



# Division Street over Housatonic River Superstructure Replacement

## *Design Public Hearing*

Town Hall 334, Main Street | January 15, 2025 | 6:00 P.M.

Project File No. 612183





# Public Meeting Notes and Procedures

## Public record

- This Public Information meeting is being recorded. The Massachusetts Department of Transportation may choose to retain and distribute the transcripts or written record of this Meeting.
- All written recordings and transcripts will be considered public records.
- Will have questions and answers session at the end of presentation.

**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!**

# Public Outreach

## Newspaper Advertisements



This Design Public Hearing was advertised in one local newspaper:

- The Berkshire Eagle January 2nd , 2025, and January 8th , 2025

## Coordination with the Town of Great Barrington

Town officials were involved in the process of this meeting.



- Plans are available on the Town’s website



# Agenda

- 01 Introduction
- 02 How did we get here
- 03 Project Initiation
- 04 Project Scope
- 05 Alternatives
- 06 Chosen Alternative
- 07 Right of Way
- 08 Bike/Pedestrian Impacts





# Agenda

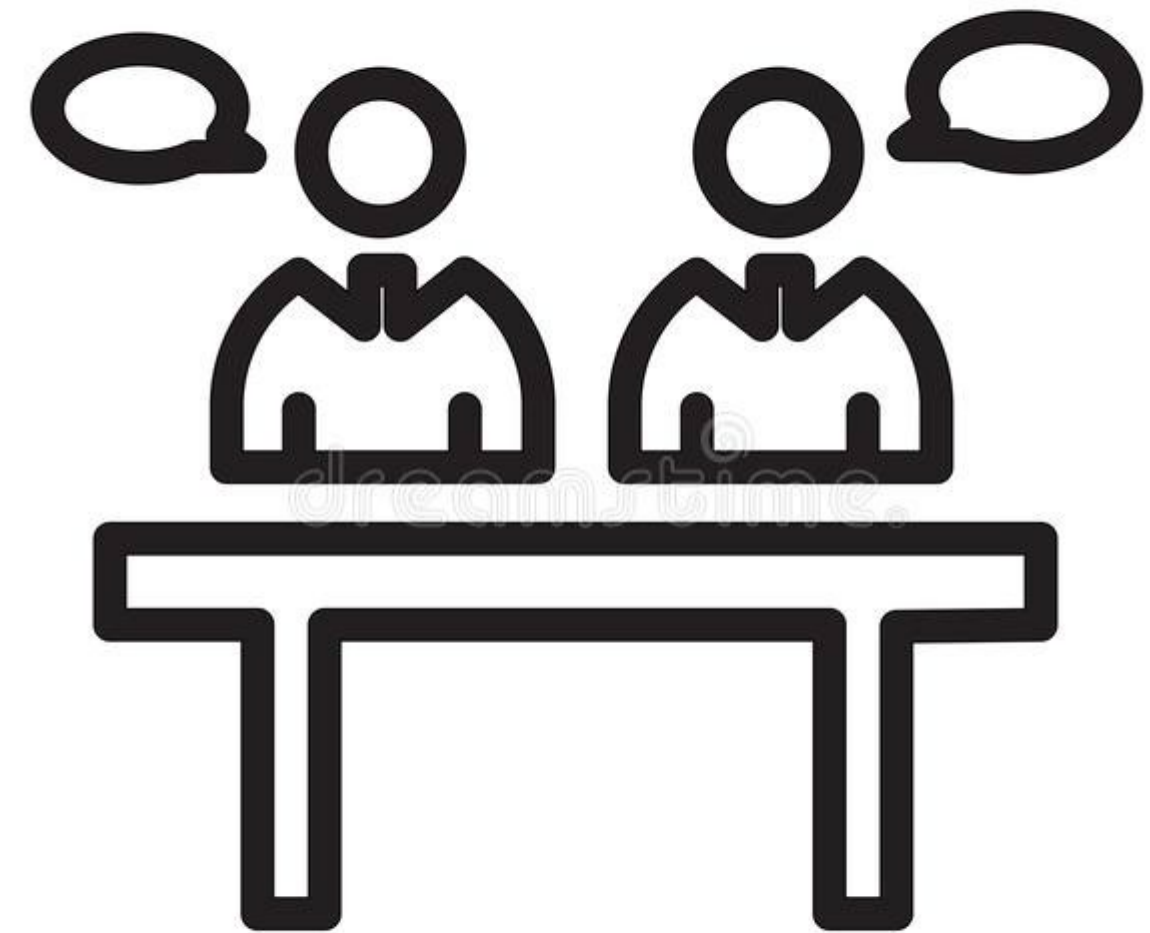
- 09 Environmental Impacts
- 10 Construction Approach
- 11 Traffic Impacts
- 12 Next Steps
- 13 Public Outreach
- 14 Question & Answer





# Presentation Participants

- **Town of Great Barrington**
  - Chris Rembold and Joseph Aberdale
- **MassDOT Project Manager**
  - Janhavi Limaye
- **MassDOT ROW Agent:**
  - Justin Gilmore / Pam Marquis
- **MassDOT District - 1**
  - Mark Devylder
- **MassDOT Design Consultant**
  - Matthew LaPlante
- **Stenographer**
- **Federal Highway Administration**
  - Responsible for oversight



## Budget and Funding

- Estimated total project cost ~ \$11.0 Million

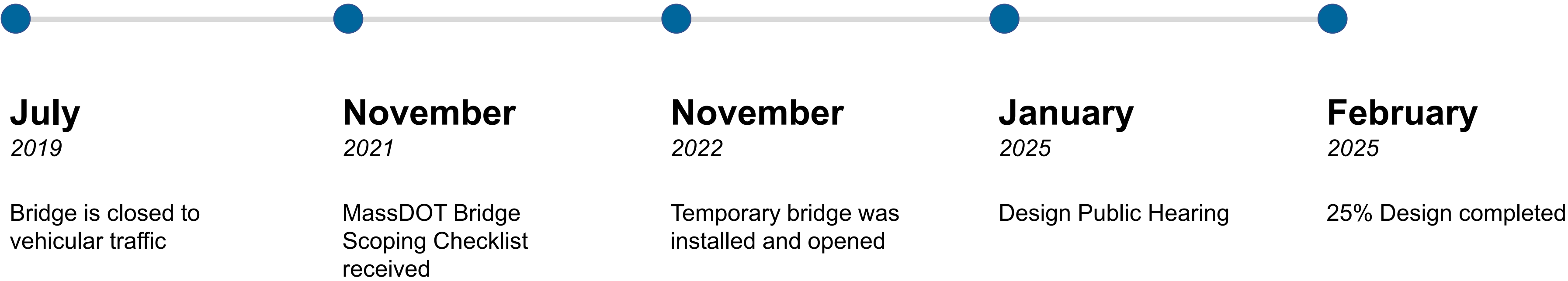
The total estimated cost of the project does not include any right of way acquisition costs.

- Federal Highway Administration funding 80% (Federal Aid)
- MassDOT funding 20% (remaining construction cost)

This project must be programmed in the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) in the appropriate Federal Fiscal Year in order for MassDOT to solicit bids for eventual construction.



# How did we get here?







**Why was this  
project  
initiated?**





## Reasons for Project Initiation

- Original bridge was structurally deficient based on the condition
- Original bridge was closed to traffic in 2019
- Temporary bridge in place only supports one (1) alternating lane and a 5'-0" sidewalk
- Temporary bridge does not allow permit vehicle traffic



Temporary  
Bridge Approach

- One (1) lane alternating traffic

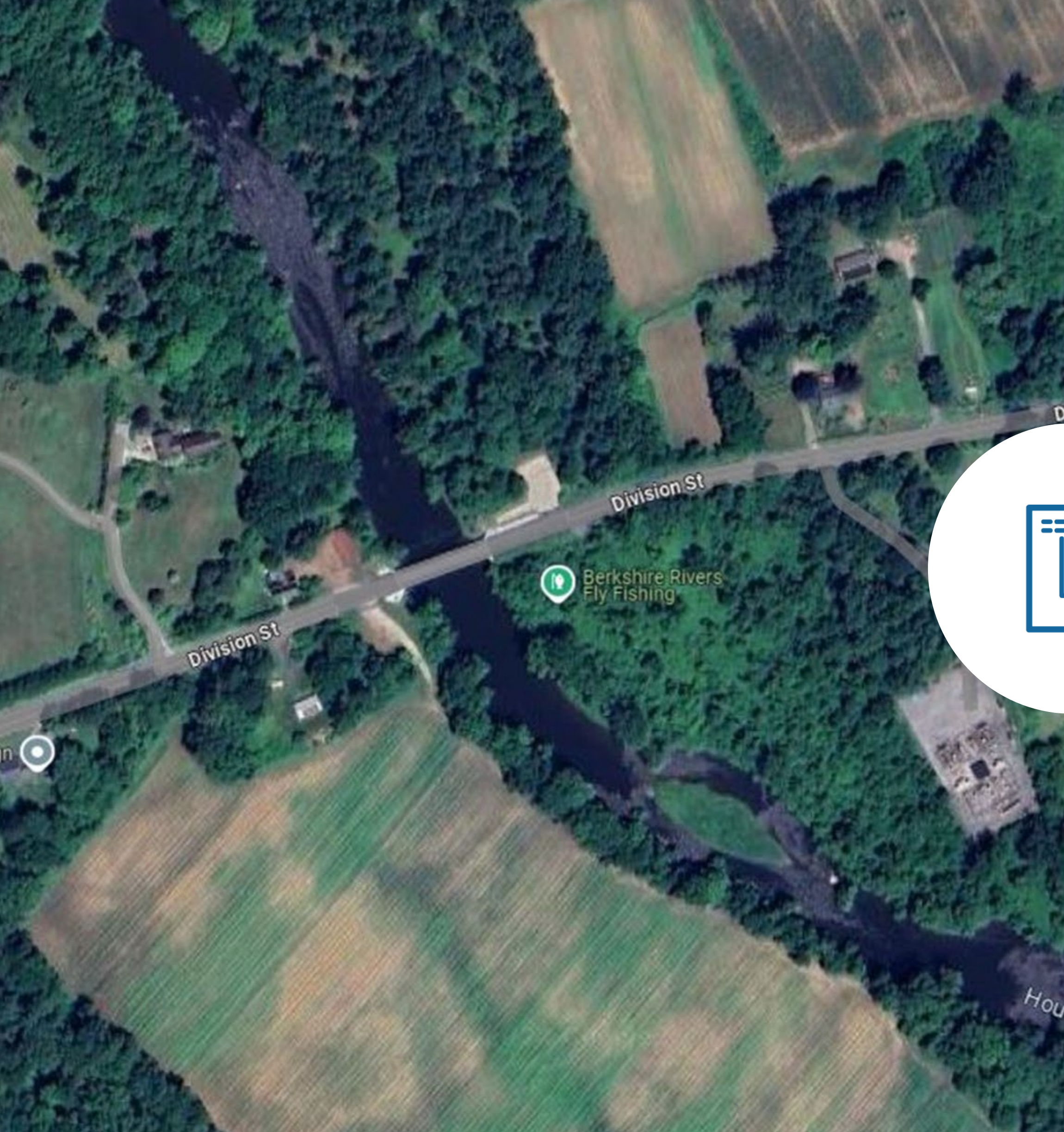


• Sidewalk

- One (1) 5'-0" wide pedestrian sidewalk







**What do we  
want to  
accomplish?**



## Project Scope

- Construct a new bridge that provides the following:
  - Two lanes of traffic that match into the approaches on Division Street
  - Meet all state and federal structural capacity requirements
  - Provide shoulders to allow for bicycle accommodations
  - Provide scour protection for the existing abutments along the Housatonic River





**What  
alternatives  
were  
considered?**



# Alternatives Considered

- Substructure:
  - Re-use of existing abutments
  - Newly constructed abutments behind existing abutment footprints
- Superstructure:
  - Steel plate girders
  - Steel truss



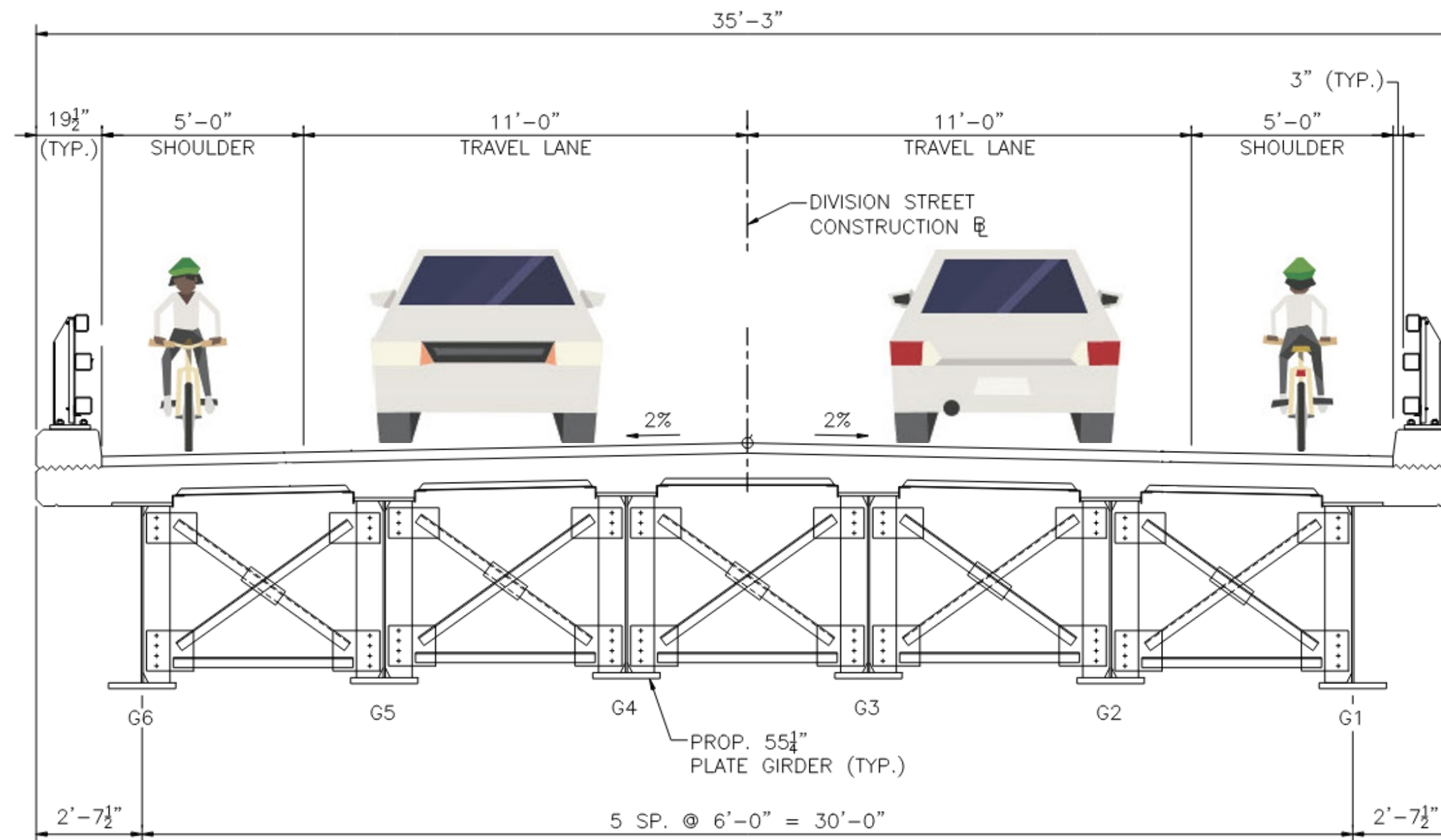


**What is the  
preferred  
alternative?**



## Chosen Alternative

- Re-use of existing abutments
- Single span with steel plate girders
- Two 5'-0" shoulders and two 11'-0" lanes







How has our  
design  
progressed?



## How has our design progressed?

- Preliminary Structures Report (PSR) – Determined that the existing abutments and piles could be used for the new bridge.
- Bridge Type Selection Worksheet (BTSW) – Determined the best bridge type for the site conditions and constraints.
- 25% Design and Sketch Plans – Outlined the anticipated design of the bridge and approach roadways. Identified major issues that need to be accounted for in the final design.





**How will your  
property be  
impacted?**



## Right of Way (ROW) discussion – 25% Design

- The Town of Great Barrington is responsible for acquiring all necessary rights in public land for design, construction, and implementation of the project.
- Affected property owners will be contacted by personnel from the Town of Great Barrington or their representative(s).
- Procedures must comply with state and federal regulations governing the acquisition process.
  - Property owners are protected under Massachusetts General Laws, primarily Chapter 79.
  - If project receives federal funds, property owners are further protected under Title III of the Real Property Act of 1970, as amended.
- Fee takings, permanent easements, and/or temporary construction easements may be required.

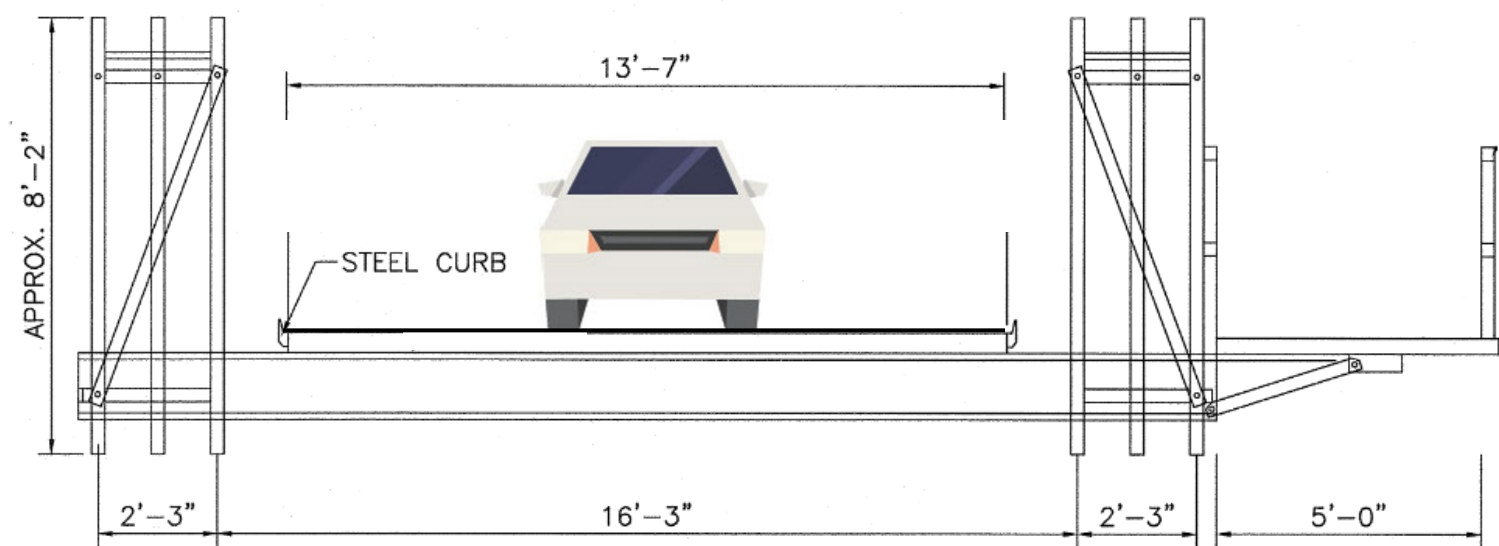




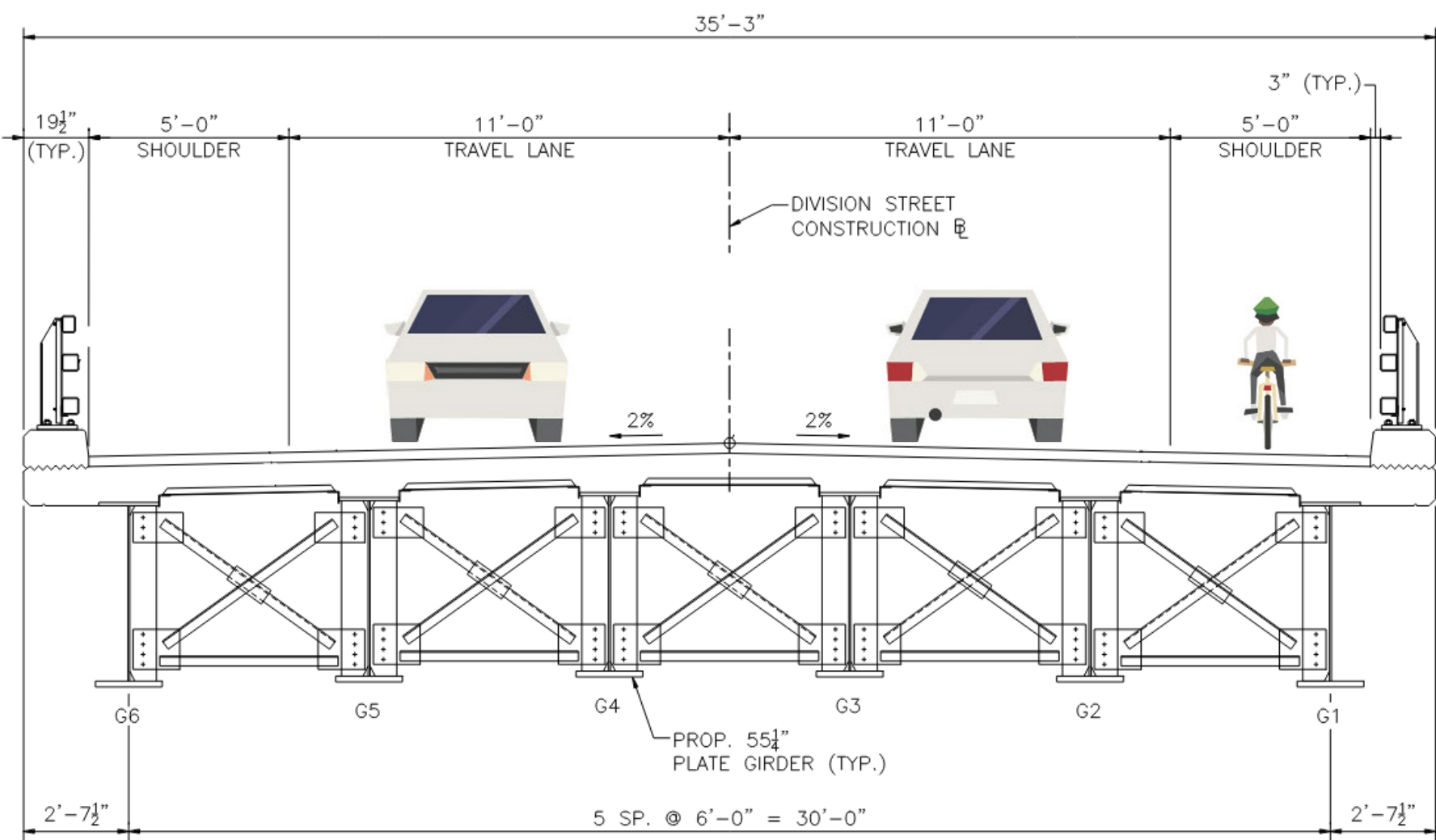
**How will  
bicyclists and  
pedestrians  
be impacted?**



# Existing Bridge Section



# Proposed Bridge Section



- Better accommodates needs of the local community
- Does not create a restriction for any future bike/pedestrian projects in the area





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



## Resource Impacts

- Temporary cultural resource impacts
- No environmental justice concerns
- No adverse impact to the effective capacity of the bridge hydraulic opening
- Permits for impacts to vegetated wetlands in progress
- Ongoing coordination with Fish & Wildlife





**What is the  
construction  
approach?**



# Construction Approach

- Full bridge closure with detoured traffic
- Conventional construction approach
- No night work or accelerated techniques
- Anticipate 2 years of construction starting Fall 2026



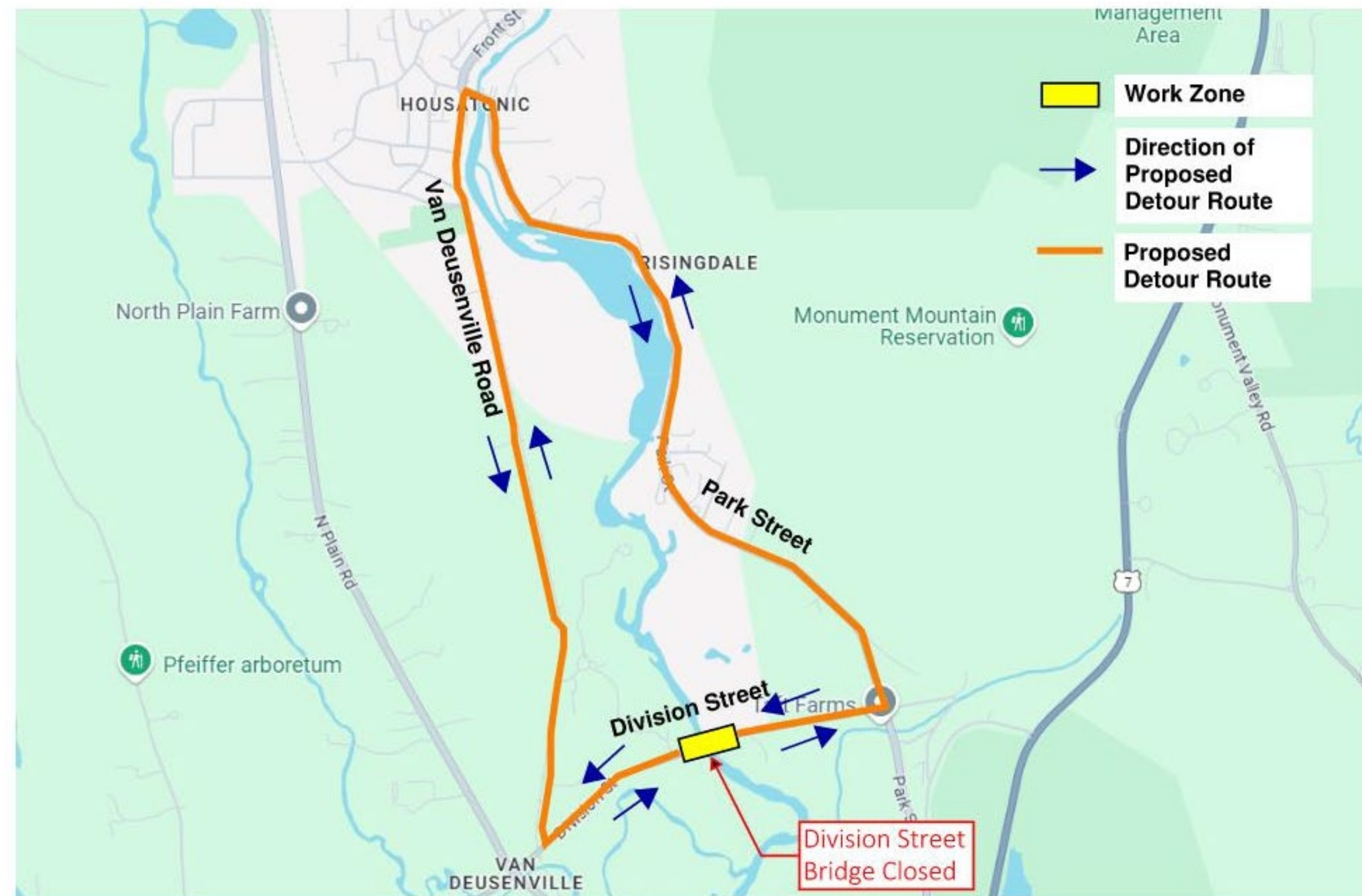


**How will the  
road user be  
affected?**



## Full Detour – Long Term

- Bridge construction will be completed under a total roadway closure
- Detour route:
  - Approximately 5 miles
  - Division Street
  - Van Deusenville Road
  - Park Street
- Town has indicated that pedestrian access is not desired during construction





# Our next steps



Design Public Hearing  
Review and respond  
to comments received

(January 2025)



75% Design, 100%  
Design Development  
& Permits

(Spring 2025)



Final Design & ROW  
Coordination

(Summer 2025)



Advertisement

(June 2026)



Construction Begins

(September 2026)





**How will we  
keep you  
informed?**



## Contact Information

- Visit the project website at:  
<https://www.mass.gov/event/great-barrington-bridge-replacement-division-street-over-housatonic-river-01-15-2025>
- Submit email comments to:  
MassDOT Project Management [massdotprojectmanagement@dot.state.ma.us](mailto:massdotprojectmanagement@dot.state.ma.us)
- For project information visit the MassDOT Upcoming Events for Highway Division web site at <http://www.mass.gov/orgs/highway-division/events> or used the QR Code:
- Submit written comments to:  
Carrie Lavalley, P.E., Chief Engineer  
MassDOT  
10 Park Plaza  
Boston, MA 02116  
Attention: PROJECT MANAGEMENT, PROJECT FILE NO. 612183.







# Questions and answers





# ***Thank You***

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