NW 17th Avenue Bridge
Miami-Dade County
FDOT #874161, 8DA5886

This trunnion-type, double-leaf bascule bridge was constructed in 1928 to carry NW 17th Avenue over the Miami River in Miami. It shares its history with the SW 1st Street and the NW 12th Avenue bridges, all built as part of the Harbor Bond Issue of 1926. The NW 17th Avenue Bridge was designed by the Kansas City engineering firm Harrington, Howard, and Ash and constructed by Lockman Construction Company. The bascule span was supplied by the Central Station Equipment Company of Miami.

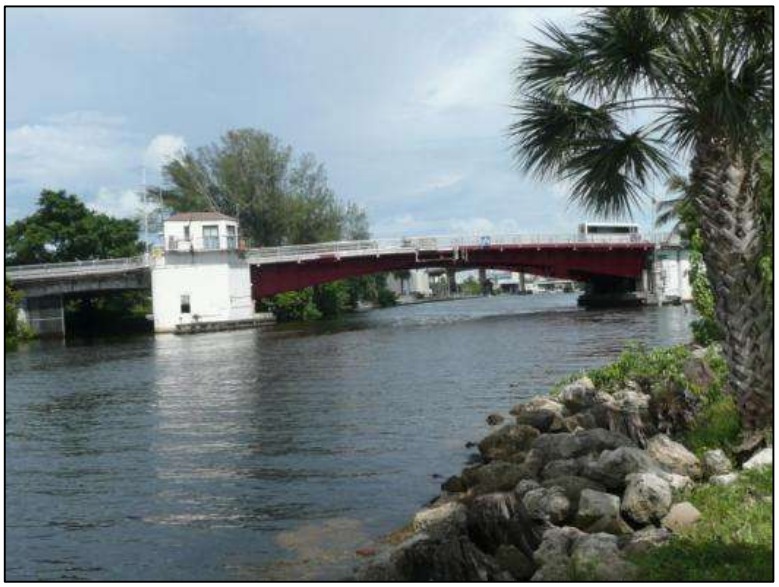

Photo 5-76. NW 17th Avenue Bridge, Miami-Dade County (No. 874161)

The entire structure measures 391 feet in length and has five concrete tee-beam approach spans. In most respects it is a conventional bascule structure. It has a functional appearance that is exhibited by the simple steel railings and plain concrete abutments housing the operating equipment. Though essentially a utilitarian structure, the designers added some details reflecting a slight Mediterranean Revival orientation. The terra cotta coloring of the bascule span further highlights these elements.

This bridge, along with the SW 1st Street bascule bridge, is one of the two remaining bridges constructed as part of the Harbor Bond Issue of 1926. It retains its historic physical integrity. This bridge was determined NRHP-eligible during the 2000 survey under Criterion A in the areas of Transportation and Community Planning and Development and under Criterion C in the area of Engineering as an early example of a bascule bridge designed by a notable engineering firm.