

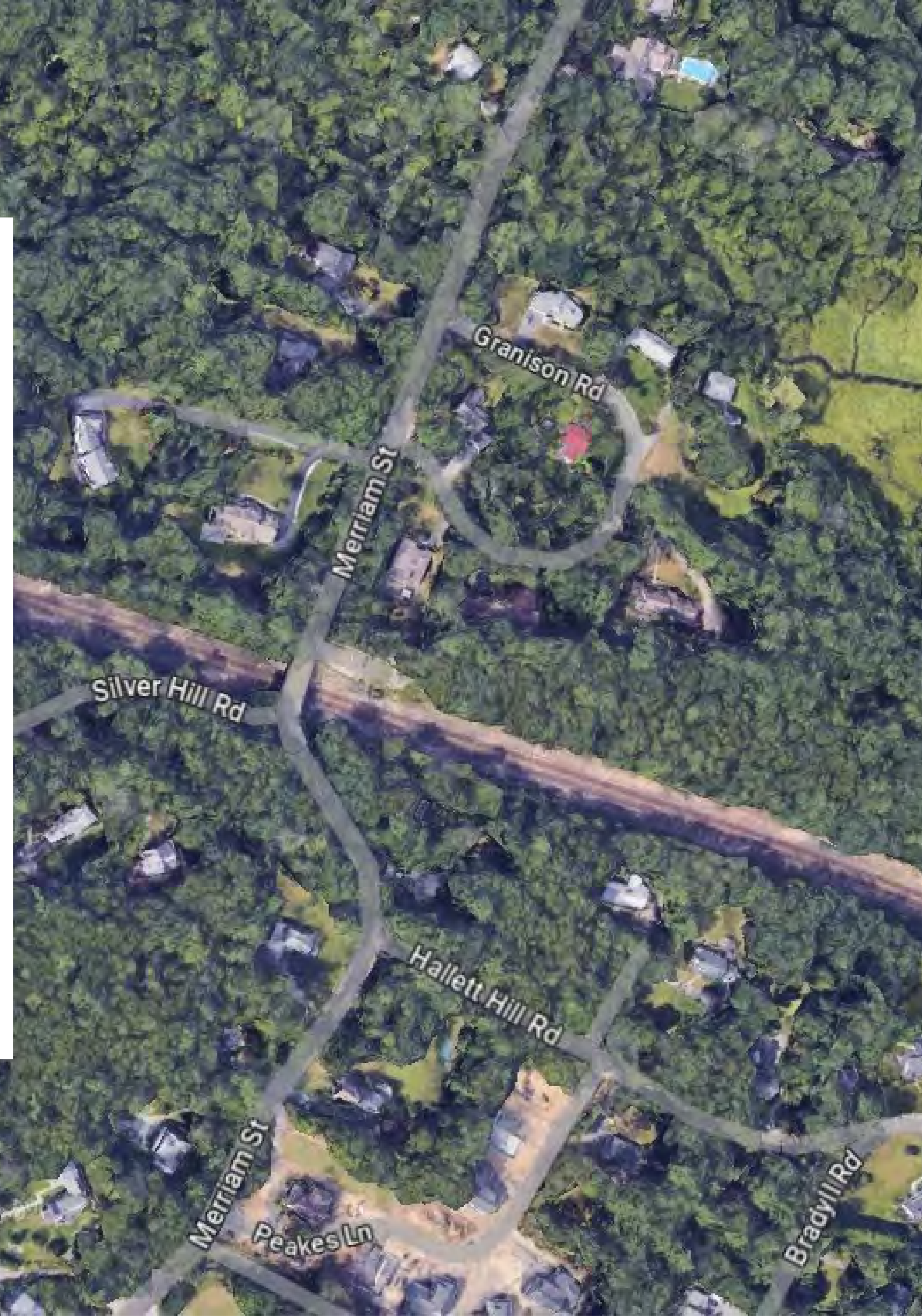


Weston – Merriam Street over MBTA Railroad – Bridge Replacement

Design Public Hearing

Thank you for joining us.

This meeting will begin shortly.



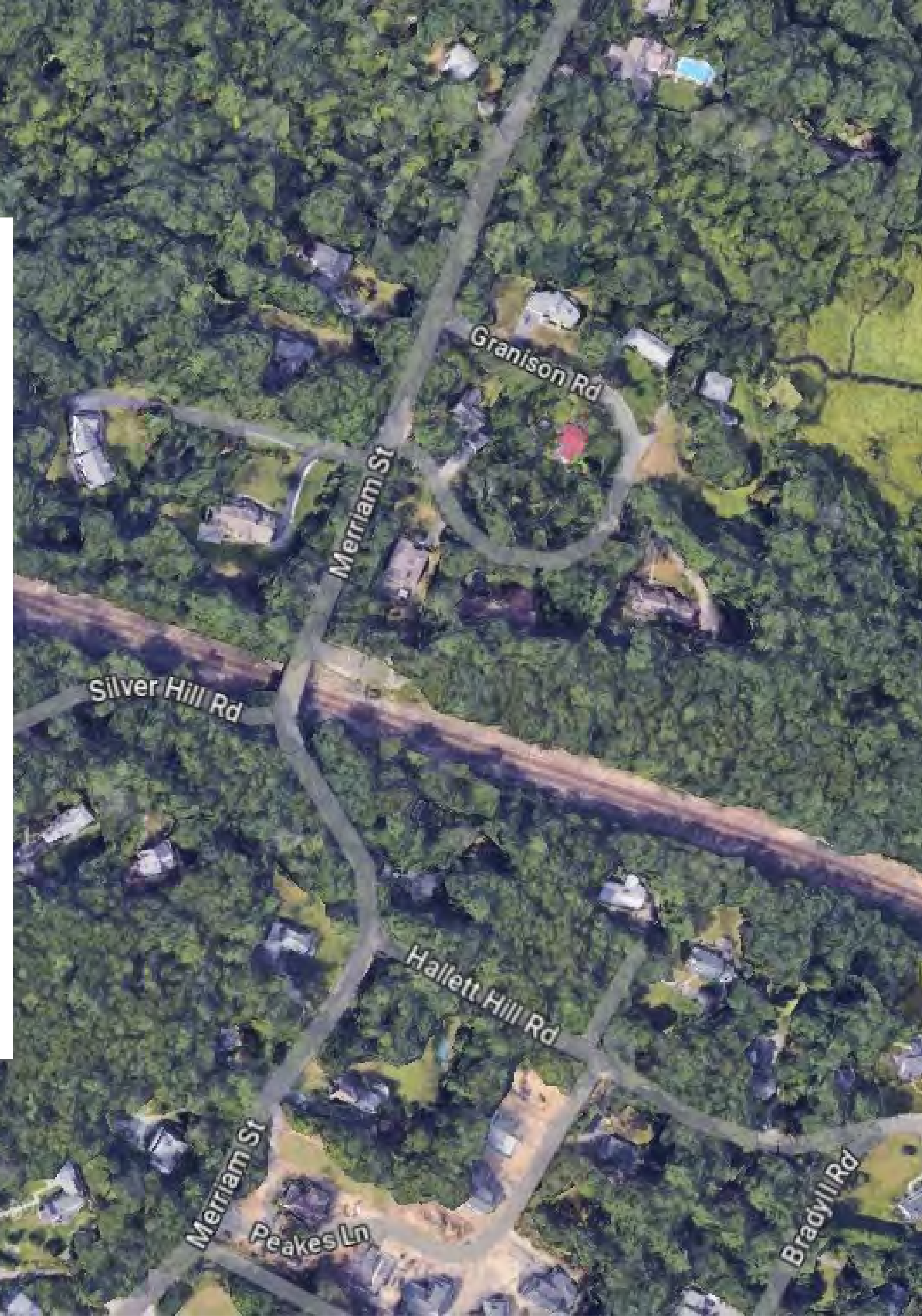


Weston – Merriam Street over MBTA – Bridge Replacement

Design Public Hearing

Virtual (Zoom) | March 18, 2026 | 7:00 PM

Project File No. 601628



Zoom meeting controls



- Listen in English



- Ask a question and share comments



- Drop down menu to check microphone and speakers



- Raise your hand - *9 for users dialing in and Alt + Y to raise your hand



- If you are unable to access the internet or are having technical problems, please call into the meeting at **305-224-1968**, Webinar ID: **863-6185-5239**



- Use the View button in the upper right-hand corner to adjust the meeting view settings to your preference



Live Transcript

- Closed captioning automatically generated by Zoom

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

1-888-799-9666



Public meeting notes and procedures

Notification of video recording

- This virtual public information meeting will be recorded. The Massachusetts Department of Transportation may choose to retain and distribute the video, images, audio, and/or chat transcript.
- All parts of this meeting are considered public record.
- By continuing attendance with this virtual public meeting, you are consenting to participate in a recorded event.
- If you are not comfortable being recorded, please turn off your camera and keep your microphone muted, or you may choose to excuse yourself from the meeting.

Important notes

- Your microphone and webcam are automatically disabled upon entering the meeting.
- The meeting will be open to questions and answers at the end of the formal presentation.
- Please take time to respond to our survey at the end of the meeting. Your feedback is important.

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

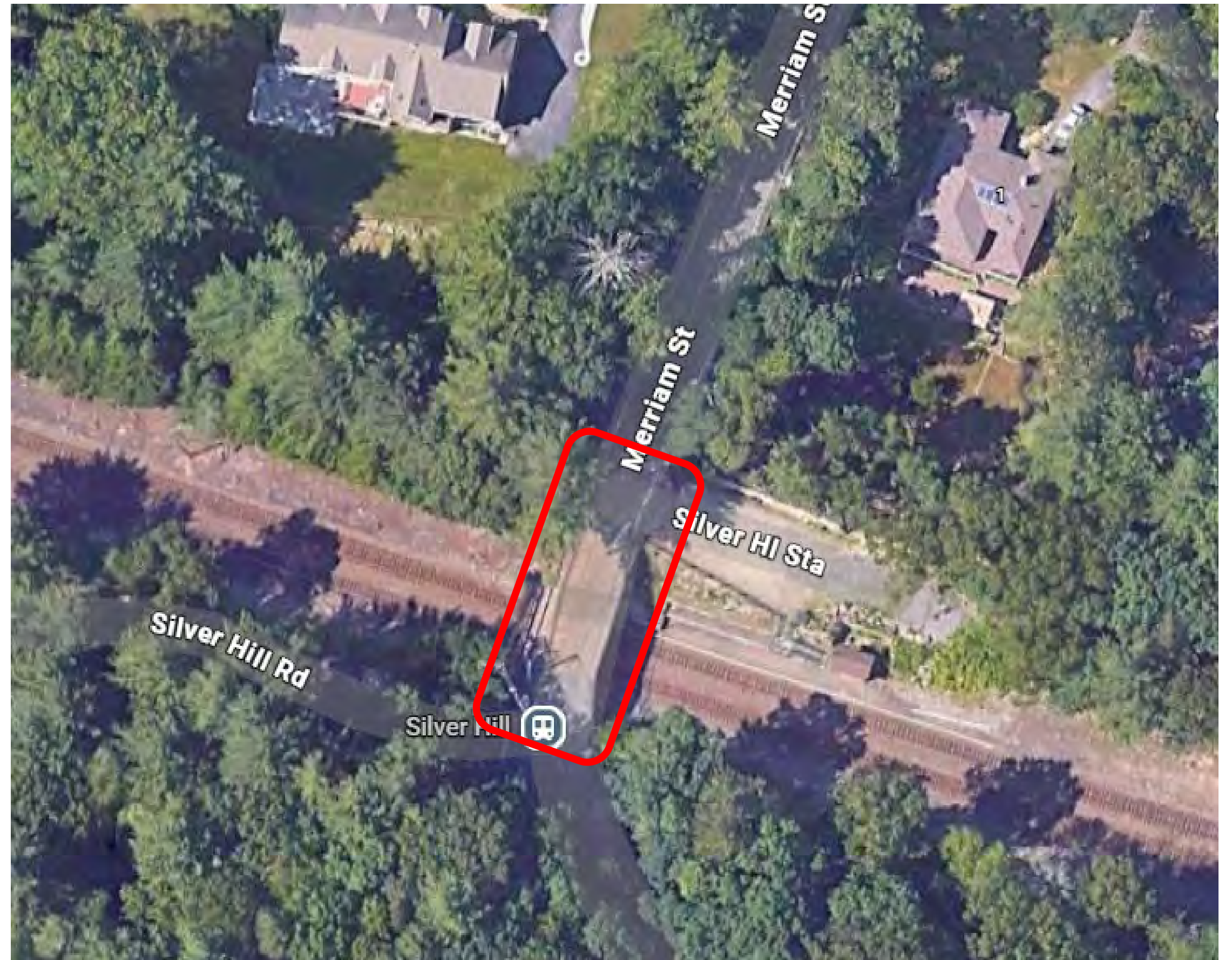
Notice of MassDOT's policy on diversity and civil rights

- 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!

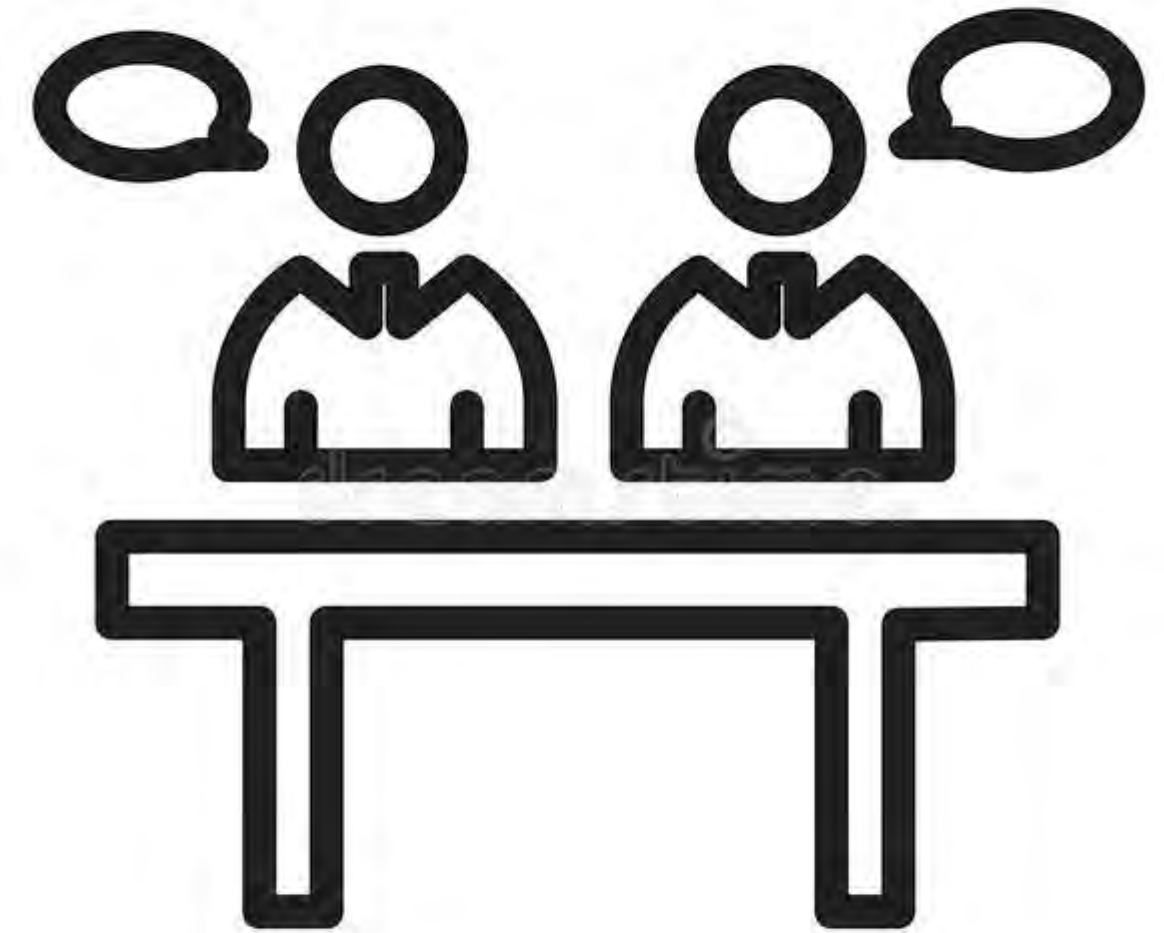
Agenda

- 01 Introduction
- 02 Project Initiation
- 03 Project Goals
- 04 Alternatives
- 05 Preferred Alternative
- 06 Bike/Pedestrian Impacts
- 07 Abutter Impacts
- 08 Environmental Impacts
- 09 Traffic Impacts
- 10 Construction Approach
- 11 Schedule
- 12 Public Outreach
- 13 Question & Answer

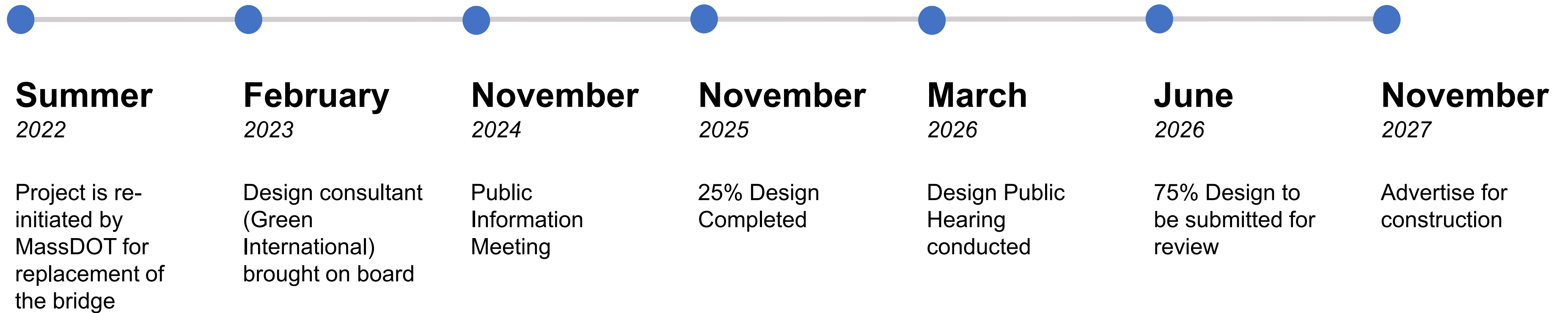


Presentation Participants

- **MassDOT**
 - Christopher Cameron, Project Manager
 - Brian Levine, District 6 Project Development Engineer
 - Glenda Maas, MassDOT Right of Way
- **Town of Weston**
 - Richard Sullivan, DPW Director
- **Design Consultant, Green International**
 - Bhikhu Khalifa, Project Manager
 - Amanda Oka, Structural
 - Kenneth Gagnon, Transportation



How did we get here?





**Why was this
project
initiated?**



Reasons for Project Initiation

- Bridge in poor condition
- Vertical clearance over railroad is sub-standard
- Safety issues

Weight Posting



Shoring Tower



Limited Sidewalk



Non-Compliant Bridge Rail





**What do we
want to
accomplish?**

Project Goals

- Replace bridge to meet structural capacity requirements
- Improve safety for all users
- Improve vertical clearance over railroad
- Minimize approach work, horizontal alignment changes, and abutter impacts
- Provide a new bridge that fits with the rural character of the area



**What
alternatives
were
considered?**

Existing Bridge

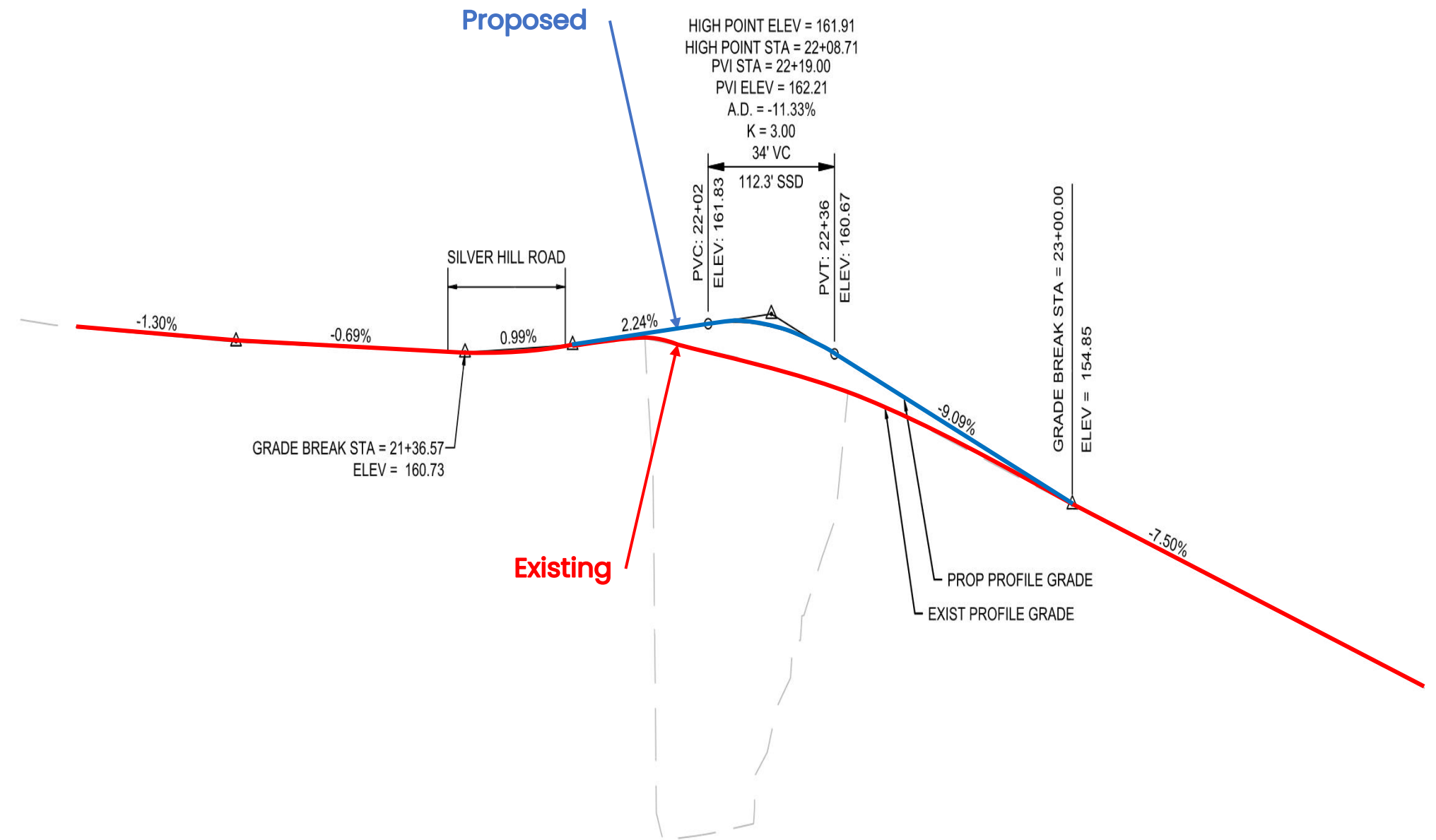


Existing Bridge



Alternative Considerations

- **Bridge**
 - Full replacement vs. partial replacement
 - Single span vs. multiple span
 - Steel beams vs. prestressed concrete beams
 - Conventional vs integral abutments
- **Maintenance of Traffic**
 - Staged construction vs. detour
- **Horizontal and Vertical Alignments**
 - Maintain existing horizontal alignment
 - Minimize impact to the existing vertical alignment



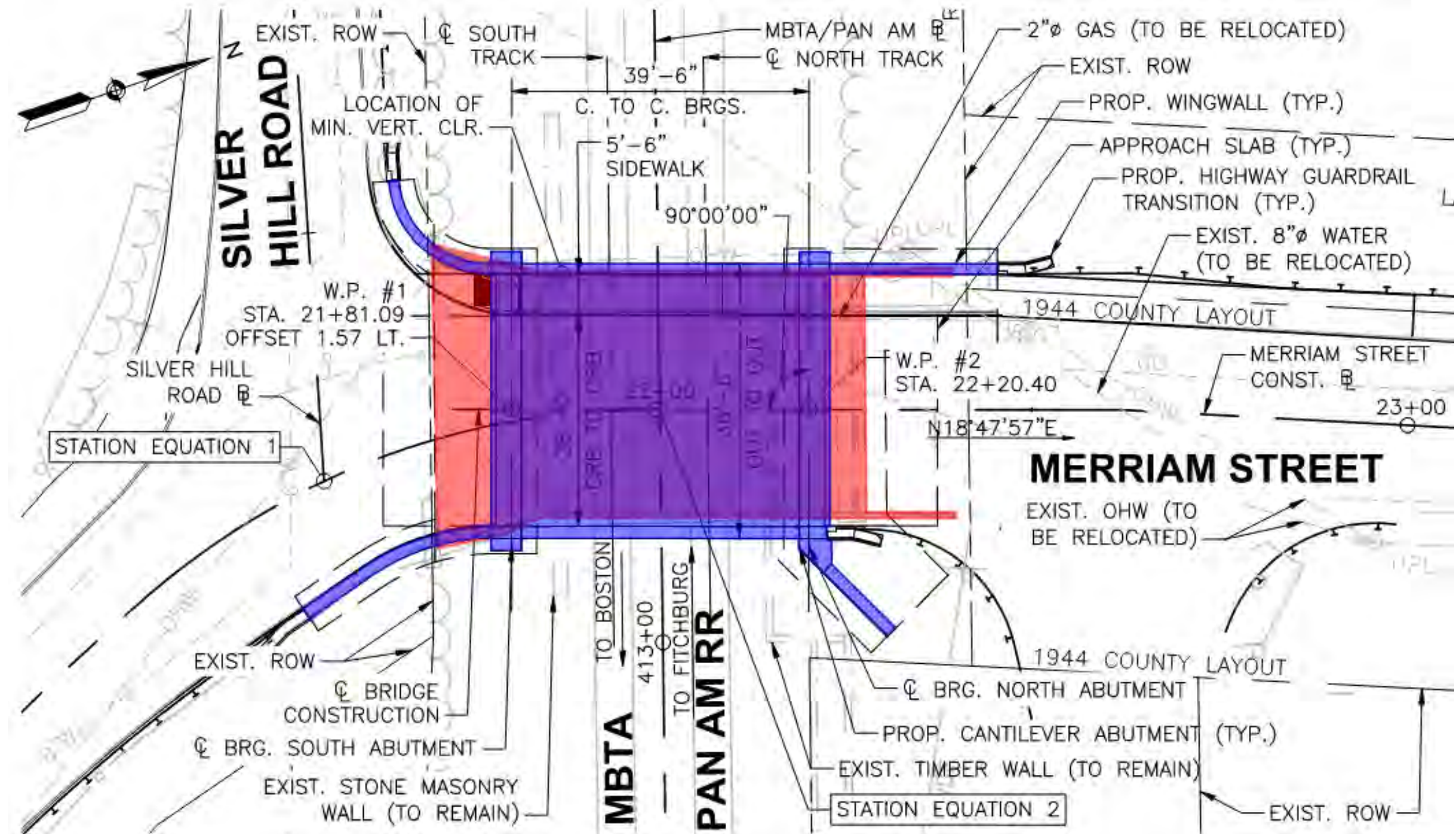
Exaggerated Vertical Profile



What is the preferred alternative?

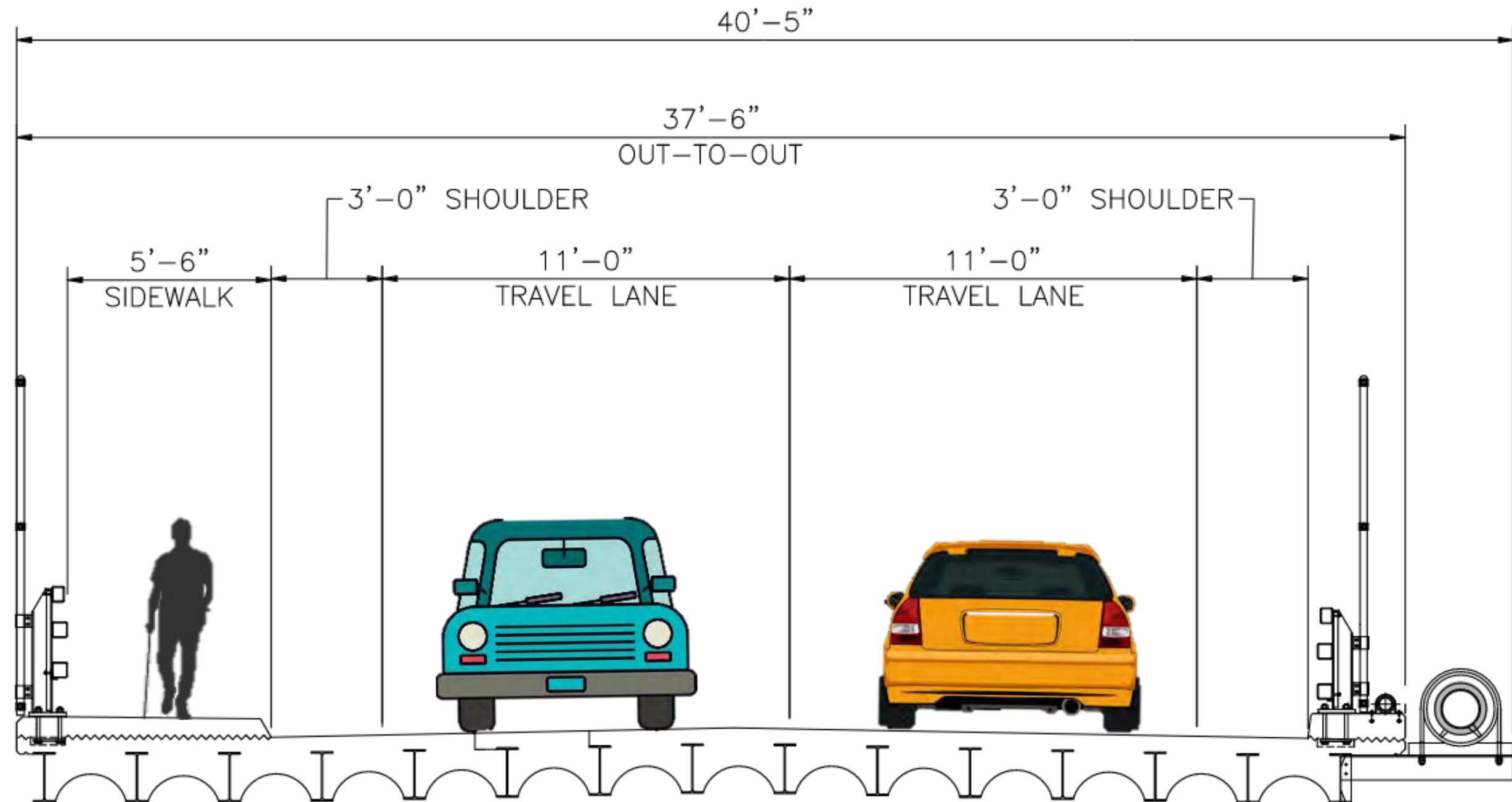
Preferred Alternative

- Existing horizontal alignment is maintained
- Slightly widened bridge to provide compliant sidewalk
- Minimized need for retaining walls



Preferred Alternative

- Single-span steel jacked arch with a concrete deck supported on conventional abutments
- Minimal changes to vertical profile
- Minimized superstructure depth
- Improved vertical clearance



Preferred Alternative

- MASH TL-2 W-Beam guardrail
- In compliance with MassDOT Engineering Directive E-20-004 MASH Implementation plan.
- Reviewed wooden guardrail options available, none will meet the 2016 MASH criteria.
- Existing guardrail in the area is steel, revising the project limits to replace entire existing steel guardrail runs with wooden would result in clashing guardrails, increase project costs and provide an option that requires greater maintenance with a shorter life.



Existing Guardrail
on Merriam Street



MASH TL-2 W-Beam Guardrail



How will bicyclists and pedestrians be impacted?

Pedestrians and Bicyclists

- Existing sidewalk on the bridge and within the project area
- Provide a wider sidewalk on the bridge, which will match the approaches
- No dedicated facilities for bicyclists on the bridge or in the area.





How will your property be impacted?

Preliminary Right of Way (ROW) Process

- Limits of work being refined
- Utility pole locations being finalized
- Feedback welcome regarding right-of-way impacts
- Bridge type and configuration selected to minimize impacts to abutters



What are the environmental, cultural resource, and community impacts?

Environmental Reviews and Permitting

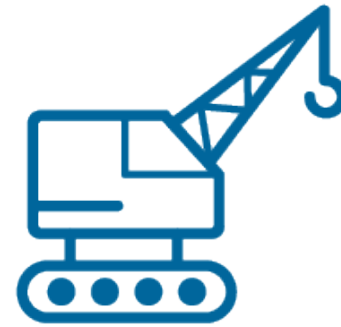
- This project is a “footprint bridge” project under the Transportation Bond Bill of 2014
- No anticipated impacts to adjacent wetland resource areas. No environmental permits are anticipated.



U.S. Department
of Transportation

**Federal Highway
Administration**





**What is the
construction
approach?**

Construction Approach

- Staged construction
 - Stage 1 – full vehicle closure with detour
 - Stage 2 – one lane alternating
- Conventional construction approach
- Possible night work due to work around railroad schedule
- Construction anticipated to take up to 2 years starting 2028

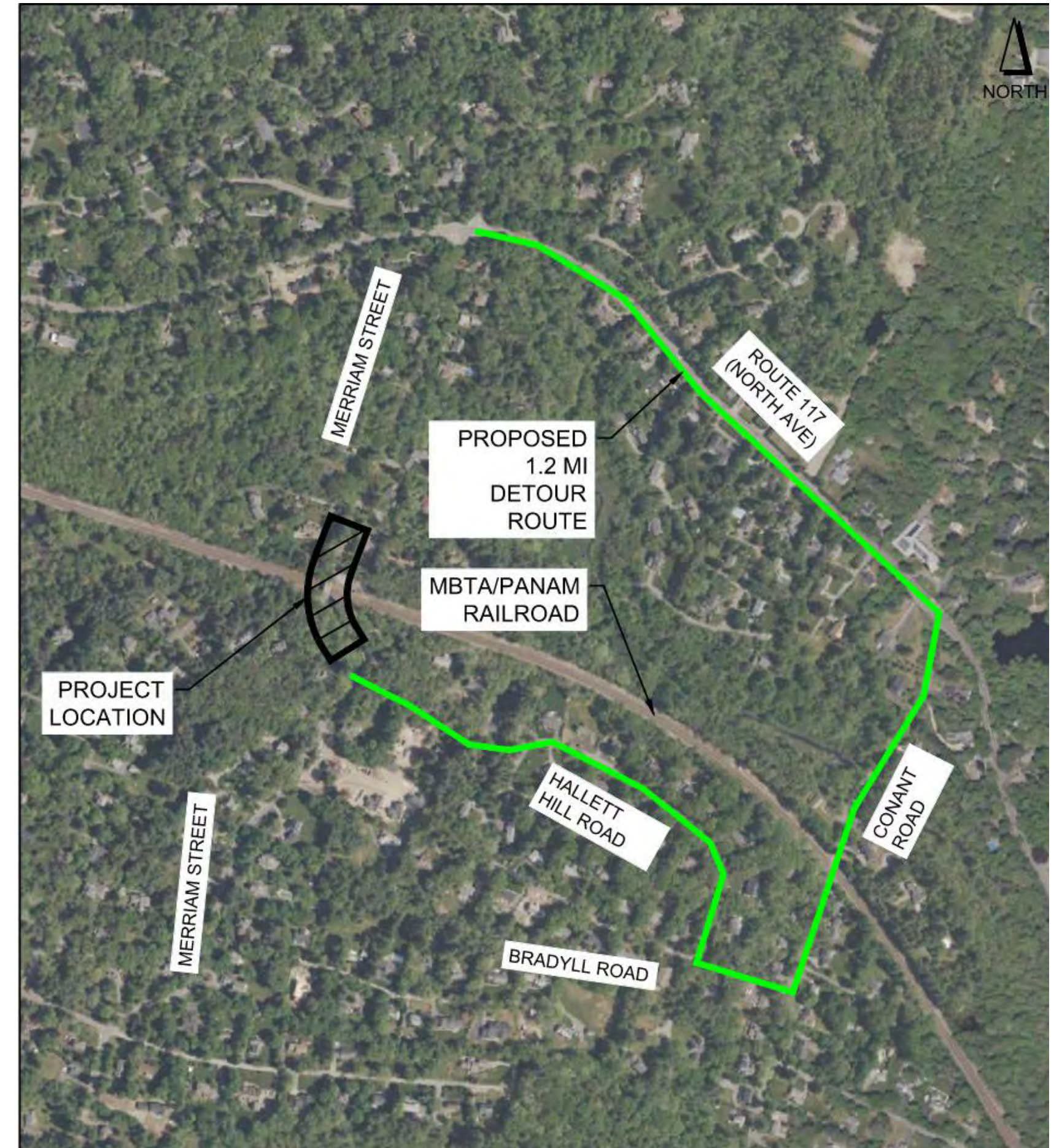
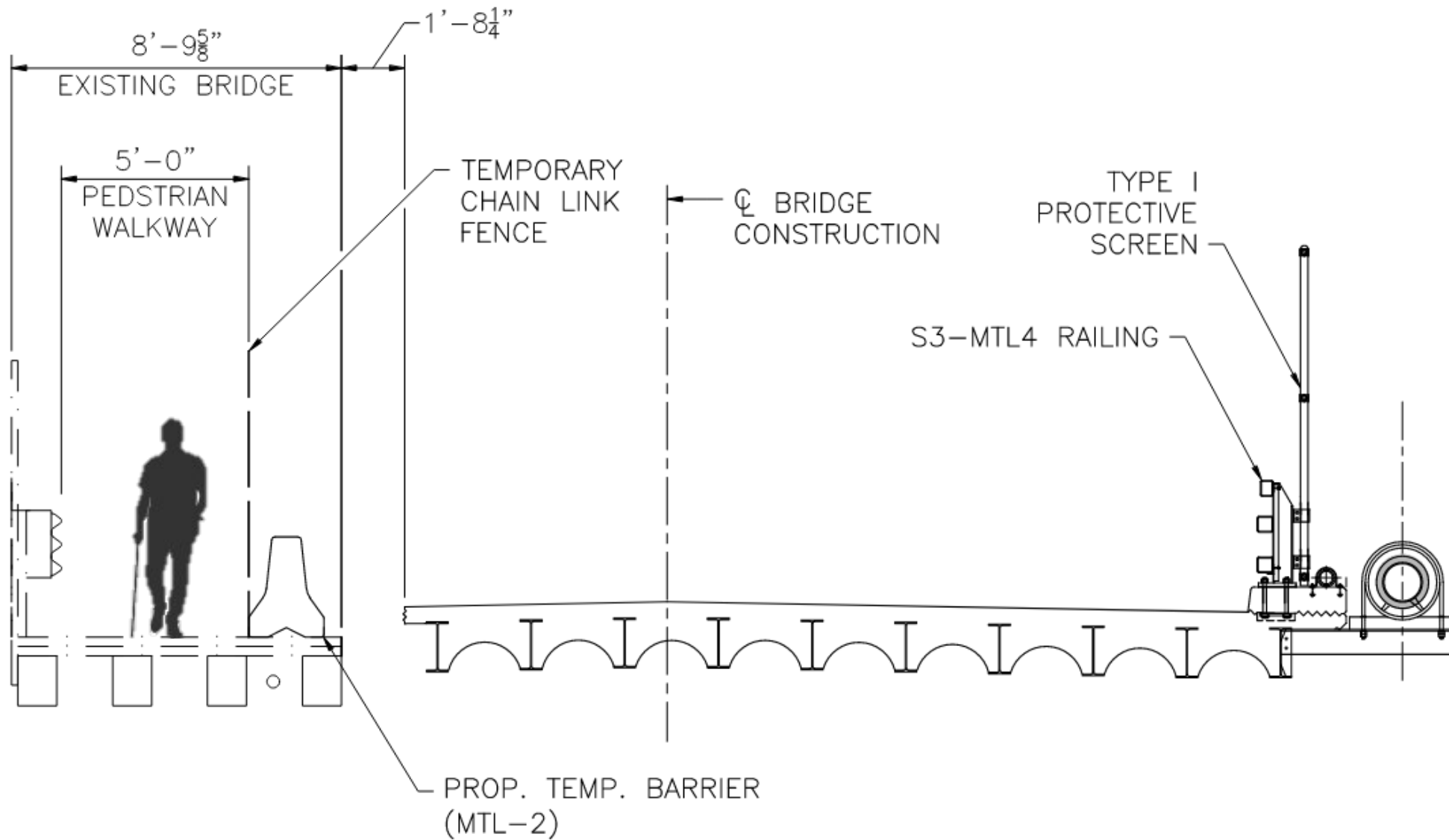


How will the road user be affected?

Traffic Impacts

Stage 1

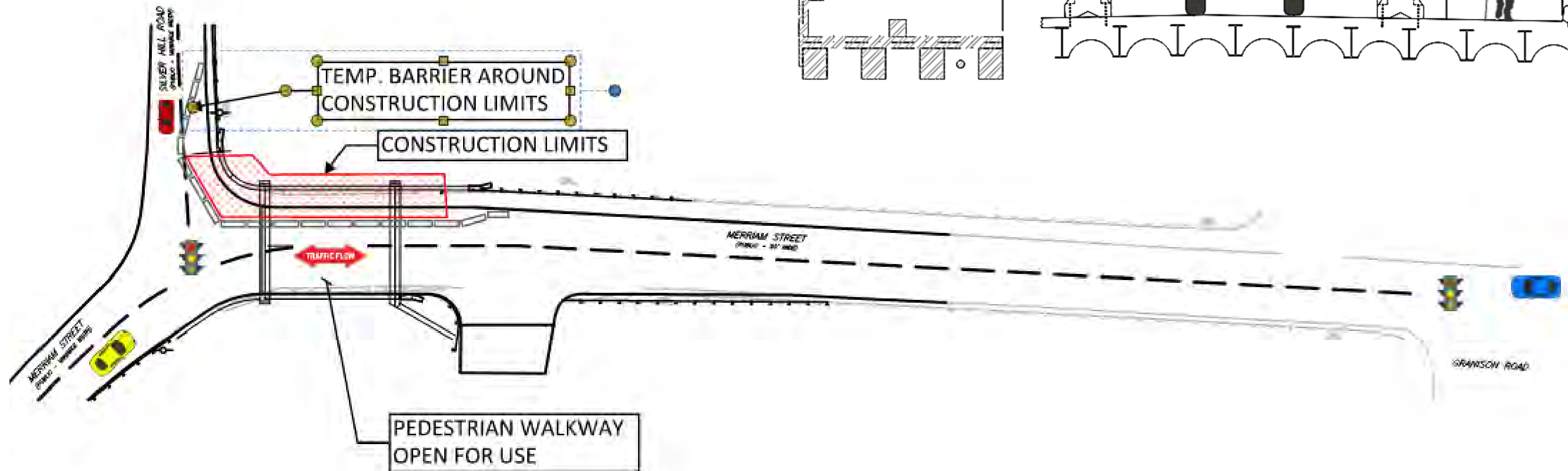
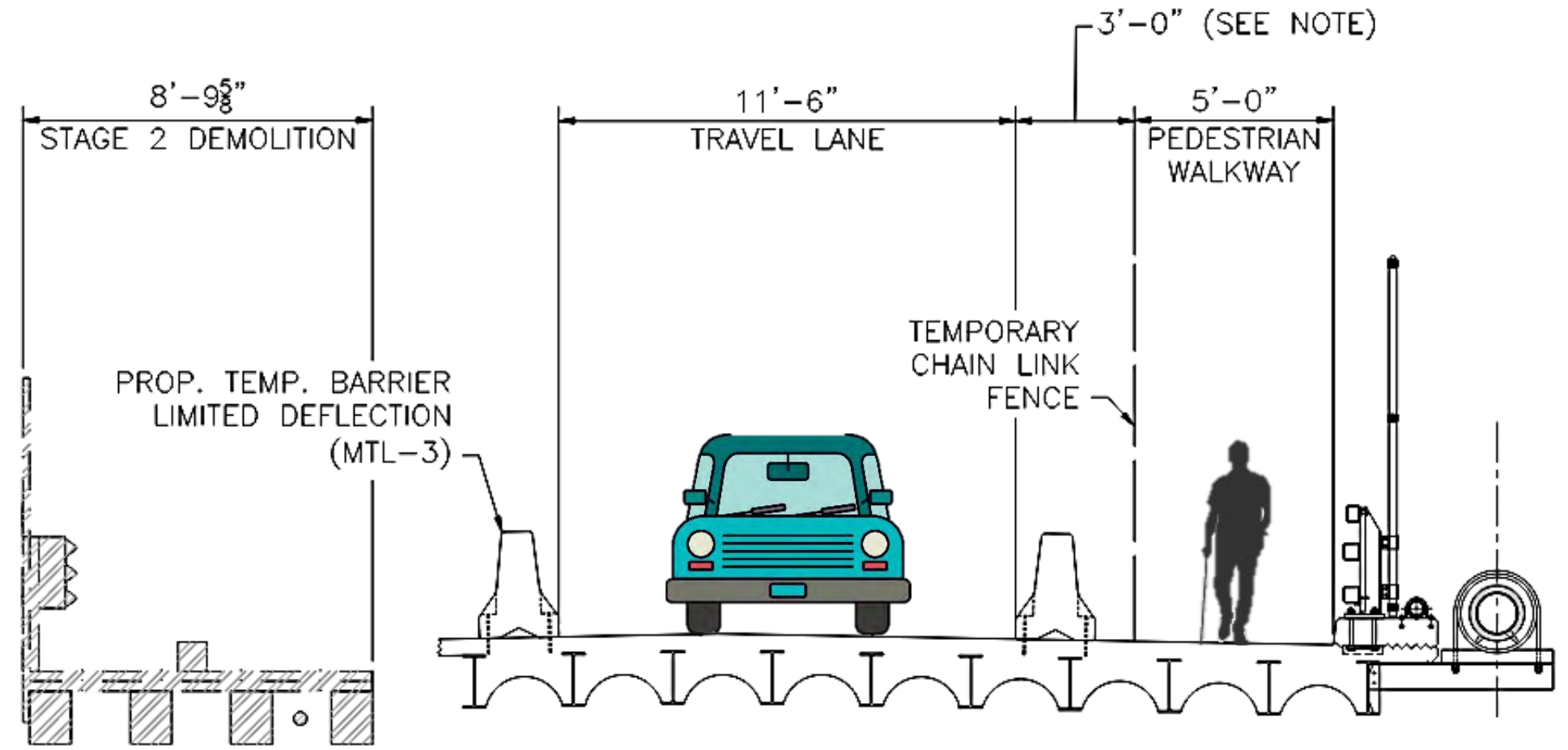
- 1-year full closure for vehicles
- Detour of traffic during construction



Traffic Impacts

Stage 2

- 1-year one-way alternating traffic on bridge
- Temporary traffic signals



Our next steps



Design Public Hearing
(March 2026)



75% Design
(Summer 2026)



Final Design
(Fall 2026 -
Summer 2027)



Advertisement
(Fall 2027)



Construction Begins
(Winter/Spring 2028)



**How will we
keep you
informed?**

How to reach us

- Submit email comments to:
MassDOTMajorProjects@dot.state.ma.us
- For project information visit the MassDOT Upcoming Events for Highway Division website at <http://www.mass.gov/orgs/highway-division/events> or use the QR Code:
- Submit written comments to:
Carrie Lavalley, P.E., Chief Engineer
MassDOT Highway Division
10 Park Plaza
Boston, MA 02116
Attention: MAJOR PROJECTS DIVISION, PROJECT FILE NO. 601628





Questions and answers

Questions and answers



- “Raise your hand” to be unmuted for verbal questions (Alt + Y if using a phone)



- Submit your questions and comments using the Q&A button



- 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

All questions and comments are subject to disclosure for public records. Please use these functions for project related business only.



Thank You

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MassDOTMajorProjects@dot.state.ma.us

