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Massachusetts Department of Transportation
Highway Division

Fairhaven - New Bedford Swing Bridge Replacement

Thank you for joining us.

This meeting will begin shortly.

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Fairhaven - New Bedford Swing Bridge Replacement

Virtual Public Information Meeting #3

Zoom Meeting | December 19, 2024 | 6:00 PM

Project File No. 612557

Zoom webinar controls

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- Drop down menu to check microphone and speakers.

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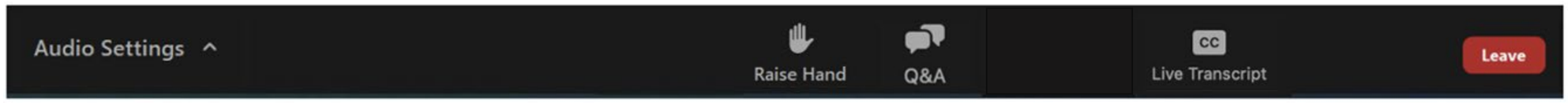

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Public meeting notes and procedures

Notification of video recording

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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.

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

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- 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 Introductions

02 Project Summary

03 2024 Progress Update

04 Approved Bridge Type

05 Next Steps

06 Questions

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Presentation Participants

- **MassDOT Project Manager**
  - Joseph Breen, P.E.
- **MassDOT Legislative Affairs**
  - Gareth Saunders
- **MassDOT Producer**
  - Leah Grodstein, Producer
  - Adetoyin Olaoye, Producer
- **MassDOT District 5 Assistant Project Development Engineer**
  - Diane Hayes, P.E.
- **Prime Consultant Project Manager**
  - Thomas Cole, P.E.

Stenography will be provided by:
- Advanced Court Reporting

How did we get here?

Today!

2022

- Funds secured for design, development and advancement of the swing bridge replacement project

October *2022*

- Public Information Meeting #1
- Initial Coordination with Stakeholders
- Preliminary Data Gathering
- Initiate Agency Coordination

2023

- Bridge Replacement Alternatives Review
- Stakeholder Coordination
- Preliminary Agency Coordination

January *2024*

- Public Information Meeting #2
- Bridge Replacement Alternative Determination
- Stakeholder Coordination
- Preliminary U.S. Coast Guard Coordination

December 19th *2024*

- Public Information Meeting #3

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Recent Local Outreach & Coordination

- 08/10/2022: New Bedford Legislative Briefing at Fairhaven High School
- 10/03/2022: Fairhaven Public Information Meeting (PIM) #1 – In-Person
- 10/06/2022: New Bedford Public Information Meeting (PIM) #1 – In-Person
- 10/12/2023: New Bedford and Fairhaven Planning, Port Authority and Legislative Briefing (at New Bedford Whaling Museum)
- 01/09/2024: New Bedford and Fairhaven PIM #2 – In-Person
- 03/26/2024: City of New Bedford Planners, Port Authority and MassDOT Zoom Meeting
- 08/01/2024: Working Group #1 – New Bedford and Fairhaven Planning Departments, Port Authority, Modjeski & Masters, and MassDOT
- 12/19/2024: New Bedford and Fairhaven PIM #3 – Virtual – TODAY!

Why was this project initiated?

Existing Conditions

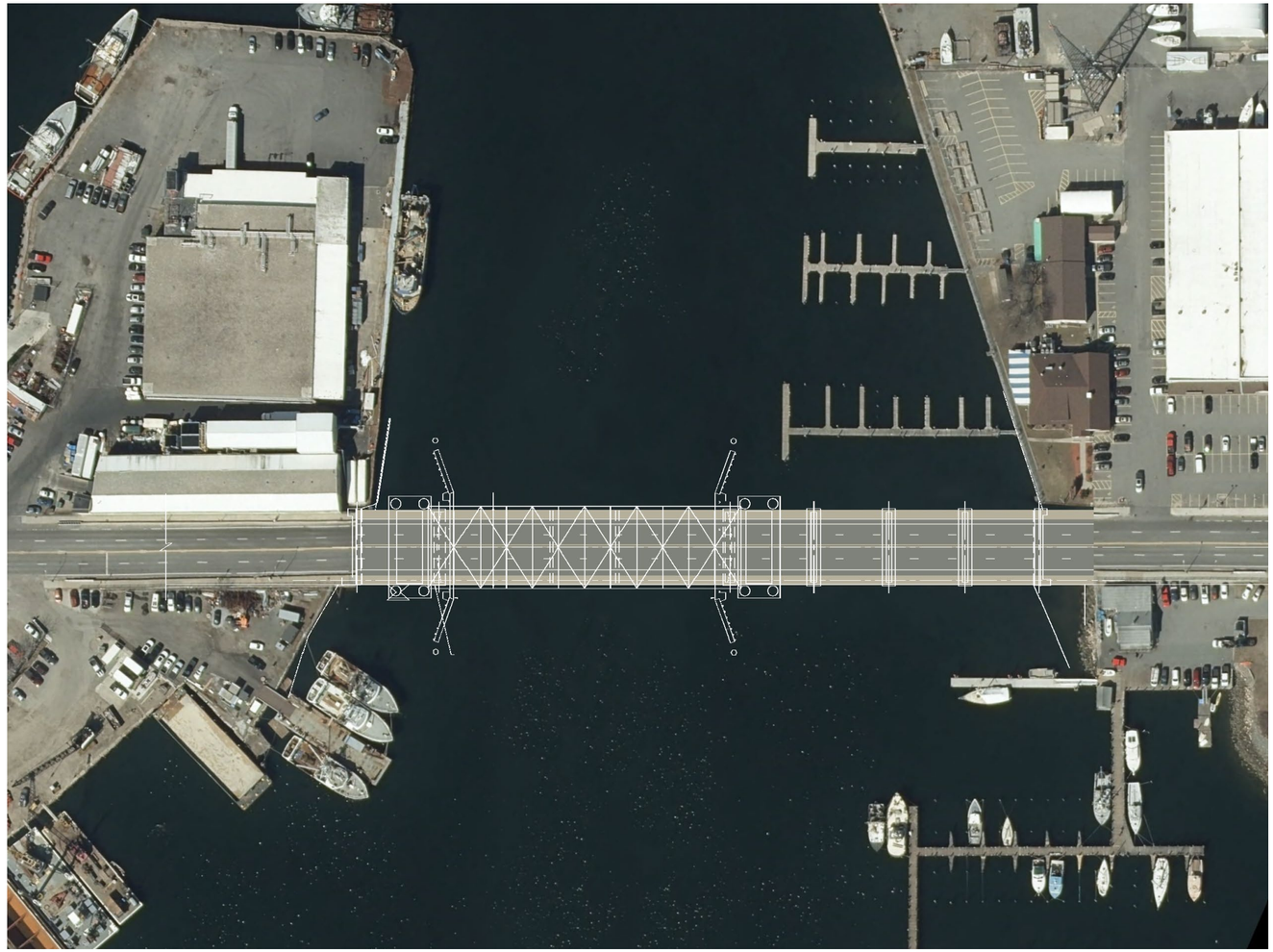
- Bridge constructed in 1901 and is 120+ years old.
- Last major rehabilitation in 1992
- Bridge is inspected fully every 2 years. Recent inspections indicated deficits.
- Bridge receives special interim inspection between biennial inspections due to age and condition.
- Bridge operators are on-site daily and record and address operational deficiencies.

Project Goals

- Reconstruct the bridge to ensure 75-year design life.
- Minimize disruptions to bridge users during construction.
- Eliminate functional deficiencies.
  - Long opening time (time from bridge fully closed to bridge fully open) causes delays for vehicular, pedestrian and bicycle traffic.
  - Minimal under-bridge clearance requires bridge to open for most vessels.
  - Narrow navigational channels (approx. 95 feet each) and center pier location
    - Larger vessels cannot enter upper harbor.
    - Center pier increases potential for vessel impacts.
  - Improve bicycle and pedestrian accommodation on bridge to allow for future corridor reconstruction.

Stakeholder Coordination

- Navigation channel users
  - Commercial fishing
  - Maritime construction / maintenance
  - Freight / cargo
  - Recreational boating
- Bridge users
  - Vehicular
  - Pedestrians
  - Bicyclists
- Communities of New Bedford and Fairhaven

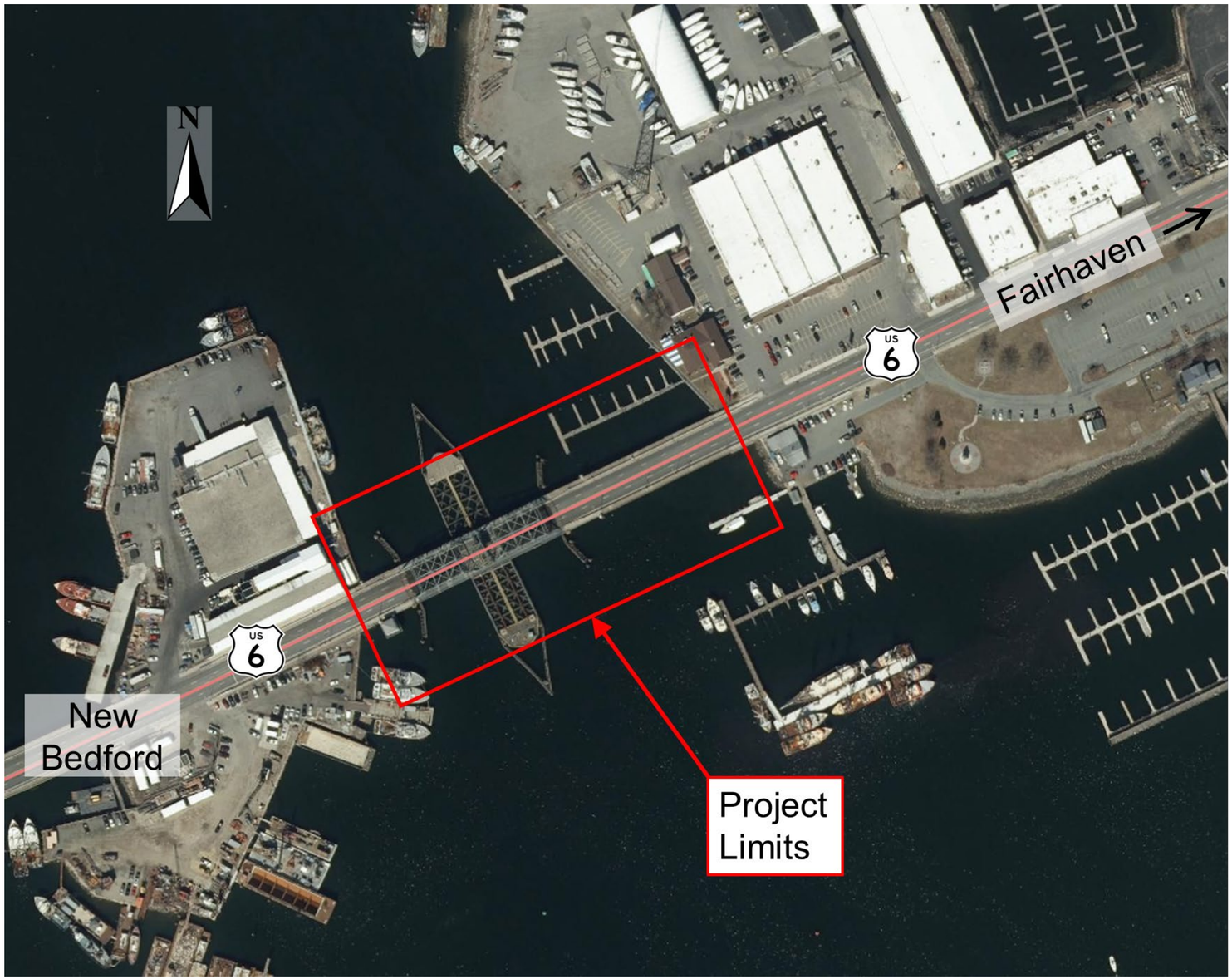


Stakeholder Coordination (continued)

- Environmental and Historic Preservation Agencies
- Emergency services and local government
- U.S. Coast Guard and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
- FHWA
- MassDOT

Project Scope

- Replace the moveable span and flanking approach spans between Fish Island and Pope's Island.
- Maintain the existing Route 6 corridor with least interruptions possible.
- Incorporate allowances for future corridor improvements into the replacement bridge.



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What is the selected alternative?

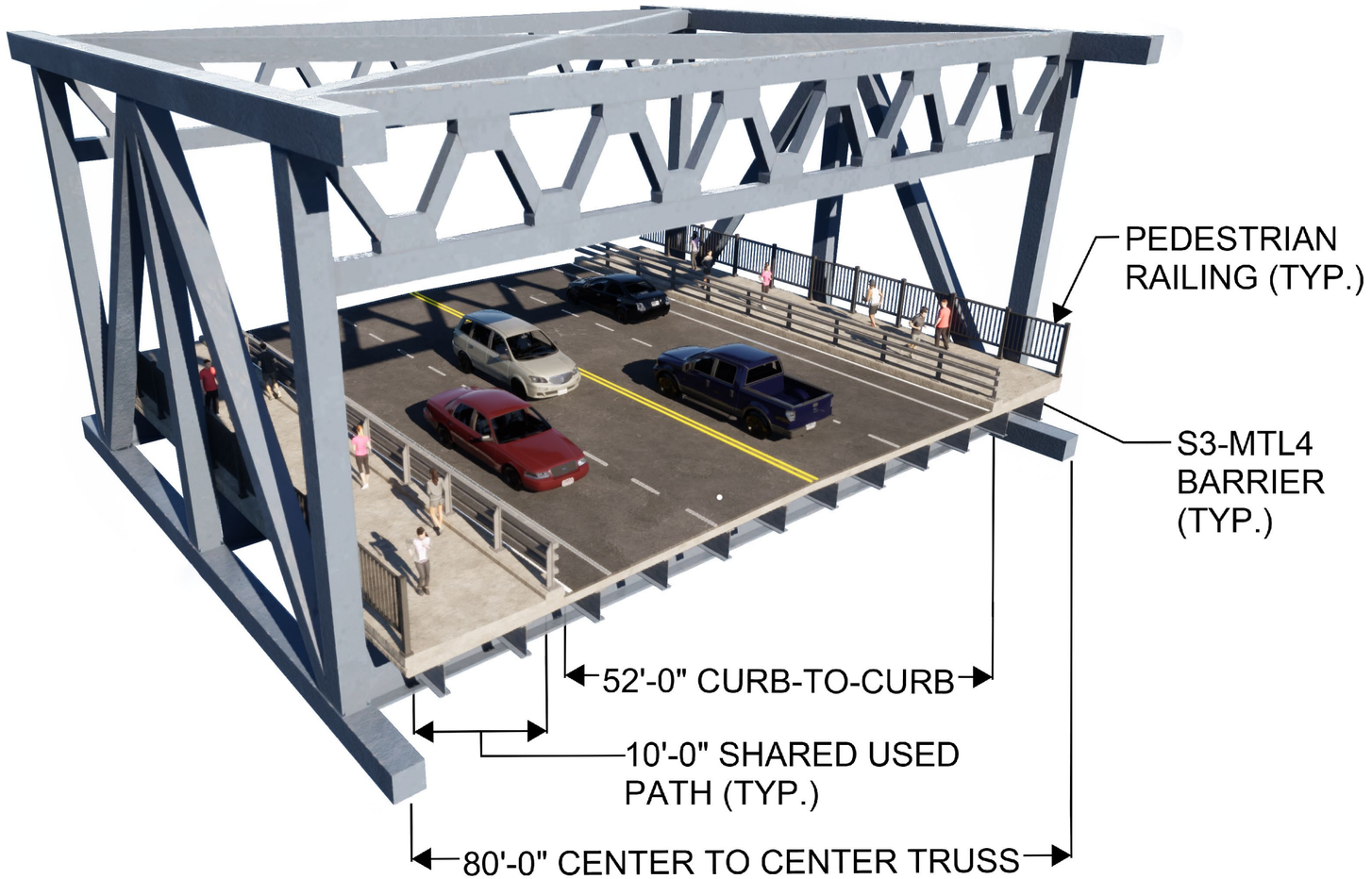
Bridge Type – Vertical Lift Span

- **Navigational channel width:** 260 feet
- **Navigational vertical opening:** 138 feet *(135 feet + 3 feet for predicted sea level rise)*
- **Navigational vertical opening (closed):** 6 feet (MHW)
- **Intermediate vertical opening:** 80 feet (proposed)
- **Bridge roadway width:** 77 feet
  - 4, 11-foot travel lanes w/ 4-foot shoulders
  - 2, 10-foot shared use pathways on replacement bridge
  - Safety barrier between roadway and shared use pathways

View from Route 6 on Fish Island towards Fairhaven

Roadway Cross-Section

- Current and Future Vehicular Traffic Counts Require 2 – 11 ft lanes in each direction
- 4 ft wide roadway shoulders provide additional space for bicycle traffic using the roadway
- Bridge sidewalks are 10 ft wide to provide shared-use pathway on the new structure
- Approach sidewalks and shoulders will taper to meet the existing roadway cross-section at the adjacent driveways on Fish and Popes Islands



Vertical Lift Span Advantages: Navigational

- Navigation will be maintained, exception for occasional outages that will be approved by USCG in advance and communicated to all mariners.
- Lowest impact during construction:
  - Commercial fishing vessels
  - Pleasure craft
  - Other commercial vessels
    - Towed
    - Tugs
    - Steamers (tankers / freight)
- Limited restrictions to navigational opening during construction.

Vertical Lift Span Advantages: Roadway

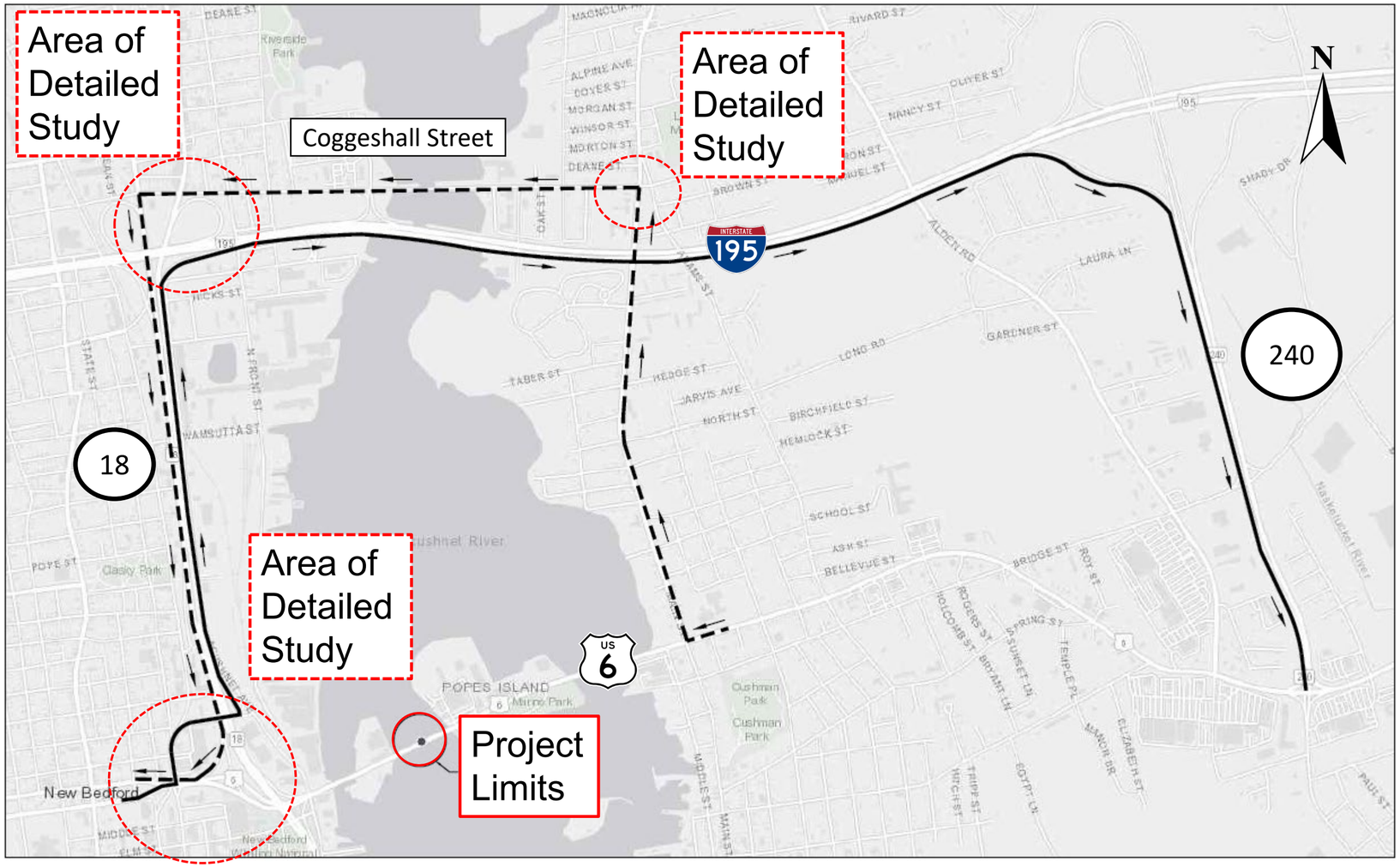
- Shortest duration of bridge outage during construction:
  - Potentially 1 – 1½ years
  - Versus 3 to 5 years for other alternatives
- Minimizes traffic detour duration
- Minimizes duration of impacts to adjacent / local businesses on Fish and Popes Island
- Access for people walking and biking will have similar impacts to traffic

Vertical Lift Span Advantages: Construction

- Optimal choice for constructability:
  - Smallest foundation footprint
  - Allows for accelerated construction methods
- Lift towers can be constructed with minimal impacts to:
  - Navigation
  - Vehicular traffic
  - People walking and biking

Potential Detour Routes

- Studies for Proposed Detour Routes will start with previous detours.
- Additional Traffic Studies were performed in Fall 2024 at key intersections:
  - Benoit Square (the intersection of Howland Road and Main Street).
  - The intersection of Coggeshall Street and Route 18.
  - The “Octopus” intersection (US Route 6, Pleasant Street, Foster Street).
- Detour Routes and alternative transportation will be studied for people walking and biking.



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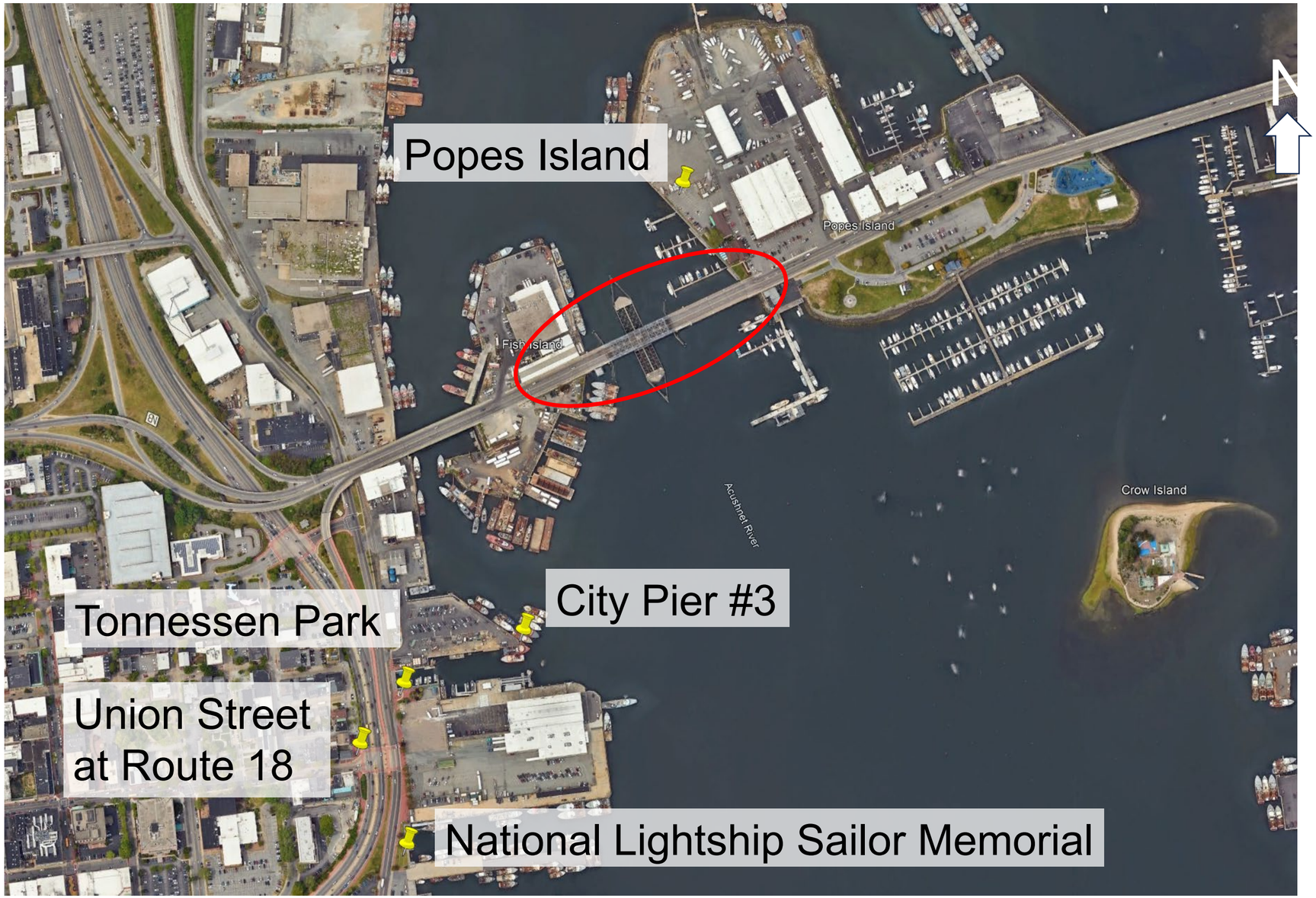
How has our design progressed?

Selected Bridge Type – Vertical Lift Span

Selected Bridge Type – Vertical Lift Span

Locus Map



Conceptual Vertical Lift Bridge placed into context from selected points of view from New Bedford Historical Landmarks

View from National Lightship Sailor Memorial

Schooner Ernestina-Morrissey

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View from Union Street at Route 18 in New Bedford

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View from Tonnessen Park in New Bedford

View from City Pier 3 in New Bedford

View from Popes Island looking towards New Bedford

View from Route 6 on Fish Island towards Fairhaven

Roadway Cross-Section

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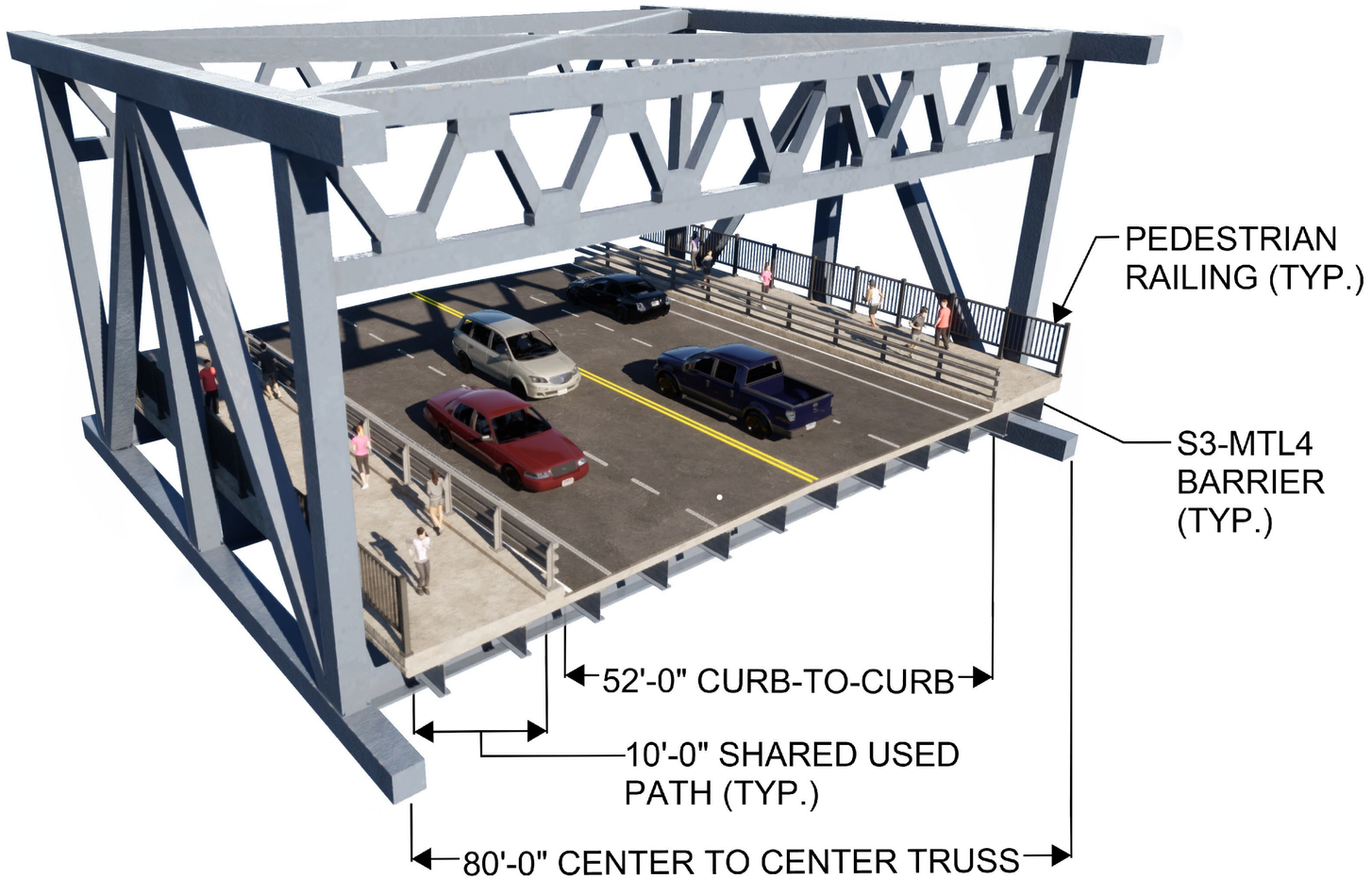

Our next steps

1

- Complete Field Data Collection – Geotechnical & Hydraulic Studies

2

- Working Group Meetings

3

- 25% Design
- Bridge Structure – Sketch Plan Phase
- Highway Design Plans

4

- 25% Design Public Hearing

5

- Progress to Final Design

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25% Design – Sketch Plans

- Confirms the Overall Design:
  - Foundation types
  - Pier locations
  - Foundation and Span Materials
  - Span Dimensions
  - Railing Types
- Lays the groundwork for architectural treatments.
- Coordinates details with roadway design.
- Incorporates Geotechnical and Hydrologic Investigation recommendations.

Continued Engagement

- **USCG Coordination**
  - Ongoing Dialog throughout design process
  - Navigation Impact Report
  - Preliminary Navigational Clearance Determination
- **Mariner Outreach**
  - Feedback included in Navigation Impact Report to USCG
- **New Bedford Port Authority**
  - Members of Working Group
  - Feedback included in Navigation Impact Report
  - Provided Letter of Support for Vertical Lift Bridge to USCG
- **City of New Bedford and Town of Fairhaven**
  - Members of Working Group
  - Feedback included in Navigation Impact Report
  - Provided Letters of Support for Vertical Lift Bridge to USCG
- **State Representatives**
  - Provided Letters of Support for Vertical Lift Bridge to USCG

How will we keep you informed?

How to reach us

- Visit the project website at:
  https://www.mass.gov/new-bedford-fairhaven-swing-bridge-reconstruction

- Submit email comments to:
  NewBedfordFairhavenSwingBridge@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 use the QR Code:

- Submit written comments to:
  Carrie Lavallee, P.E., Chief Engineer
  MassDOT
  10 Park Plaza
  Boston, MA 02116
  Attention: MAJOR PROJECTS, PROJECT FILE NO. 612557

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Questions and answers

Questions and answers

- “Raise your hand” to be unmuted for verbal questions (Alt + Y keyboard shortcut).

- 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.

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Thank You

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