

BY JOE SANO

# WORLD'S LONGEST SUSPENSION BRIDGE

**Italy will finally build a bridge connecting Sicily to  
the country's mainland first envisioned by the  
Romans thousands of years ago**



**D**on't get your toll money out quite yet. The long-promised proposal to build a bridge linking the Italian mainland to Sicily has been approved. It would be the longest single-span suspension bridge in the world, handling both road vehicles and trains, and would link the towns of Messina in Sicily and Villa San Giovanni in Calabria through the straits of Messina.

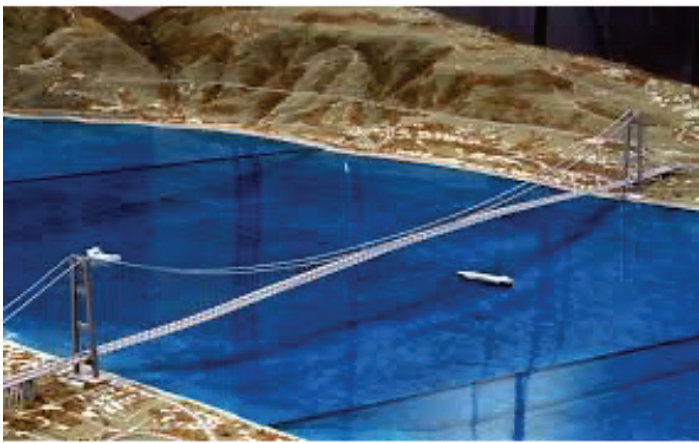
The 3.7-kilometer (2.3-mile) structure has long been proposed as a tool to develop the impoverished south of Italy. The proposed \$15.6 B (13.5B euros) price tag structure is slated to begin with preliminary work and some land acquisition in September/October 2025. The bridge completion is scheduled for 2032-33.

The Italian transport and infrastructure minister, Matteo Salvini, announced, "I am absolutely proud of the work we've done so far...This will be a public work that has no precedent in the world."





In March 2023, the Italian government decreed that the bridge should be considered a “fundamental infrastructure” that could be used to move military equipment and troops, given the “important NATO bases in southern Italy,” including in Sicily. The government also declared that the planned bridge was of “significant national interest.”



Residents on both sides of the strait of Messina have voiced concern about changes the bridge will bring to their neighborhoods, and environmental groups say

Rome wasn't built in a day and it's probably a safe bet that this bridge will not be ready for 2032. □

