

Lehigh Cement Fashions Regal Monuments for Connecticut Avenue Bridge



Lehigh's Union Bridge plant supplied the portland cement for the distinctive lions that guard the William Howard Taft Bridge in Washington, DC. These 16-ton concrete beauties were placed in 2000 at either end of the bridge which is a key element of Connecticut Avenue, a main thoroughfare in Washington, DC. The current versions (12 ft. high, 16 ft. long and cast in one piece into fiberglass molds) were designed by sculptor Reinaldo Lopez, to replace in every detail the bridge's original four lions placed when the bridge opened in 1907. The first lions had deteriorated over the years and were removed when the bridge underwent renovations in 1994. When bureaucratic redtape and lack of funds threatened the replacement of the landmark lions, overwhelming public sentiment prevailed. A three-quarter million dollar federal grant came through, and the beloved lions were restored to all their splendor. Lehigh Cement Company worked with Virginia Concrete to develop the mix design for these big cats.

Sculptor: Reinaldo Lopez
Readymix concrete supplier: Virginia Concrete