

# Gateshead Millenium Bridge

**CEE 491**

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# Background

- Links Newcastle City and Gateshead
- Costs \$22 million
- Used for pedestrians and cyclists
- Spans 126 meters across River Tyne

# Social Benefits

- Bring communities together
- Improve pedestrian facilities
- Open area for regeneration

# Economic Benefits

- Attracts tourism
- Benefits local businesses

# Innovations



- Tilting mechanism
  - Underpass
  - Conservation of electricity
  - Cycle time
  - Tourist attraction
- Light up walkways
  - Aesthetics
  - Safety

# Innovations Cont'd



- Environmentally Friendly
  - Complex design of lighting
  - Litter control
- Placement
  - Asian Hercules II

# Technical Issues

- October 2004
  - Circuit board failure



# VIDEO

- [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q54VKT\\_mZfl](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q54VKT_mZfl)

# Social Problems

- Part of a larger plan to re-urbanize area
- Population fell 5%
- High unemployment rate unchanged
- Can pouring money into cultural landmarks actually regenerate run-down areas?

# Local Support

- Residents called it "a stage set"
- Town consists mostly of old industrial warehouses
- "If Gateshead's just nice for tourists, then we will have failed"