

Basiliere Bridge Replacement



What is the Basiliere Bridge Replacement Project?

The Private First Class (PFC) Ralph T. Basiliere Bridge crosses the Merrimack River in the center of Haverhill. Built in 1925, the bridge has nearly reached its 100th birthday. Since 1972, it has carried the name of PFC Basiliere, Haverhill's first Vietnam War loss. Though safe, the bridge has reached the end of its useful lifespan and must be replaced. In 2022, MassDOT launched the effort to design a new bridge – the fourth across the Merrimack at this location.

A New Bridge

The design work for the new Basiliere Bridge is now entering the 25% level. The replacement concept will:

- Build the new bridge in two phases to maintain transport over the river during construction.
- Serve today's and future traffic needs
- Improve cycling and walking conditions on the bridge
- Improve the river's water quality in the Merrimack
- Allow boating to continue on the Merrimack
- Minimize impacts on nearby properties

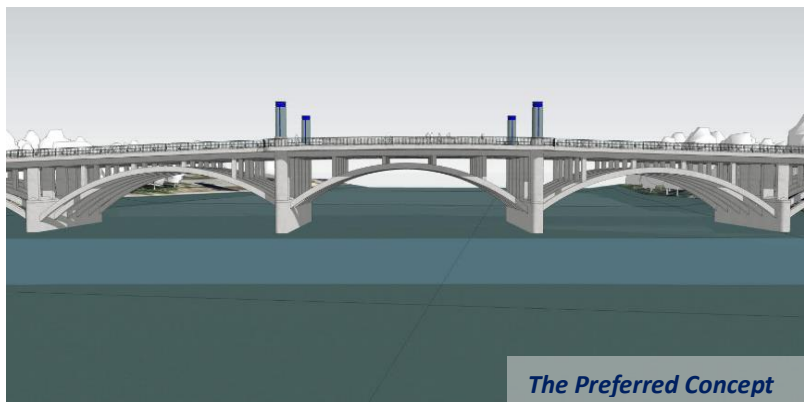


A Local Landmark

The Basiliere Bridge is a symbol of Haverhill. Its picture is part of the City's own website and is on the local Fire Department's uniforms. MassDOT knows that how a new bridge will look is important to the City and its residents.

A Concept Developed Through Robust Public Outreach

Since March 2023, MassDOT has worked with the community to build a plan for the new bridge. The process has



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included six in-person public events and digital ways to give input. The concept comes from community ideas in several ways, including:

- An arched appearance reflective of today's bridge
- Four lanes, two in each direction
- Overlooks to stop, rest and enjoy views of the Merrimack River
- Shared use paths on both sides of the bridge for cycling and walking
- Vertical elements above the bridge deck to make the structure visually distinct

From Concept to Design

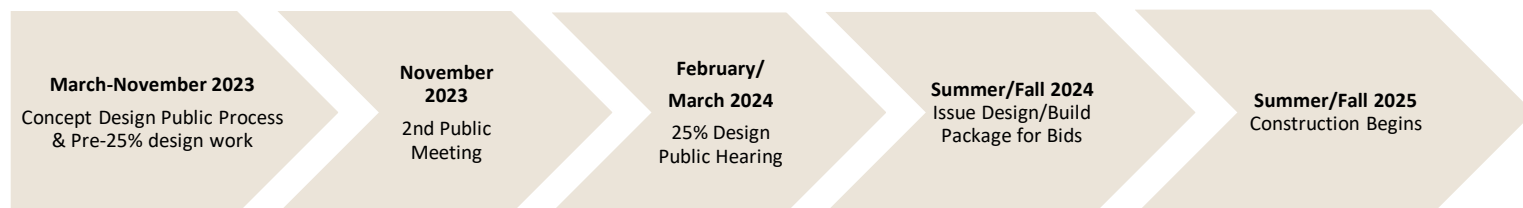
The preferred concept will now be turned into a design. MassDOT will build a greater knowledge of how to build the new bridge by late winter 2024. How long construction will take will be important parts of this work. The team will figure out how to build the new bridge in a way that keeps Haverhill moving. The Haverhill community continues to be a partner in this effort. We invite all interested parties to get involved. The project team is looking for public input on:

- What type of lighting, railing, and seating should the new bridge have?
- Which vertical element(s) are most attractive to you?
- How could we commemorate the existing bridge?

Please see the November 15, 2023 presentation for some examples of lighting, railing, and seating options:

<https://www.mass.gov/basiliere-bridge-project-haverhill>

Our Timetable



How can I find out more?

Please visit the project website below for more details, to sign up for updates and email alerts, and to view the latest resources on the Basiliere Bridge Replacement Project

Project website www.mass.gov/basiliere-bridge-project-haverhill

Project email haverhillbasilierebridge@dot.state.ma.us

