The John James Audubon Bridge project is a new Mississippi River crossing between Pointe Coupee and West Feliciana parishes in south central Louisiana. The bridge, to be the longest cable-stayed bridge in North America, will replace an existing ferry between the communities of New Roads and St. Francisville. The bridge will also serve as the only bridge structure on the Mississippi River between Natchez, Mississippi and Baton Rouge, Louisiana (approximately 90 river miles).

The signature cable-stayed portion of the project crosses the river with a 1583 foot span. The steel composite edge girders are supported by 136 galvanized stay cables spaced at approximately 46 feet. Arranged in a semi-fan configuration, the cable stays are anchored in the 460 foot-tall concrete towers, which are each founded on 42 eight-foot diameter drilled shafts extending up to 180 feet below the river bottom.

The project is being constructed by Audubon Bridge Constructors, a joint venture of Flatiron Constructors, Granite Construction and Parsons Transportation Group, and is expected to be complete by summer 2010.

Greg Shafer is Vice President for the southeast region of Parsons' Bridge and Tunnel Division. He has been working in the field of bridge design and construction for 20 years and is currently serving as Design Manager for Audubon Bridge Constructors (a joint venture of which Parsons is a partner) for the John James Audubon Bridge in St. Francisville, Louisiana. Greg graduated Magna Cum Laude from the University of Delaware with a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering degree and has also earned a Master of Science Degree from the University of Colorado.