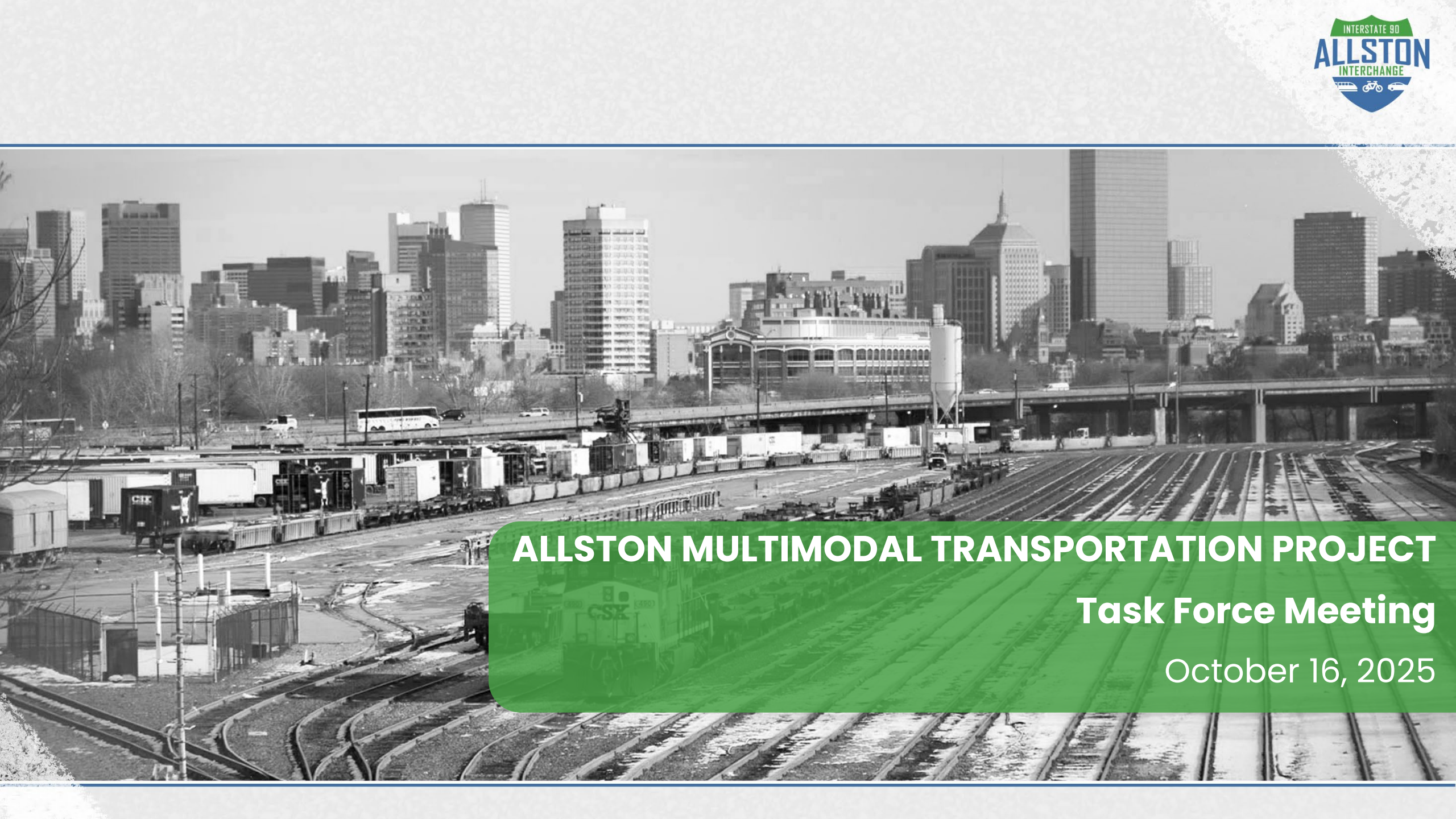


A black and white photograph of the Allston Interchange construction site. In the foreground, there are multiple sets of railroad tracks. To the left, there are several white shipping containers and a forklift. In the background, there is a large bridge under construction, and beyond that, the dense skyline of Boston with various skyscrapers.

ALLSTON MULTIMODAL TRANSPORTATION PROJECT

Task Force Meeting

October 16, 2025

Zoom Controls



- Drop down menu to check microphone and speakers



- Ask a question and share comments; Alt+H



- Raise your hand – *9 for users dialing in; Alt+Y

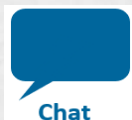


Live Transcript

- Closed captioning is automatically generated by ZOOM
- If you are unable to access the internet or are having technical problems, please call into the meeting at 305-224-1968, Meeting ID: 889 3699 8149



- Ask for support from the Virtual Public Involvement team



If you have trouble with the meeting technology during the presentation, please call:

1-888-799-9666



Unmute



Start Video



Q&A



Participants



Chat



Live Transcript



Reactions

Public meeting notes and procedures:

Notification

- While this virtual public meeting is not being recorded, the Massachusetts Department of Transportation may choose to retain and distribute images, reports, and/or the Q/A transcript.
- All parts of this meeting are considered public record.
- If you are not comfortable being part of the official record, please refrain from utilizing the Q/A feature, turn off your camera, and keep your microphone muted, or you may choose to excuse yourself from the meeting.

Important notes

- Your microphone is automatically disabled upon entering the meeting.
- The meeting will be open to questions and answers at the end of the formal presentation, with opportunities to ask questions after each of the updates as well.
- Task Force members will be prioritized for questions and comments

All questions and comments are welcome and appreciated, however we do request that you refrain from any disrespectful comments.

Notice of MassDOT's policy on diversity and civil rights:

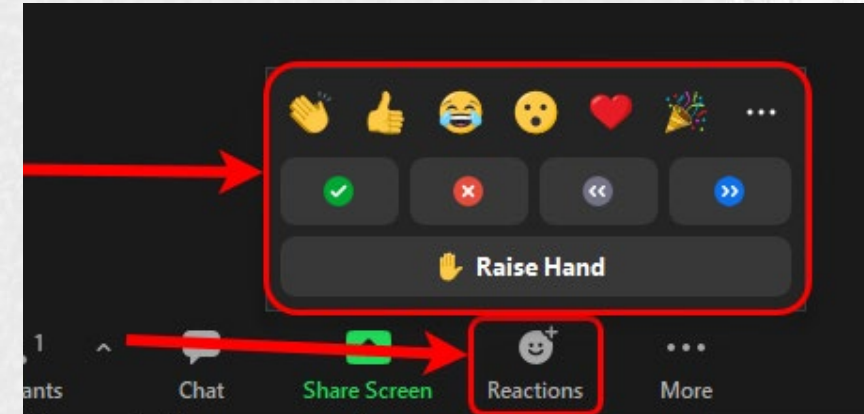
- All MassDOT activities, including public meetings, are free of discrimination.
- MassDOT complies with all federal and state civil rights requirements preventing discrimination based on sex, race, color, ancestry, national origin (limited English proficiency), religion, creed, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, or veteran's status.
- We welcome the diversity from across our entire service area. If you have any questions or concerns, please visit <https://www.mass.gov/nondiscrimination-in-transportation-program> to reach the Office of Diversity and Civil Rights.

Thank you for joining our meeting. We appreciate your participation!

Share Your Questions and Comments



- Submit your questions and comments
- “Raise your hand” to be unmuted for verbal questions
- Please state your name before your question
- Please share only **1** question or comment at a time, limited to **2** minutes, to allow others to participate.
- To ask a question via phone, dial *9 and the moderator will call out the last 4-digits of your phone number and unmute your audio when it is your turn.



Please be advised that all comments are subject to disclosure for public records, therefore use these functions for project-related business only.

Today's Agenda pt. 1



- **Welcome/Introductions**
- Project Update
- NEPA/MEPA Process
- Draft EIS/Supplemental Draft EIR Overview
- Next Steps

Today's Agenda pt. 2



- Welcome/Introductions
- **Project Update**
- NEPA/MEPA Process
- Draft EIS/Supplemental Draft EIR Overview
- Next Steps

Today's Agenda pt. 3



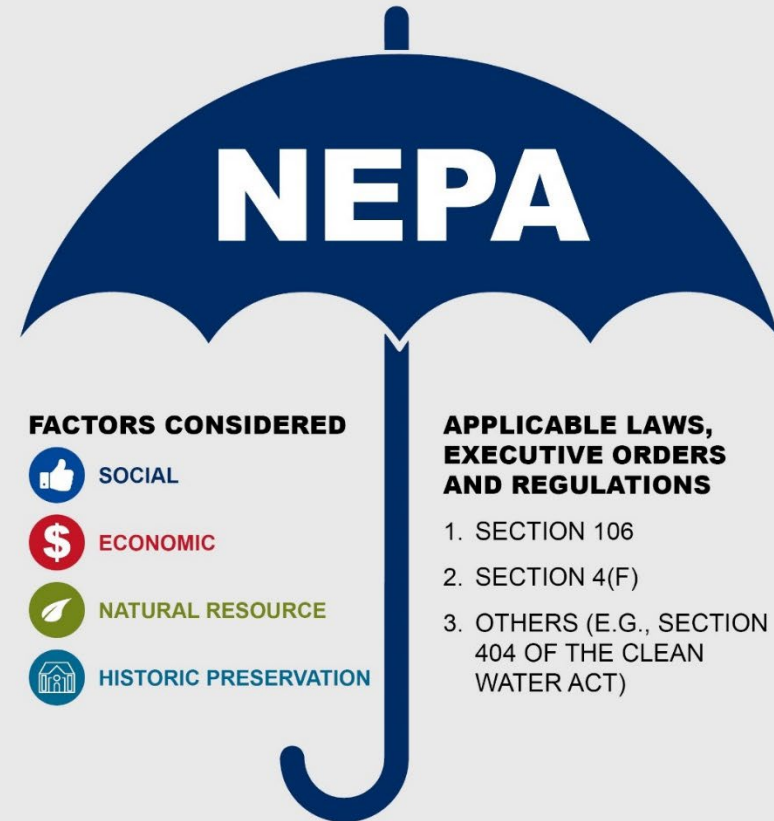
- Welcome/Introductions
- Project Update
- **NEPA/MEPA Process**
- Draft EIS/Supplemental Draft EIR Overview
- Next Steps

What is NEPA? What is MEPA?

- **National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA):** requires federal agencies to consider the environmental, social, and economic impacts of their proposed actions before they are undertaken.
- **Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act (MEPA):** requires that state agencies study the environmental consequences of their actions, including permitting and financial assistance. MEPA requires public study, disclosure, and development of feasible mitigation for a proposed project.

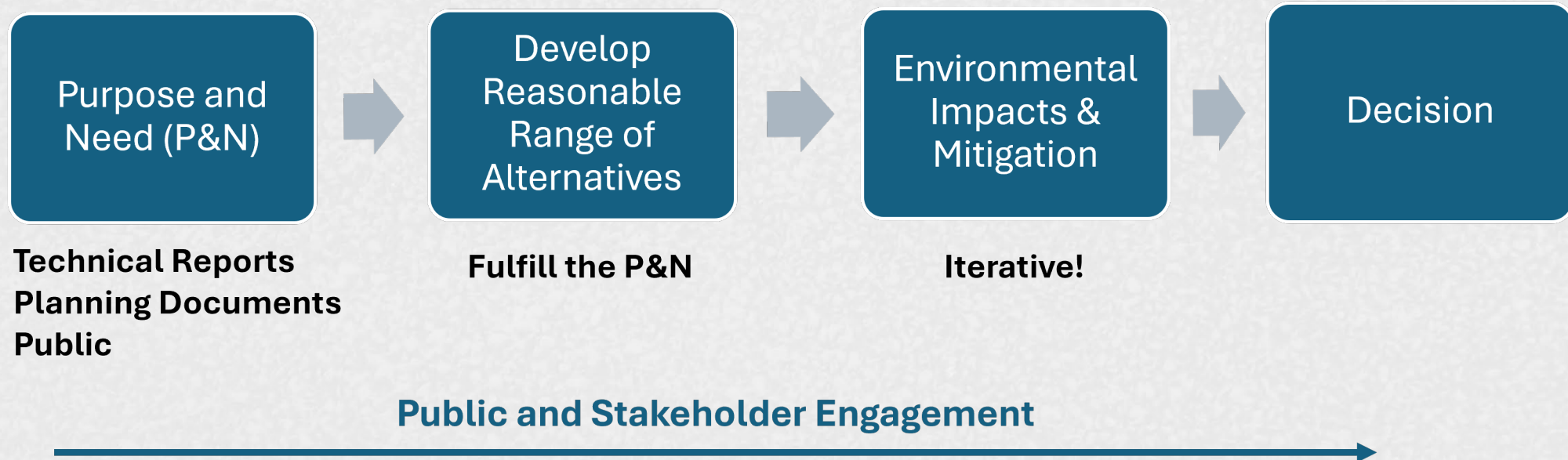
NEPA as an Umbrella Law

Managing NEPA Decision-Making

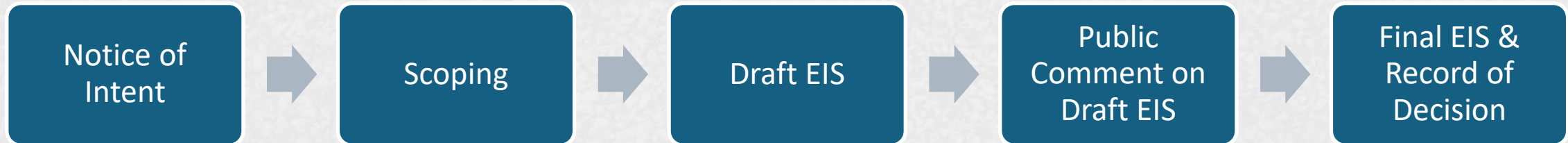


Source:
FHWA Environmental Review Toolkit,
[Section 106 Tutorial: Related Statutes: The National Environmental Policy Act and Section 4\(f\) of the Department of Transportation Act](#)

NEPA/MEPA Process



Environmental Impact Statement Milestones



NEPA/MEPA Process – Purpose of the Draft EIS and Supplemental Draft EIR



- The Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and Supplement Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) are tools used in the transportation decision-making process to guide project decisions that balance engineering and transportation needs with social, economic, and natural environmental factors.
- Draft EIS (NEPA)
 - Presents a reasonable range of alternatives.
 - Describes the affected environment and analysis of impacts.
- Supplemental Draft EIR (MEPA)
 - Issued when project changes could result in new environmental impacts that were not identified or considered in the original Draft EIR.

NEPA/MEPA Process – Purpose of the Draft EIS and Supplemental Draft EIR



Tells a story!

- Connectivity to the Charles River & Surrounding Transportation Network
 - The original construction of I-90 significantly improved connectivity between Boston and communities to the west. **However**, construction also resulted in adverse local effects, including limiting local access to the Charles River, dividing neighborhoods in north and south Allston, and displacing residents and businesses. Many of these effects are still seen and felt today.

Drafting the Draft EIS and Supplemental Draft EIR – Development Process



- 20+ Disciplines
- 40+ Subject Matter Experts
- Timeline: Document Development
 - 4-5 Months → Submittal to MassDOT
 - +3 Months → Submittal to FHWA
 - +2 months → Submittal to Cooperating Agencies

Drafting the Draft EIS and Supplemental Draft EIR – Review Process pt. 1



- Cooperating Agencies
 - Federal Transit Administration (co-Lead)
 - U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
 - U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
 - U.S. Coast Guard
 - MA Department of Environmental Protection
 - MA Department of Conservation and Recreation

Drafting the Draft EIS and Supplemental Draft EIR – Review Process pt. 2



- MassDOT (1st Draft)
 - Highway Division
 - Rail and Transit Division
 - MBTA
- FHWA (2nd Draft)
- Cooperating Agencies (3rd Draft)
- FHWA (4th Draft)
- Public Review and Comment (Final)

Today's Agenda pt. 4



- Welcome/Introductions
- Project Update
- NEPA/MEPA Process
- **Draft EIS/Supplemental Draft EIR Overview**
- Next Steps

DEIS/SDEIR Overview – Table of Contents



- Executive Summary
- Ch. 1 Introduction
- Ch. 2 Purpose and Need
- Ch. 3 Alternatives
- Ch. 4 Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences
- Ch. 5 Draft Section 61
- Ch. 6 Draft Section 4(f)
- Ch. 7 Comments, Coordination, and Public Involvement
- Ch. 8 List of Preparers
- Ch. 9 References
- Ch. 10 Index
- Appendices (27)

Overview of July 2025 unpublished draft DEIS/SDEIR pre-Neighborhood Access and Equity Grant rescission.

DEIS/SDEIR Overview – Ch. 2 Purpose and Need pt. 1



- Roadway Conditions
 - Viaduct Condition, ongoing maintenance
 - Highway Layout and Geometry
- Rail Limitations
 - Growing transit and rail demand and new connections
 - Passenger rail layover
- Mobility and Access
 - Interchange ramps
 - Inadequate bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure
 - Access to the Charles River Reservation
 - Multimodal transportation access

Overview of July 2025 unpublished draft DEIS/SDEIR pre-Neighborhood Access and Equity Grant rescission.

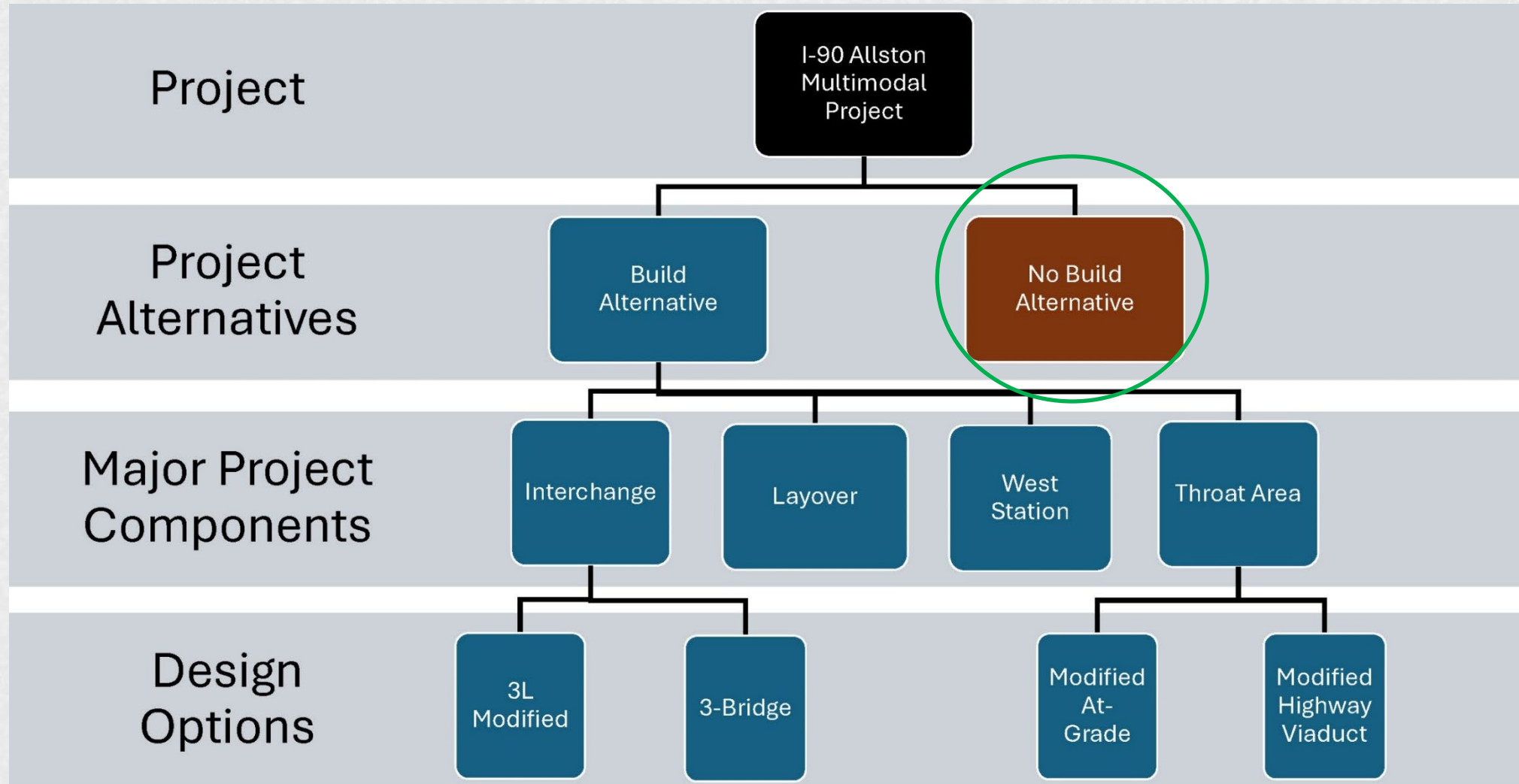
DEIS/SDEIR Overview – Ch. 2 Purpose and Need pt. 2



- Address Roadway Conditions where Feasible
 - Replace the I-90 viaduct and reconfigure the I-90 interchange
- Add New Rail Connection and Upgrade Layover Facilities
 - Construction of West Station and infrastructure supporting passenger rail operations
- Improve Mobility and Transportation Access within the Project Area while Supporting Future Economic Development
 - Reduce interchange congestion and delays
 - Expand pedestrian/bicycle access and connectivity
 - Provide or allow for connections to the Charles River Reservation
 - Support future economic development

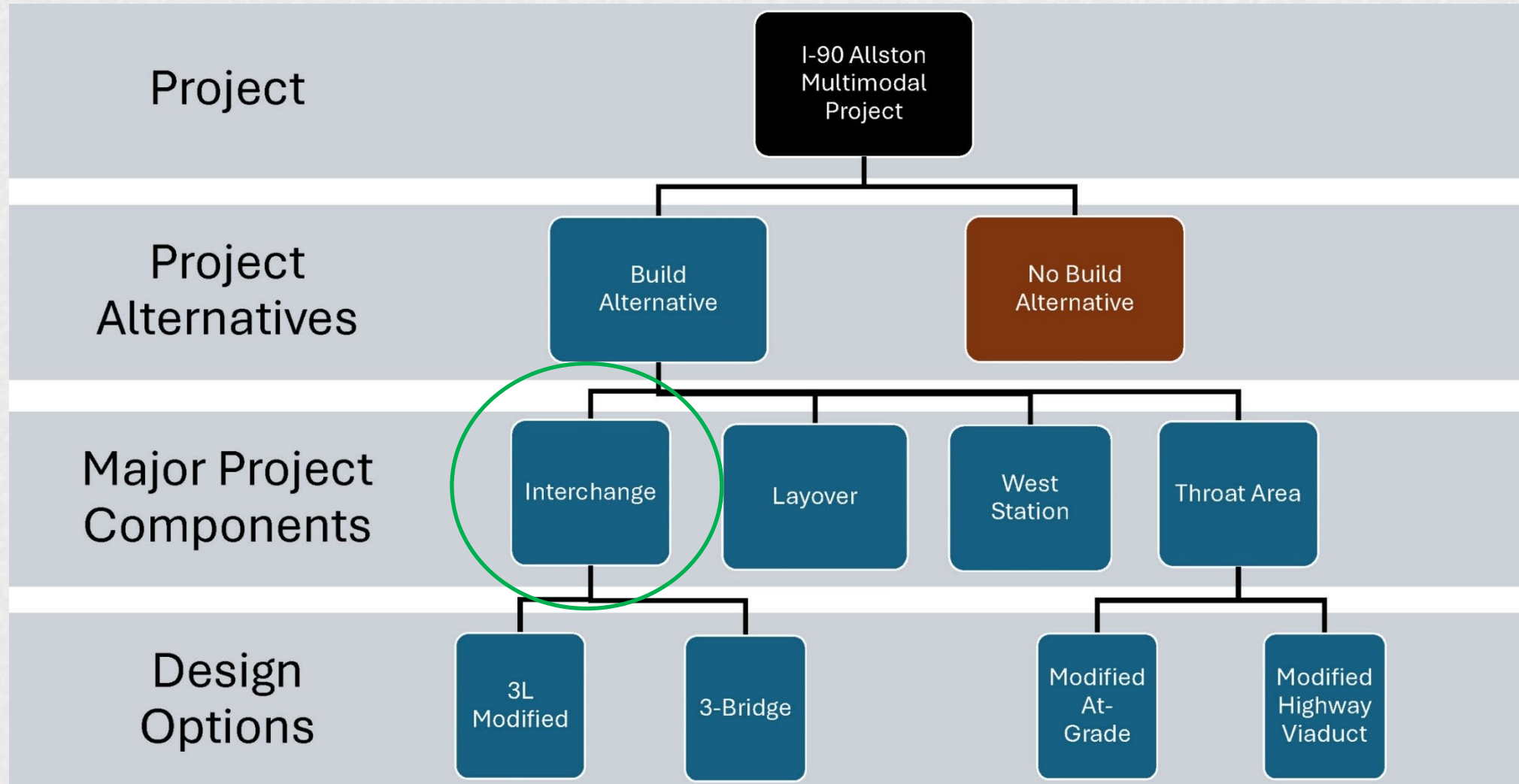
Overview of July 2025 unpublished draft DEIS/SDEIR pre-Neighborhood Access and Equity Grant rescission.

DEIS/SDEIR Overview – Ch. 3 Alternatives pt. 1



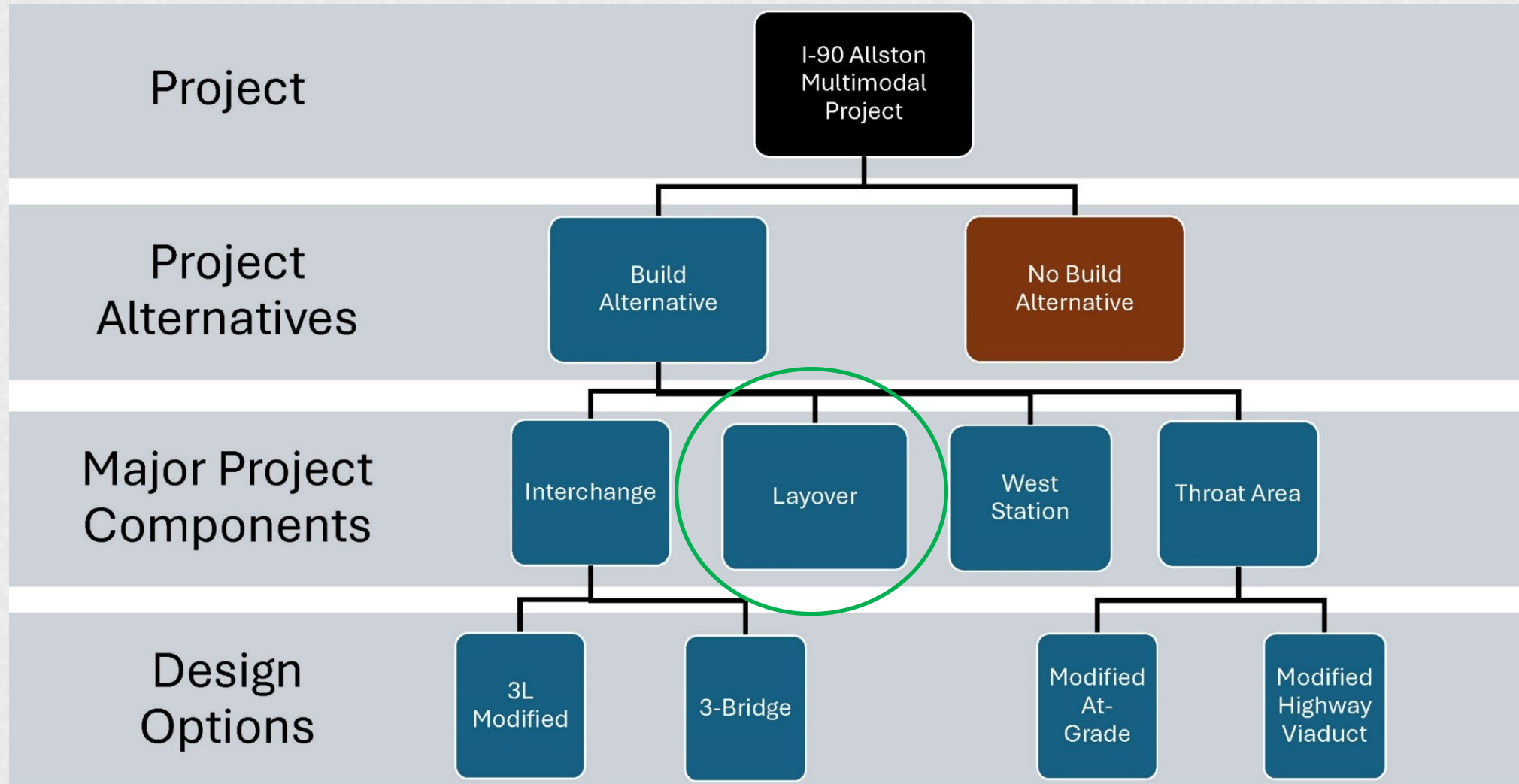
Overview of July 2025 unpublished draft DEIS/SDEIR pre-Neighborhood Access and Equity Grant rescission.

DEIS/SDEIR Overview – Ch. 3 Alternatives pt. 2



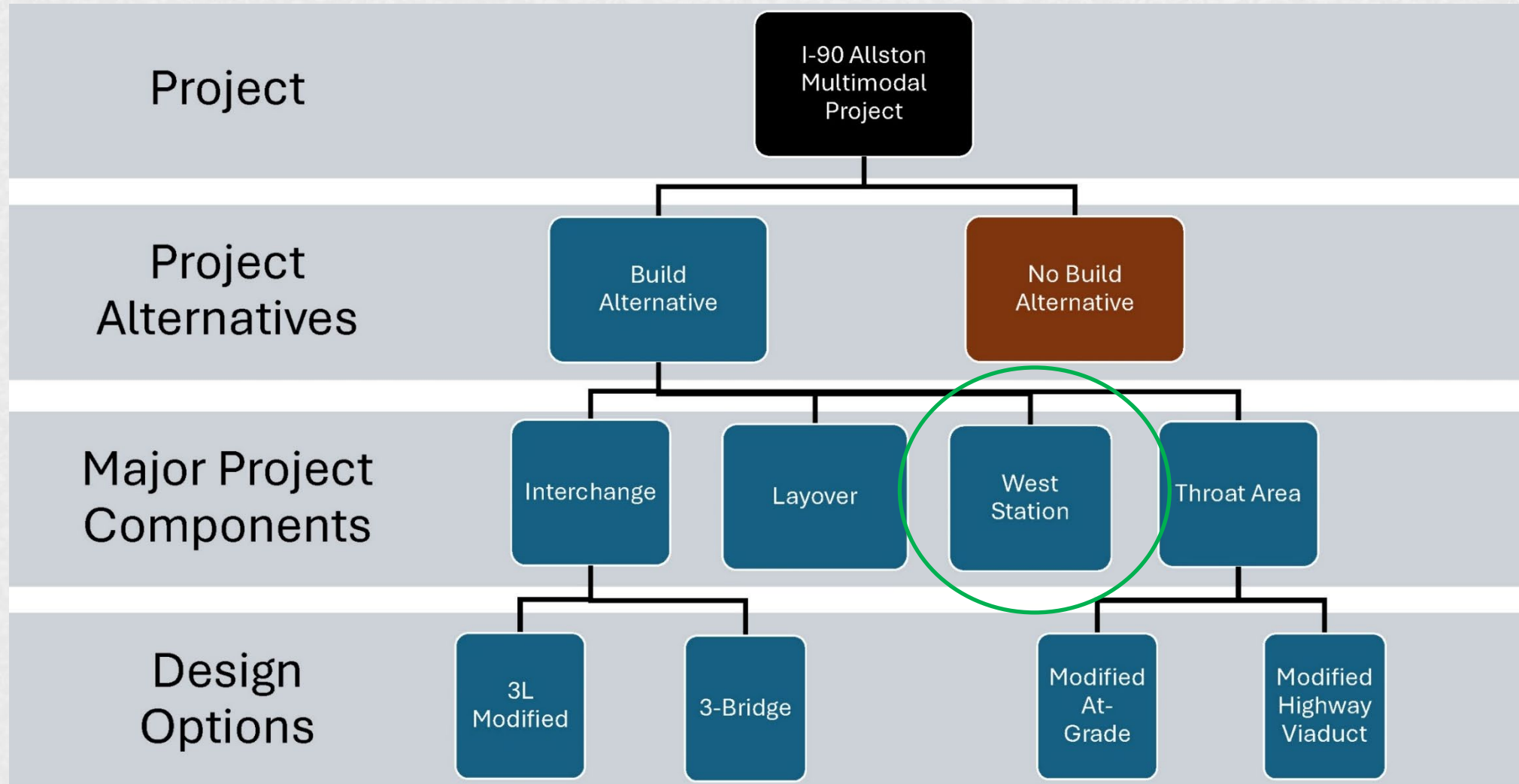
Overview of July 2025 unpublished draft DEIS/SDEIR pre-Neighborhood Access and Equity Grant rescission.

DEIS/SDEIR Overview – Ch. 3 Alternatives pt. 3



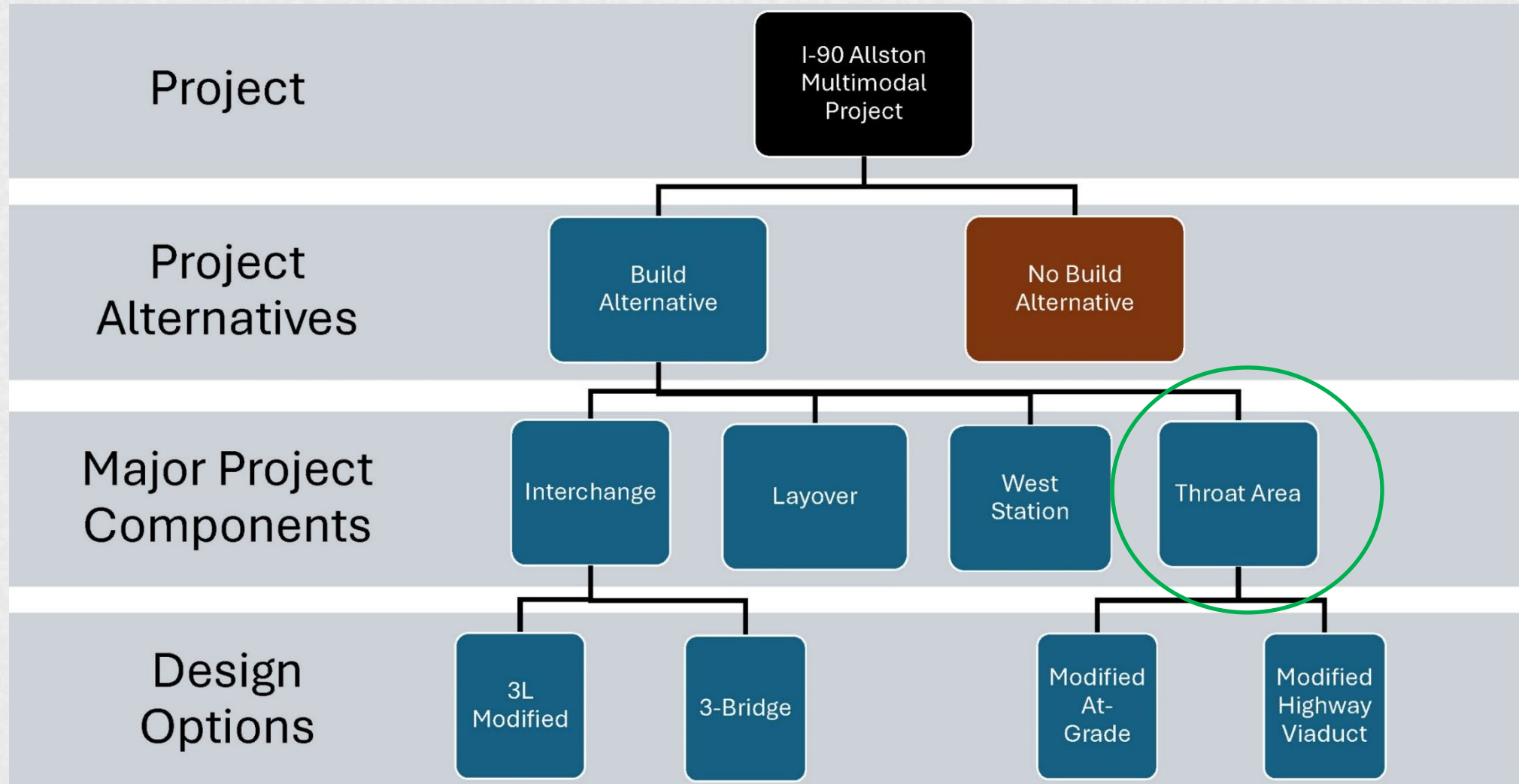
Overview of July 2025 unpublished draft DEIS/SDEIR pre-Neighborhood Access and Equity Grant rescission.

DEIS/SDEIR Overview – Ch. 3 Alternatives pt. 4



Overview of July 2025 unpublished draft DEIS/SDEIR pre-Neighborhood Access and Equity Grant rescission.

DEIS/SDEIR Overview – Ch. 3 Alternatives pt. 5



Overview of July 2025 unpublished draft DEIS/SDEIR pre-Neighborhood Access and Equity Grant rescission.

DEIS/SDEIR Overview – Ch.4 Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences pt. 1



- Agency Coordination and Permits
- Transportation
- Air Quality
- Noise
- Economic & Socioeconomic
- Social
- Land Use
- Geology, Topography, and Soils
- Relocations
- Stormwater
- Wetlands
- Ch. 91 Waterways
- Floodplains
- Navigation
- Wildlife & Fisheries
- Threatened & Endangered Species
- Coastal Zone
- Historic and Cultural Resources
- OHM and Hazardous Waste Sites
- Open Space and Recreation
- Visual
- Utilities
- Construction Phasing & Costs

Overview of July 2025 unpublished draft DEIS/SDEIR pre-Neighborhood Access and Equity Grant rescission.

Additional Analysis to Support the Supplemental Draft EIR



- The prior unpublished joint DEIS/SDEIR draft document adhered to federal requirements and guidelines as well as those state requirements consistent with recent federal Executive Orders.
- Additional materials would be submitted to MEPA to address outstanding Commonwealth requirements not covered in the joint document , including:
 - Environmental Justice
 - Climate, including resiliency and GHG emissions
 - Draft Section 61 specific to Environmental Justice and Climate

Overview of July 2025 unpublished draft DEIS/SDEIR pre-Neighborhood Access and Equity Grant rescission.

DEIS/SDEIR Overview – Ch.4 Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences pt. 2



Anticipated Permits & Approvals

- Federal
 - USACE Rivers and Harbors Act Section 10
 - Clean Water Act Section 404 General Permit PCN
 - Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act
 - Section 4(f) of the U.S. Department of Transportation Act of 1966
 - USEPA NPDES General Permit
 - USFWS Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act
- State
 - 401 Water Quality Certification
 - Ch. 91 Non Water-Dependent License
 - Article 97 land transfer
 - DCR Construction and Access Permit
 - Solid Waste Beneficial Use Determination
 - MassDEP Bureau of Air and Waste Solid Waste Site Assignment
 - MassDEP Bureau of Air and Waste Demolition/Construction Notification
 - Massachusetts Contingency Plan
- Local
 - Wetlands Protection Act Notice of Intent
 - Boston Landmarks Commission Certificate of Appropriateness

Overview of July 2025 unpublished draft DEIS/SDEIR pre-Neighborhood Access and Equity Grant rescission.

Document Overview – Ch.6 Draft Section 4(f)



- Section 4(f)
 - Applicable Properties: Parks and Recreation Areas
 - Charles River Reservation
 - Applicable Properties: Historic
 - Charles River Basin Historic District
 - Harvard Avenue Historic District
 - Review of Avoidance Alternatives
 - Evaluation of the uses of the 4(f) properties
 - All Possible Planning to Minimize Harm to 4(f) Properties

Overview of July 2025 unpublished draft DEIS/SDEIR pre-Neighborhood Access and Equity Grant rescission.

DEIS/SDEIR Overview – Appendices



- Alternatives
- Traffic Operations and Safety Study
- MBTA Future Worcester Line Schedule Analysis
- South Side Layover Analysis
- Ridership Forecasting & Transit Analysis
- Air Quality
- Noise and Vibration
- Economic
- MAPC Land Use Projections
- USDA NRCS Soil Map
- Relocations
- Stormwater Management
- Shoreline Alternatives Analysis
- Regulatory Performance Standards Conformance
- Waterways Technical Support
- Detailed Fisheries Resource Assessment of the Lower Charles River Basin
- Wildlife and Fisheries Consultation
- Historic and Archaeological Resources
- Hazardous Materials Assessment Report
- Article 97
- Draft Section 4(f)
- DCR Parkland and Throat Area Design Community Engagement
- Supplement to Visual Impacts: Shadow Study, Allston Community Path, and Noise Wall Treatments
- Construction Phasing and Cost Supplementary Information
- List of Meetings
- List of Recipients

Overview of July 2025 unpublished draft DEIS/SDEIR pre-Neighborhood Access and Equity Grant rescission.

Today's Agenda pt. 5



- Welcome/Introductions
- Project Update
- NEPA/MEPA Process
- Draft EIS/Supplemental Draft EIR Overview
- **Next Steps**

Next Steps

- Proposed Upcoming Task Force Meeting Dates:
November 13, December 11, January 15
- Potential Topics at Upcoming Task Force Meetings
 - Project Update
 - Rail Operations Analysis
 - Grand Junction Rail Temporary Outage/Mitigation
 - City of Boston BPY Regional Framework Plan
 - WRRB: “Ridership for Whom” (Framingham/Worcester Line Ridership Report)
- Other Suggested Topics for Upcoming Task Force Meetings?

Thank You!

