An engineering marvel will be the Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel which is being built on the Atlantic coastline of the United States. The 17.6-mile (about 28-kilometer) series of trestles, bridges, causeways and tunnels, secured to four man-made islands, will span the bay from Cape Charles to Chesapeake Beach, both in the State of Virginia. Scheduled to open in 1964, the bridge—tunnel will eliminate the last water barrier on the 998-mile (about 1,600 kilometers) Ocean Highway from New York City to Jacksonville, Florida.

Never before has man spanned such a long stretch of exposed navigable ocean water. Most of the tunnel sections were built and assembled on land, then floated, positioned and sunk to a trench dug on the ocean bed. The concrete piles supporting the roadway were driven into the sea floor. The purpose of the underwater tunnels is to permit ocean-going vessels to pass through the bay without having to use drawbridges.