All practicing bridge engineers are deeply influenced by the work of past designers. In this sense, much of the work of bridge engineering as a technology can be considered evolitional. Iconic bridges, which represent new innovations in this evolution of bridge engineering are particularly vital and worthy of study, and in many cases have enormous influence on later bridge designs. Replacing an iconic bridge carries with it an implicit responsibility to bring innovation to the design in some way, not to live up to the original structure, but to at least use the opportunity to bring new ideas to the practice of bridge engineering. These ideas are explored through a number of recently built bridges in the Northeast.

Theodore Zoli serves as the technical director of HNTB’s bridge practice nationwide. During his 25 years with HNTB, Zoli has led the design of numerous innovative first-of-their kind bridges.

In September 2009, Zoli was made a MacArthur Fellow by the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation. This prestigious award was granted for major technological advances to protect transportation infrastructure and for his innovative designs. In 2012, Zoli was selected as ENR’s Award of Excellence winner, considered the construction industry’s most prestigious honor.