

Designing Anchor Points to Provide Suspended Access Solutions for Challenging Situations

What do you do when the anchor points for a suspended solution are not obvious? A suspended platform, which is a preferred solution for bridge access, enhances safety and environmental protection, allows multiple trades to work side-by-side with a higher degree of efficiency and keeps traffic flowing smoothly.

However, suspended access solutions require anchor points, which can be a challenge, especially on a concrete structure. Typically, securing a suspended platform involves looping chain over structural members and connecting clamps to trusses. This is not always feasible due to a bridge's design or obstructing elements.

For example, the reinforced concrete rails on California's Rocky Creek Bridge could not support a

structural load, but the bridge surface or road would. So the engineers had the contractor drill through the concrete surface and the access team drop the chain through. The suspension chain connected to a pad eye welded to the underside of a structural steel plate that fit almost flush with the road surface.

For the Caracău Viaduct railway bridge in Romania, cantilevered concrete pedestrian walkways prevented direct access to the arch workface. In this case, the concrete anchor system started with a 20-millimeter-dia threaded rod embedded into the concrete during walkway rehabilitation. The rods formed a connection for rotating suspension point assemblies.

These solutions may seem exotic, but they are just part of an average workday at BrandSafway, an expert at securely

anchoring suspended access systems on bridges worldwide. For more information, visit www.brandsafway.com. ♦



BrandSafway engineered a custom anchoring system for the suspended access system used on the renovation of the Caracău Viaduct railway bridge in Romania.

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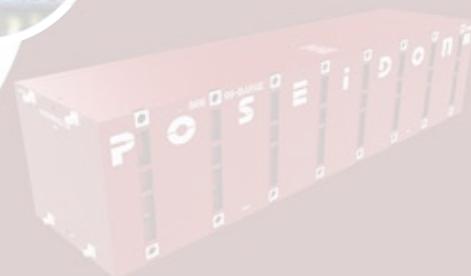
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