. They, together with the spherical buoys, are the last warnings given to travelers of the might and danger of the upper Saint Anthony Falls Locks and Dam. Looking further upstream you can see the famous Grain Belt Sign, which at night is a raucous beacon of the class-transgressing tradition of the value added side of the grain industry. A look toward the Pillsbury side reveals the splendid arches that hold this bridge up, gracefully curving along its bottom toward you.

492/272 - Mill City Museum is very visible now, the clever cutaway technique to expose and memorialize Minneapolis' industrial past. The skyline really looms at this point on the bridge. This is also the start of good views of the Hennepin Ave bridge, upstream of you here. Gaze upon the glory of the post office, Art Deco details really clean and crisp against its rich, subtly-toned sandstone exterior.

685/87 - This cutout provides a view of the river walk below, and excellent people watching. The detailing on the post office is visible to anyone now, and should be enjoyed before it is lost in the macro view of the building a couple hundred steps away from here. You see here the "backside" of Nicollet Island. From this angle, and apropos of nothing, the water vaguely resembles a star destroyer in Return of the Jedi.

post office

775/1 - Uphill from here you see the Pillsbury sign. If you are starting from this point (the Gold Medal or south side of the river), you are just about to emerge from the deep parts of downtown into the shining sun and wonder of our interaction with the river. If you are leaving the bridge, you may want to catch your breath from the excitement and vertigo before you begin exploring the box canyons and ravines of wild Minneapolis. That Dunn Bros. a block from here is very good. Enjoy a fresh roasted cup of something fair trade if you like. If you are starting out, proceed to the next waypoint marker, the cutout.