



# Reconstruction of the Blynman Canal Bridge – Route 127 over the Blynman Canal

*Thank you for joining us.*

*This meeting will begin shortly.*







# Reconstruction of the Blynman Canal Bridge – Route 127 over the Blynman Canal in Gloucester

*Gloucester, MA*

Project No.608397 | December 2, 2025





## Zoom Webinar Controls for Meeting



- Drop down menu to check microphone and speakers



- Raise your hand - \*9 for users dialing in

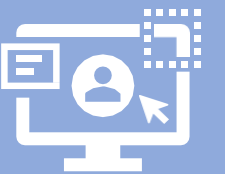


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- Use the View button in the upper right-hand corner to adjust the meeting view settings to your preference

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**[1.888.799.9666]**

Audio Settings ^



Raise Hand



Q&A



Interpretation



Live Transcript

Leave

# Public Meeting Notes and Procedures

## Notification of Recording

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## 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.

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



# Agenda

1. Project Team
2. Project Background
3. Project Needs & Goals
4. Alternatives Investigated
5. Design Solution
6. Construction Approach
7. Questions and Answers





# Presentation Participants

## MassDOT Highway Division

- Joseph Breen, PE, [Project Manager](#)
- Brian Fallon, PE, [District 4 Design Engineer](#)
- Dan Fielding, [Legislative Liaison](#)
- Amylia Soden, [Right of Way Agent](#)

## MassDOT Design Consultant

*H&H (Hardesty & Hanover)*

- Hank Pokigo, [Project Principal](#)
- Timothy Harrington, PE, [Deputy Project Manager](#)

## MassDOT Stenographer Consultant

*Advanced Court Reporters, LLC*

- Stenographer

## MassDOT Public Outreach Consultant

*City Point/HDR*

- Martin Nee, [Outreach Manager](#)



# How did we get here?

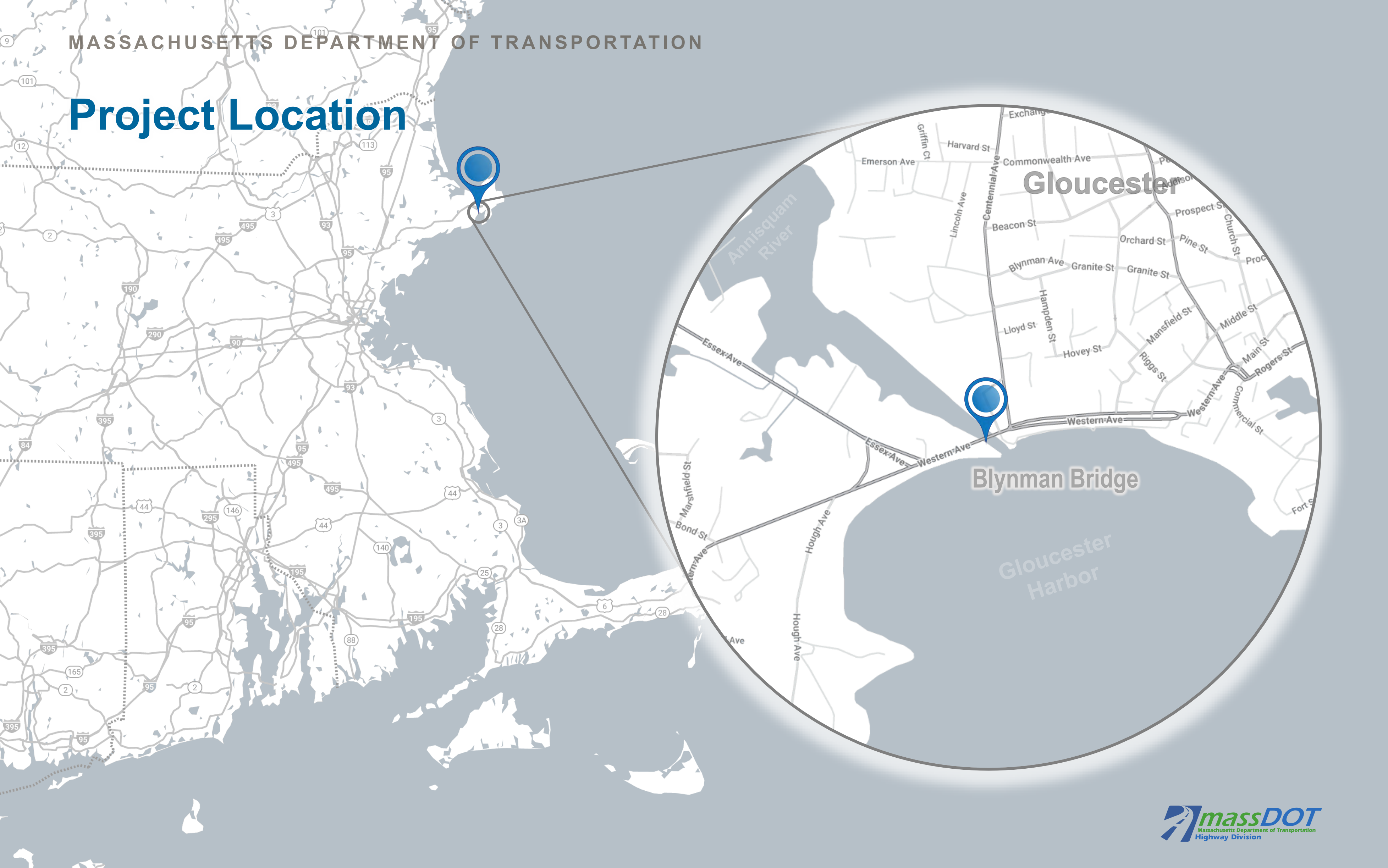






# Project Background

# Project Location





Project Limits



GLOUCESTER HIGH SCHOOL

Perkins Road

Centennial Avenue

Western Avenue (Route 127)

Western Avenue

CRAB BEACH

GLOUCESTER HARBOR



# Stakeholder Coordination

- Navigation Channel Users
  - Commercial fishing
  - Recreational boating
  - Maritime construction / maintenance
- Bridge Users
  - Vehicular
  - Pedestrians and Bicyclists
- Emergency Services
- Local Government
- U.S. Coast Guard
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
- Residents/Businesses





## Existing Conditions

- Bridge is inspected by MassDOT personnel or consultants every two years
- Given age and design of bridge, some aspects are inspected annually
- Bridge operation is controlled and observed by an on-site operator





# Current Bridge Condition



Bridge Deck  
*Satisfactory*

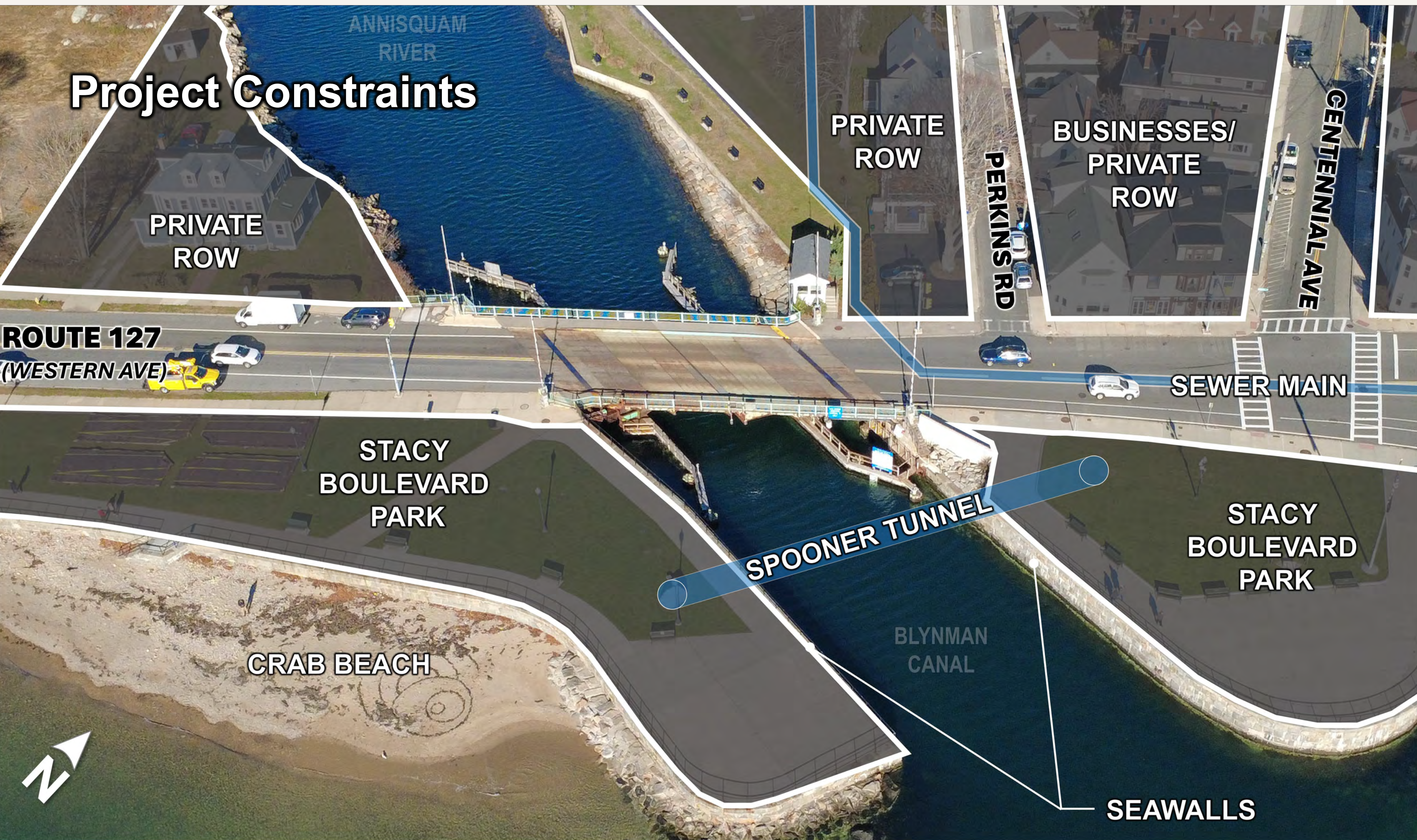
Abutments  
*Fair*

Superstructure  
*Poor*

End Span Columns  
*Serious*



# Project Constraints



PRIVATE  
ROW

**ROUTE 127**  
(WESTERN AVE)

PRIVATE  
ROW

BUSINESSES/  
PRIVATE  
ROW

CENTENNIAL AVE

PERKINS RD

SEWER MAIN

STACY  
BOULEVARD  
PARK

STACY  
BOULEVARD  
PARK

CRAB BEACH

SPOONER TUNNEL

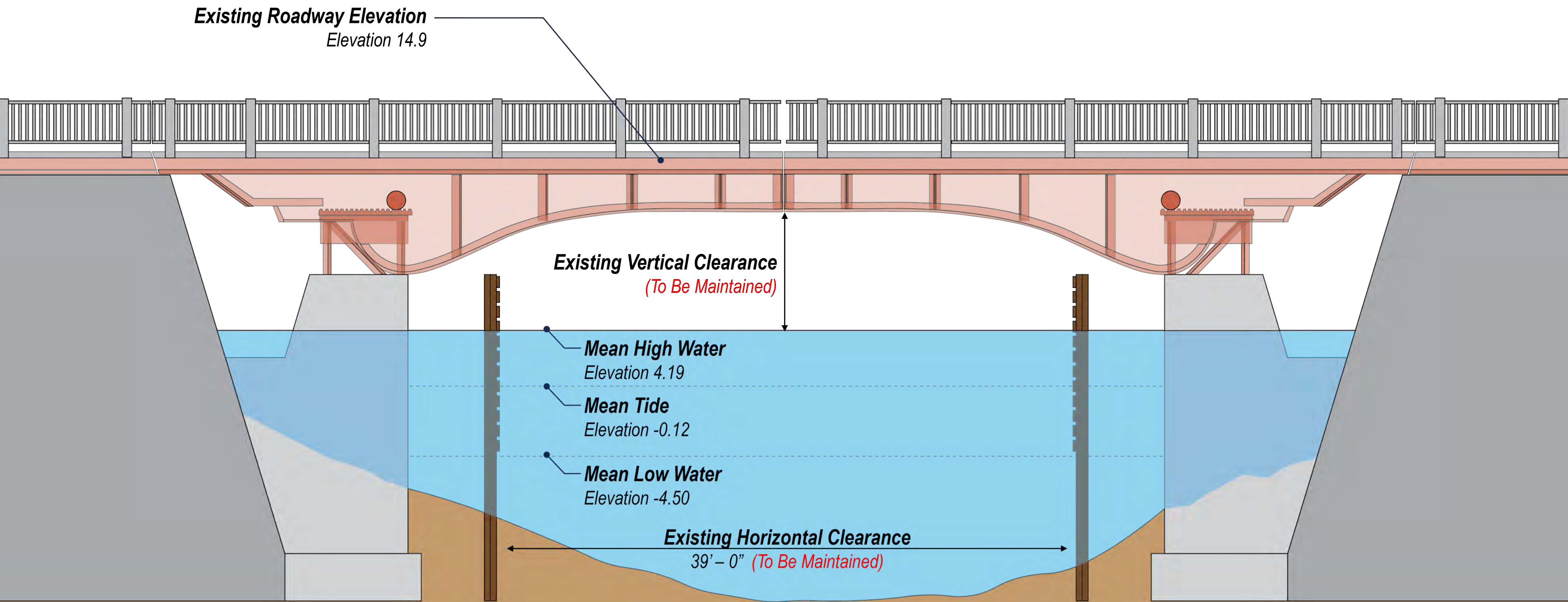
BLYNMAN  
CANAL

SEAWALLS





# Bridge Elevation





# Flooding

January 4, 2018



Elizabeth Schuster



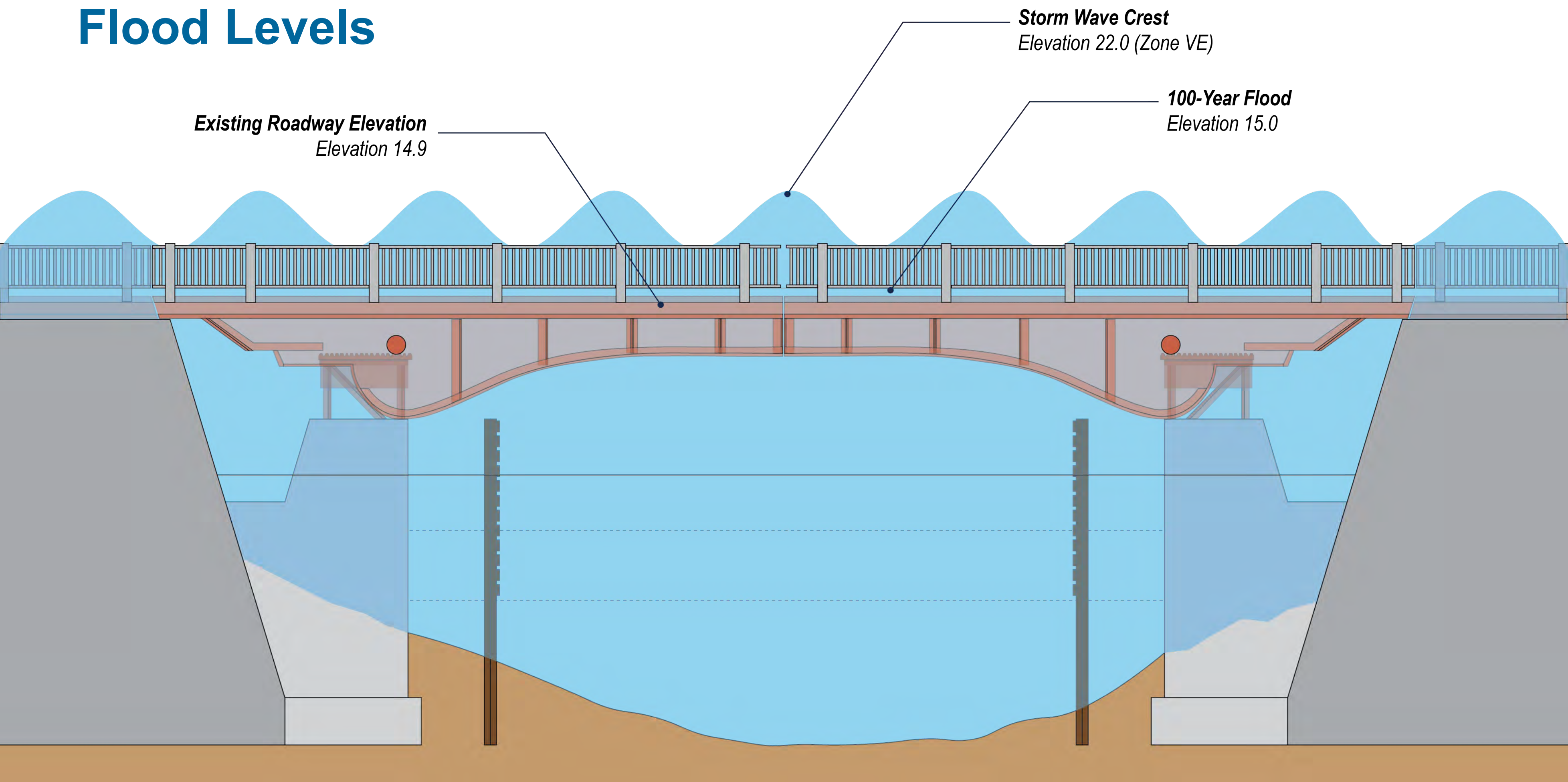
Elizabeth Schuster



Elizabeth Schuster

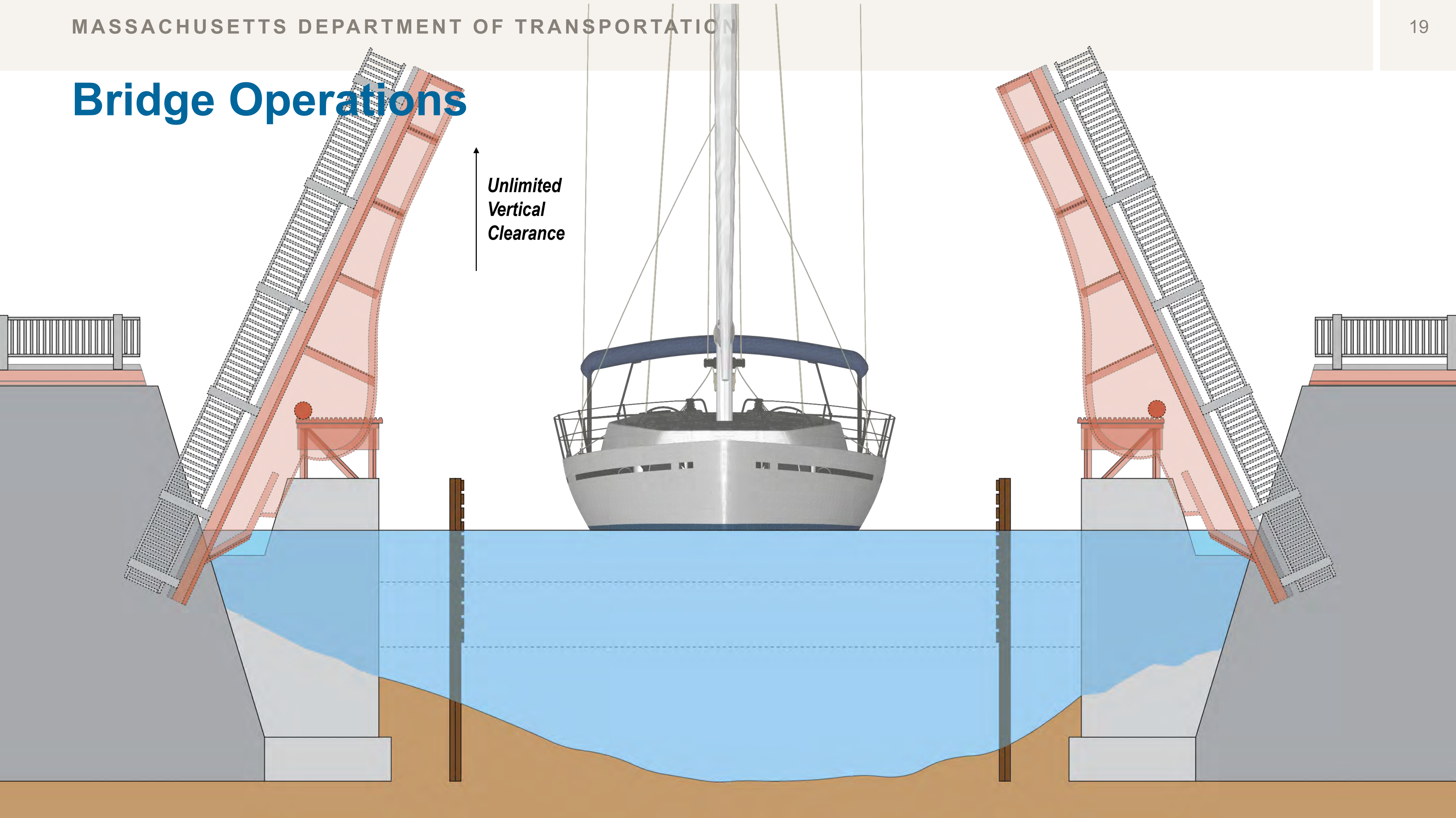


# Flood Levels



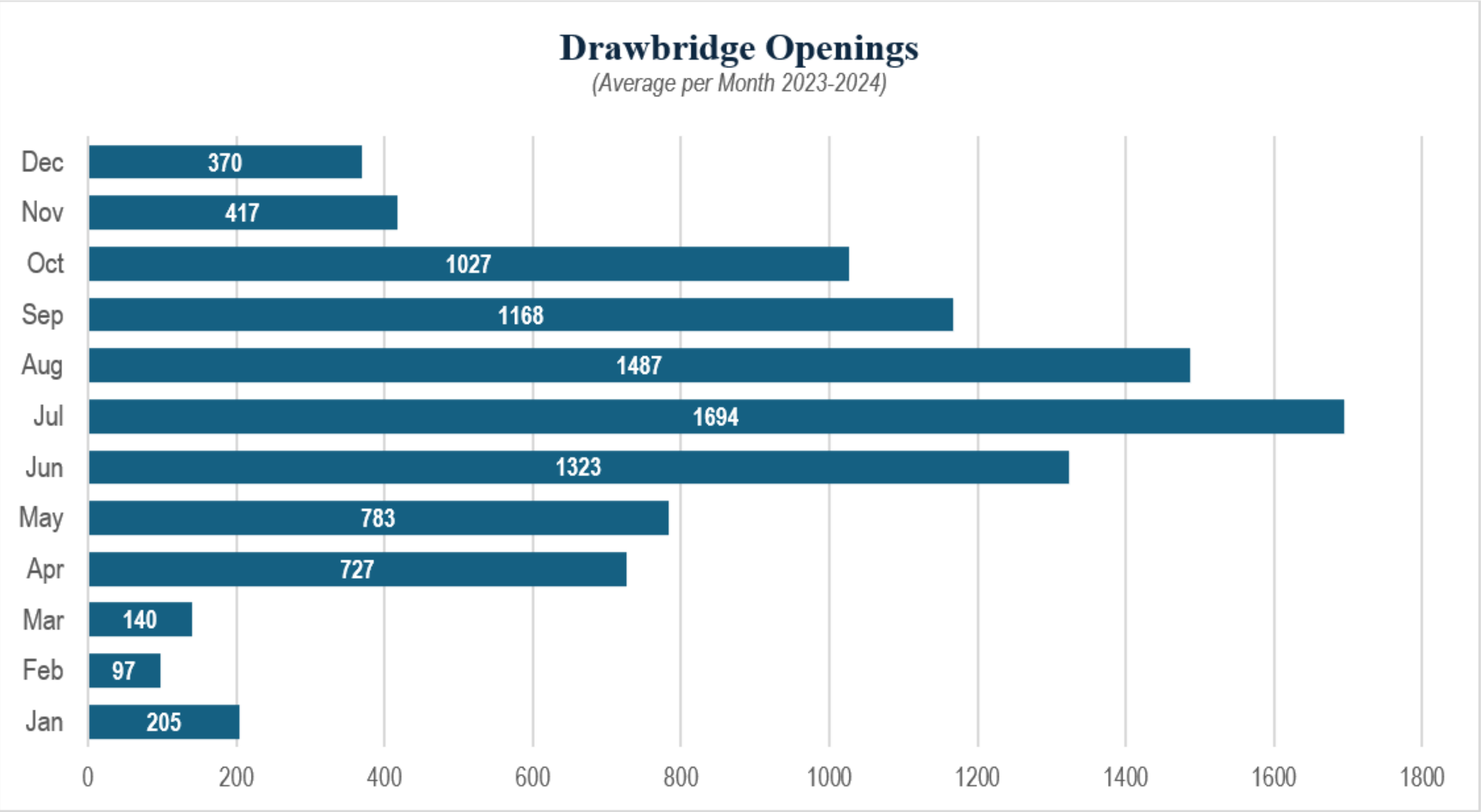


# Bridge Operations





# Drawbridge Operations



Annual Drawbridge Openings	
2023	9377
2024	9494





# Project Need & Goals



## Project Needs and Goals

- Replace the existing bridge with a new durable bridge
- Maximize **resiliency** and **operational reliability**
- Provide safe passage for vehicular, bicycle, and pedestrian traffic
- Minimize impacts to properties (residences, businesses, parkland, etc.)
- Provide access through the Blynman Canal for all marine traffic users
- Minimize movable bridge open and close cycle duration
- Avoid impacts to the existing seawalls



## Design Objectives

- Match approach roadway centerline and cross-section
- Provide separate sidewalk and bicycle on the north side of bridge
- Provide a Shared-Use Path on the south side of the bridge
- Maintain existing horizontal channel clearance (as a minimum)
- Maintain vertical clearances over mean high water (MHW)
- Locate bridge operating equipment above design flood level

Gloucester  
Harbor



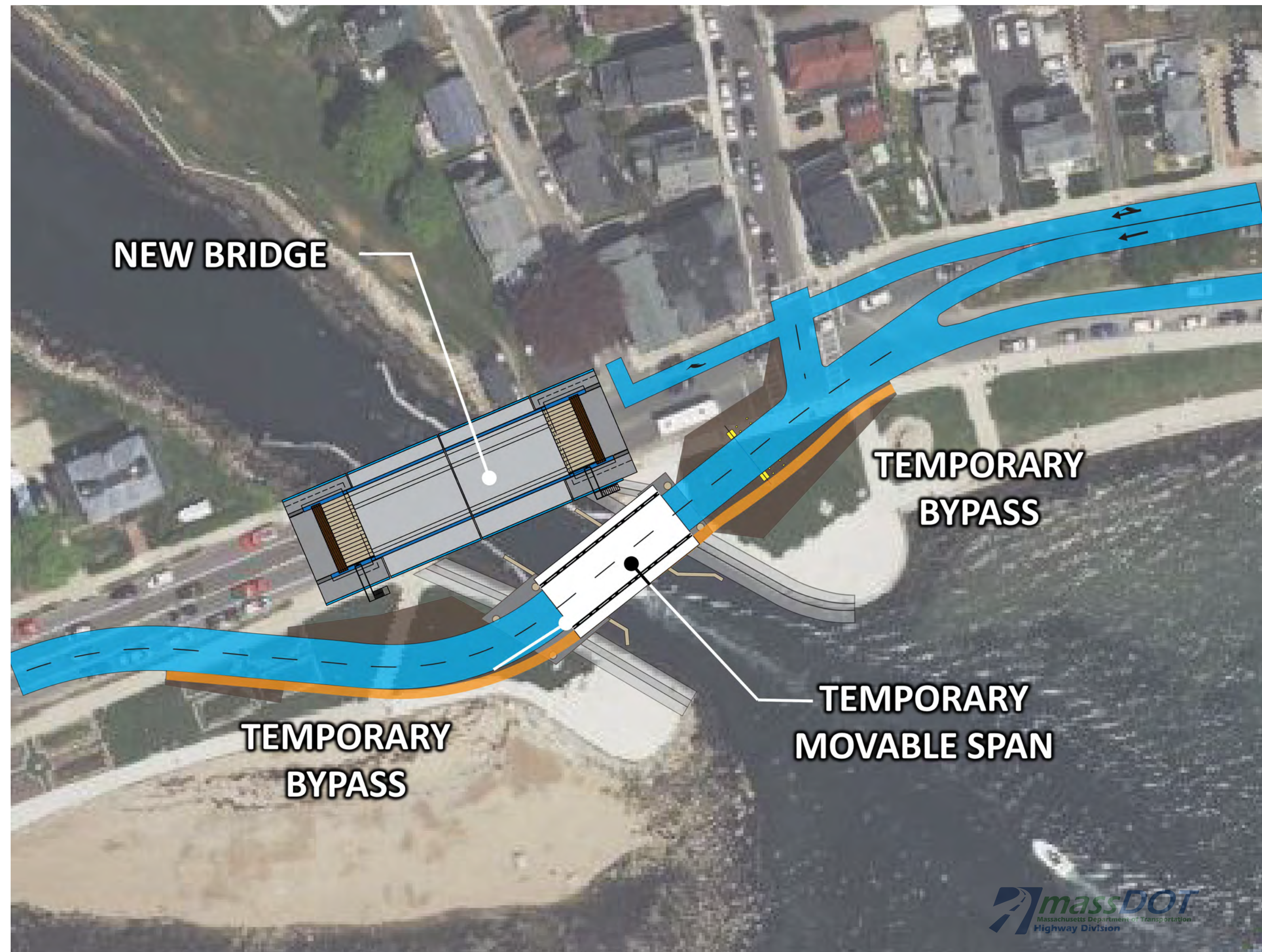
Annisquam  
River

*View Looking West*

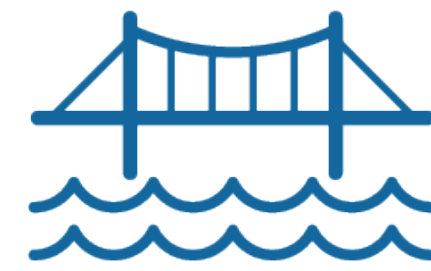
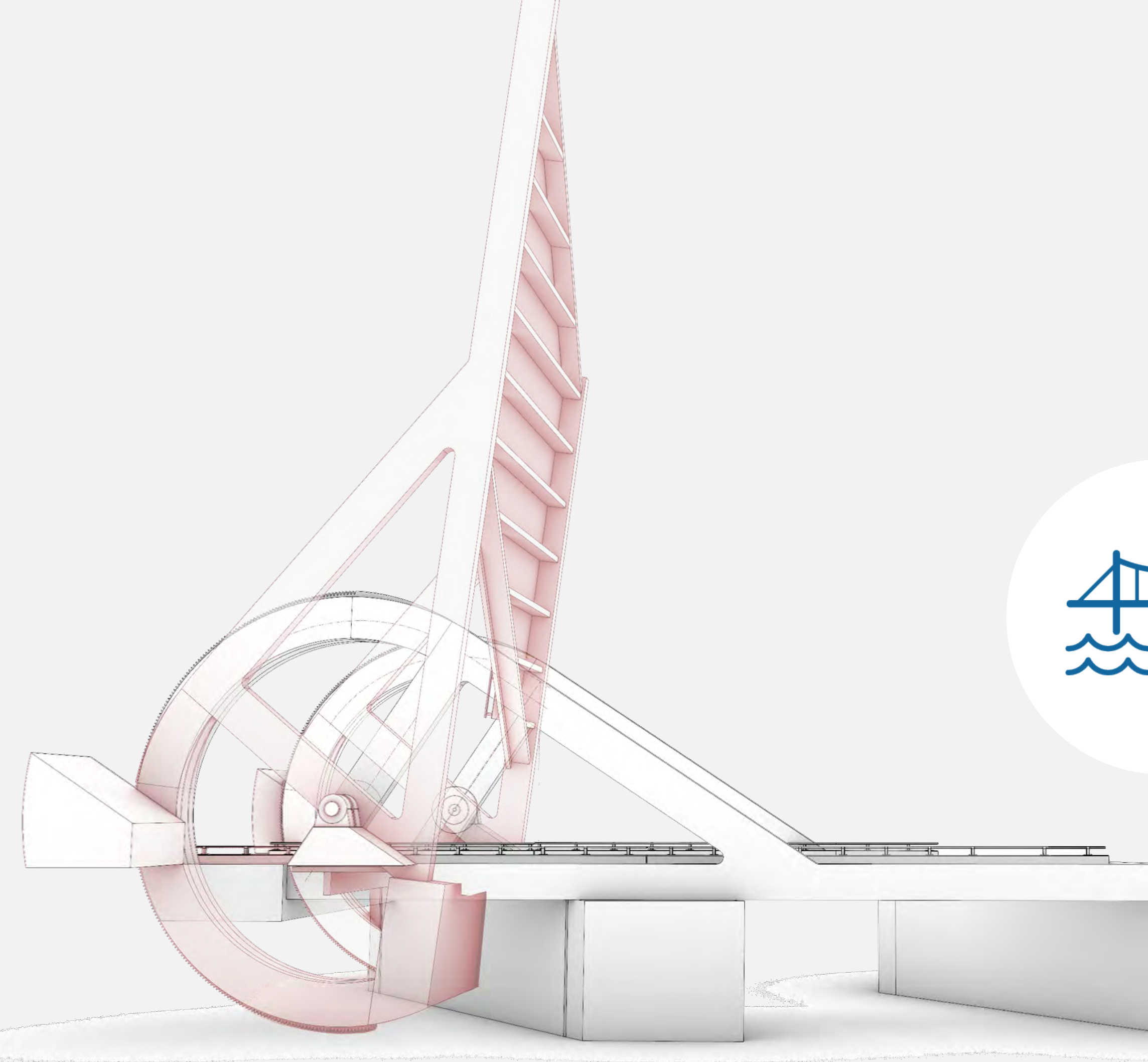


## Project Scope

- Replace existing bridge with new bridge
- Provide a temporary bypass and bridge for vehicles, bicycles, and pedestrians







**What  
alternatives  
were  
considered?**



# Public Information Meeting #1

February 2023

## SINGLE-LEAF TRUNNION BASCULE





# Public Information Meeting #1 (continued)

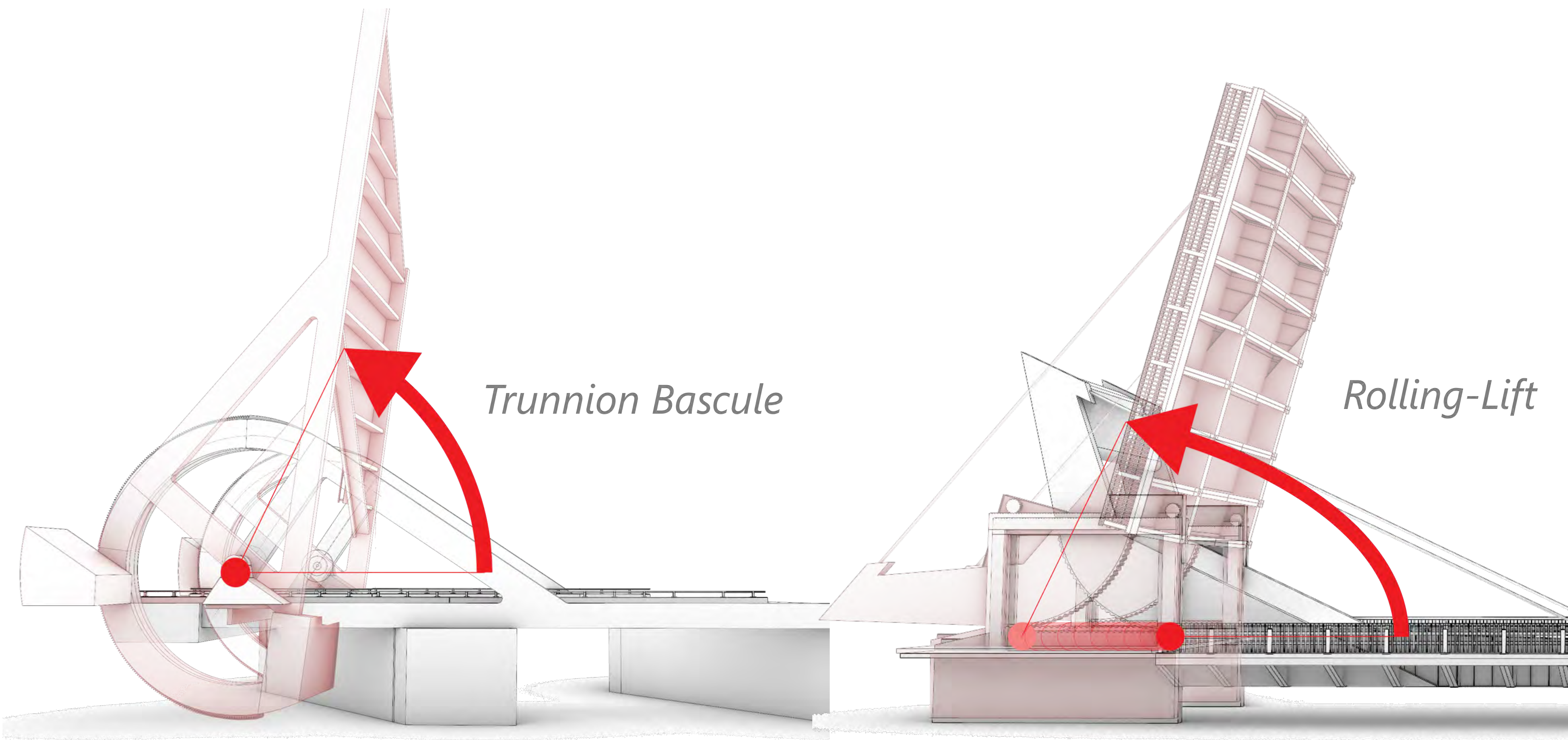
February 2023

## SINGLE-LEAF ROLLING-LIFT BASCULE



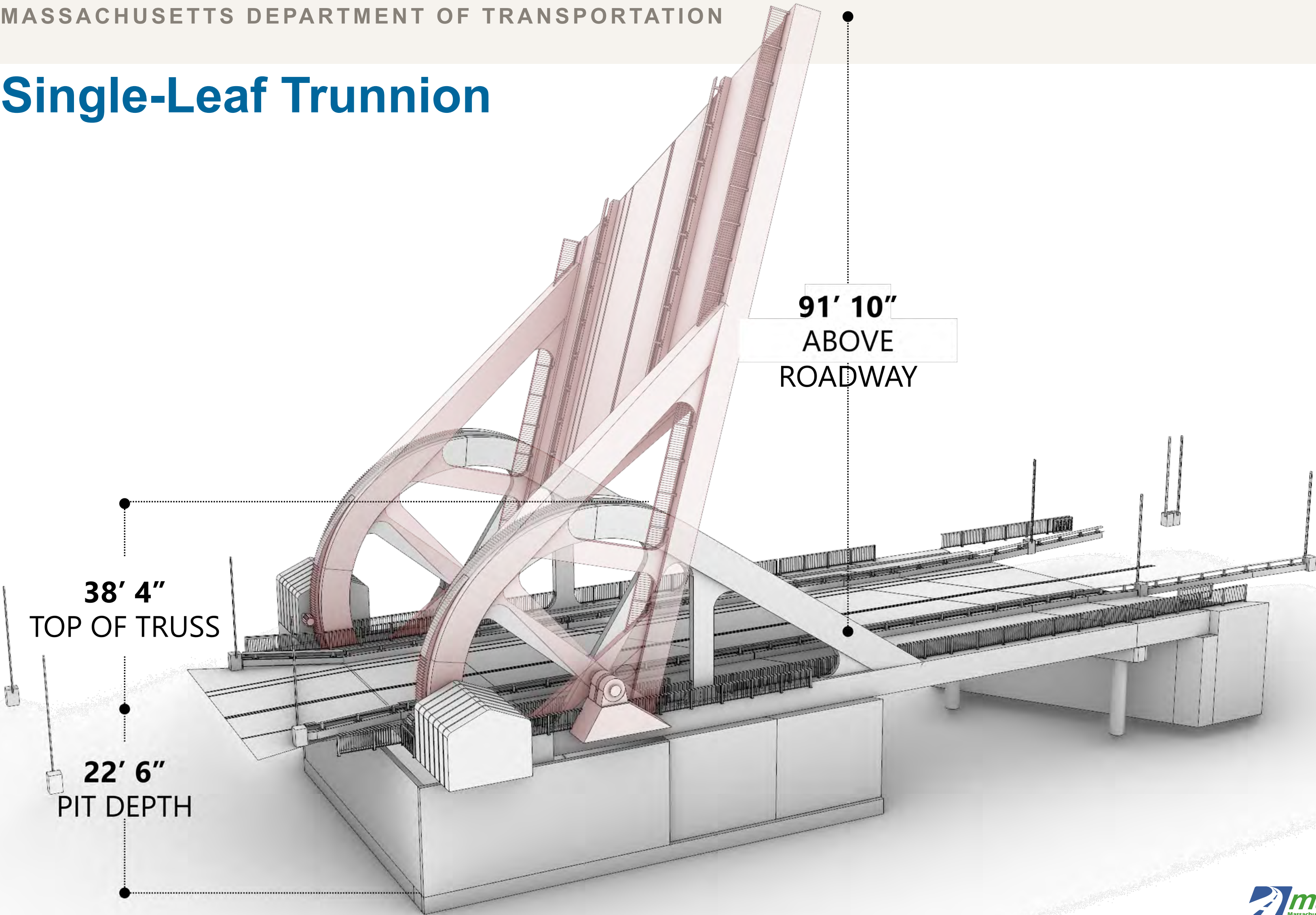


# Trunnion Bascule and Rolling-Lift



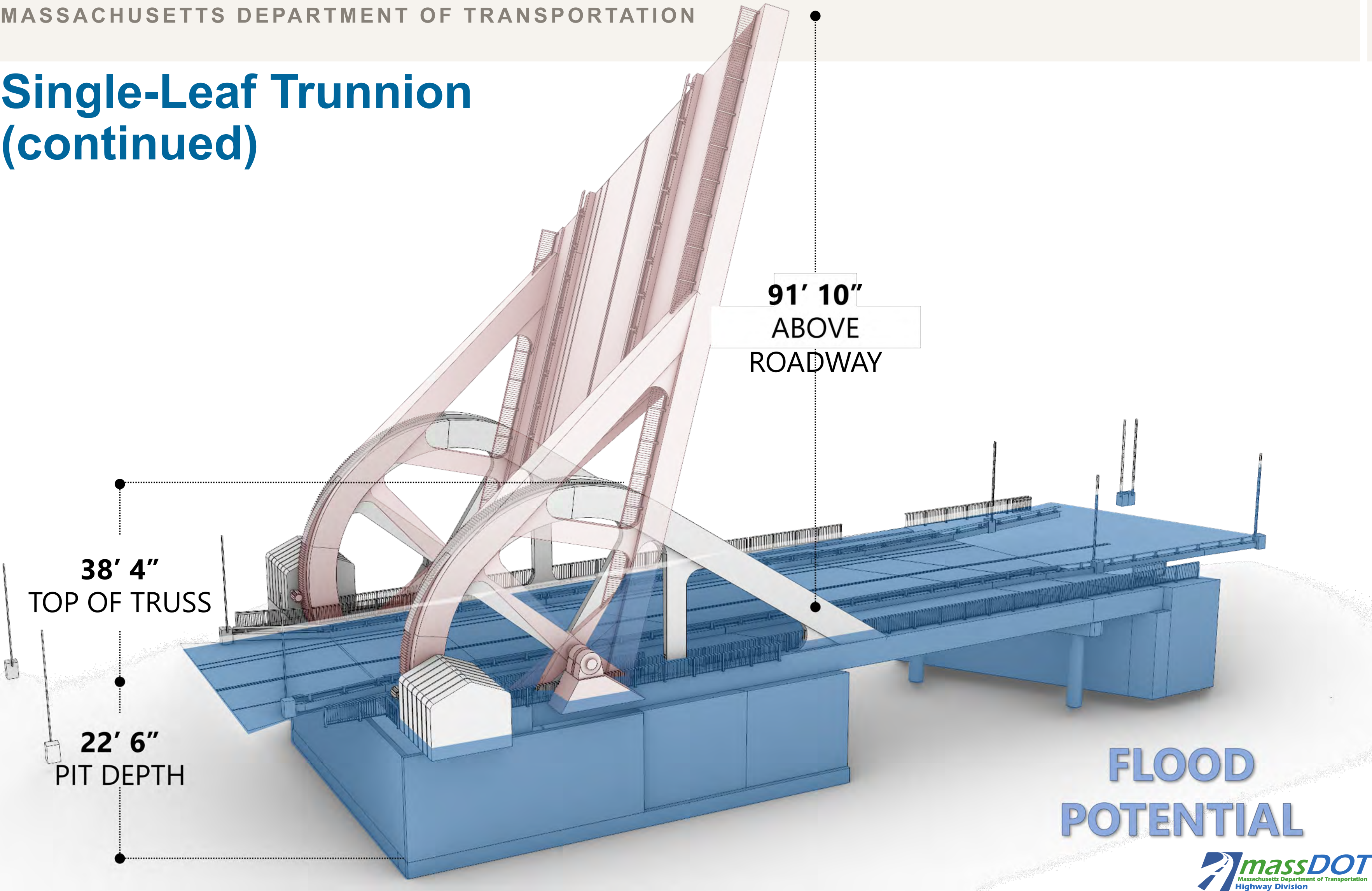


# Single-Leaf Trunnion





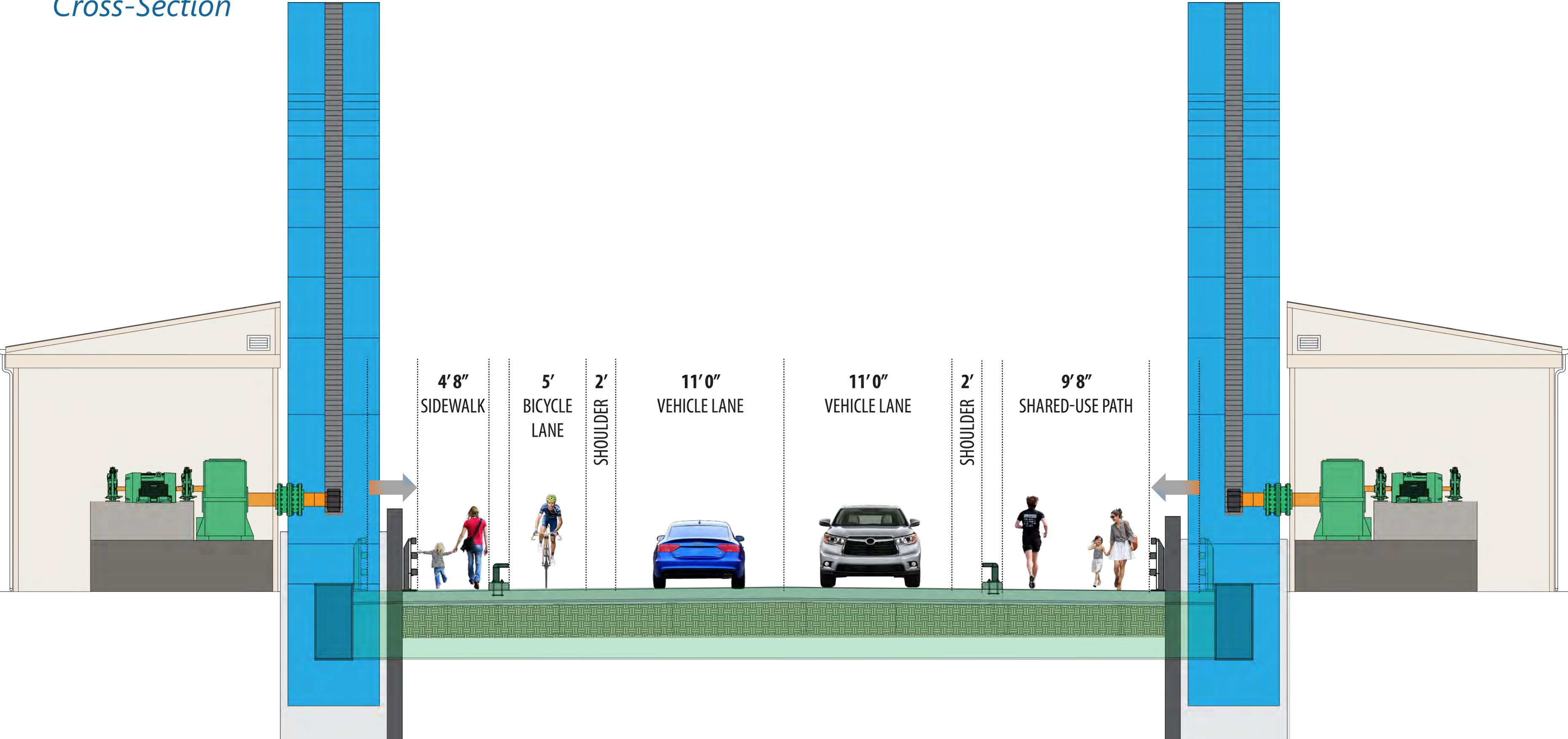
# Single-Leaf Trunnion (continued)





# Single-Leaf Trunnion (view 1)

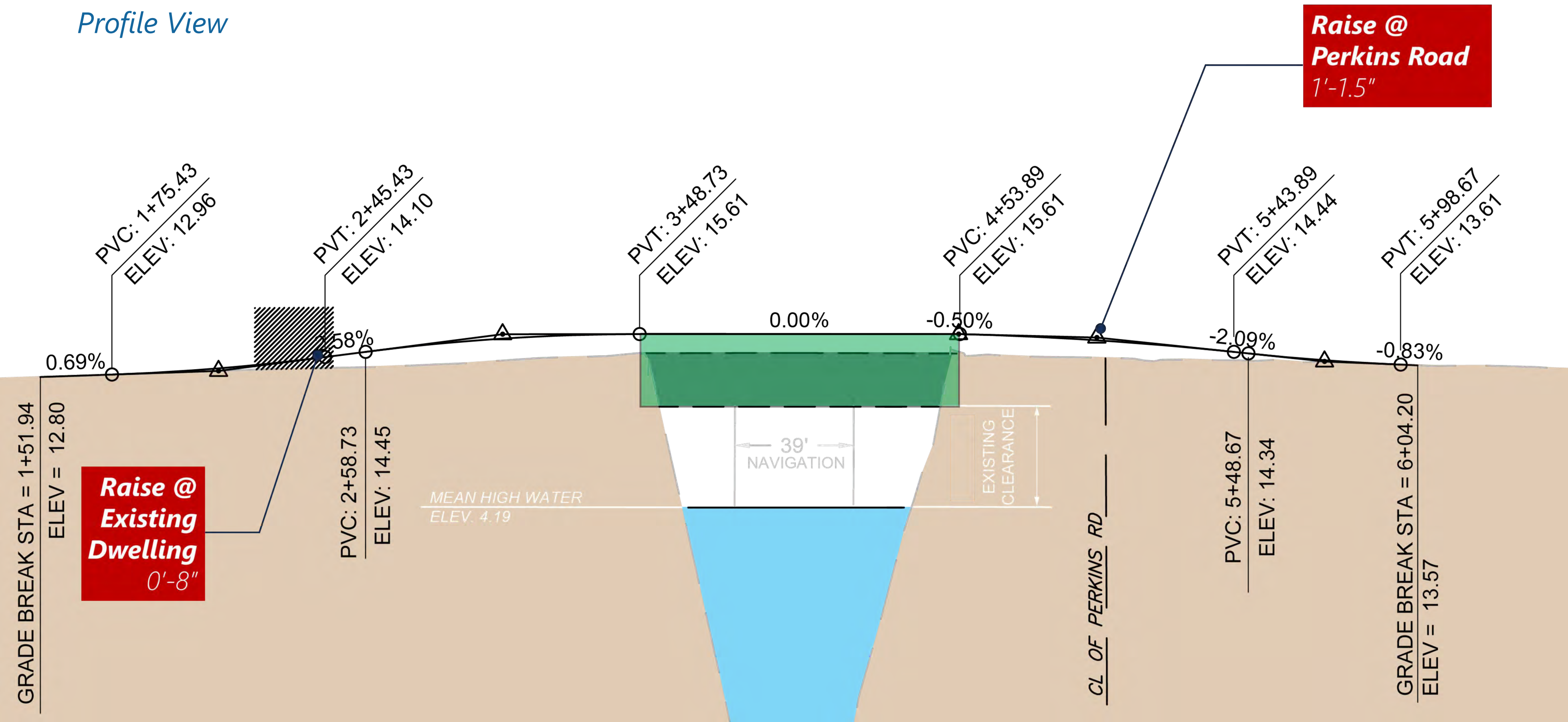
Cross-Section





# Single-Leaf Trunnion (view 2)

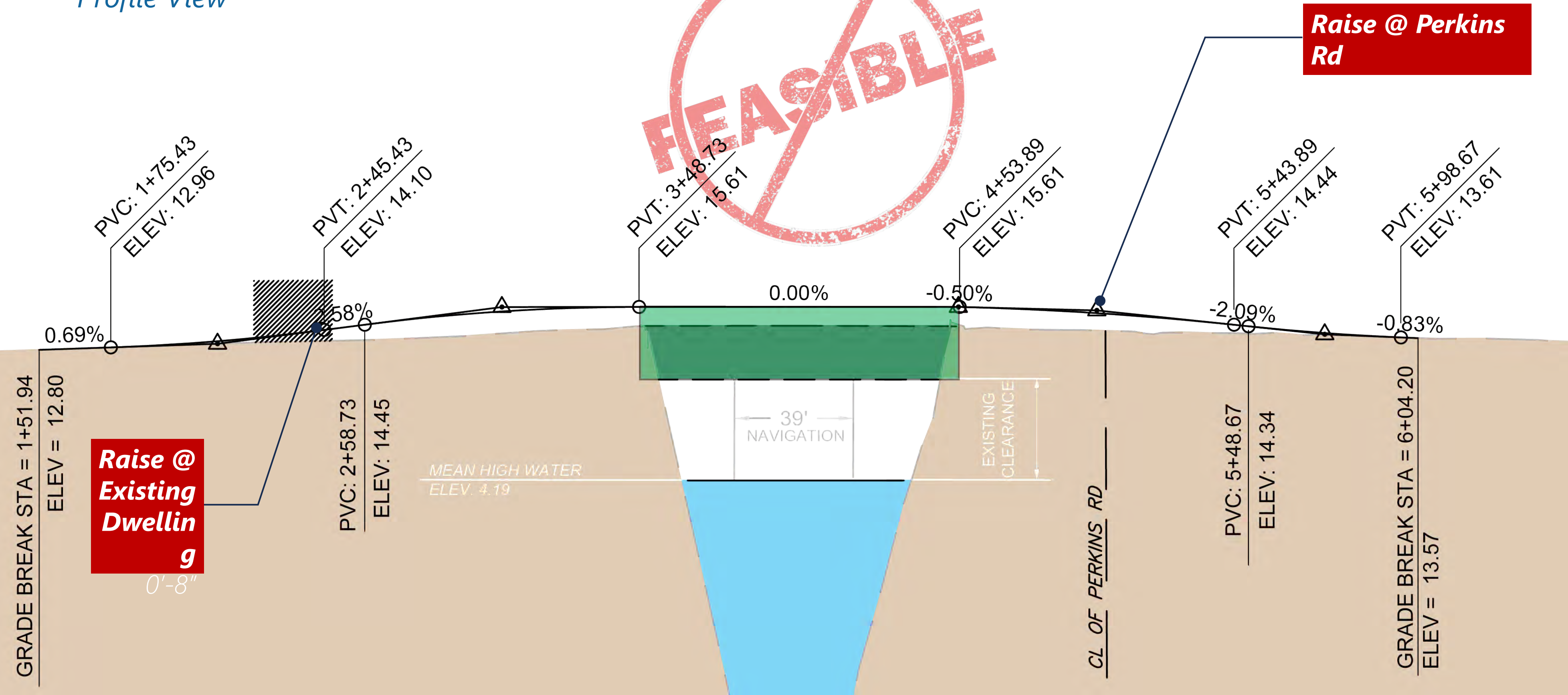
Profile View





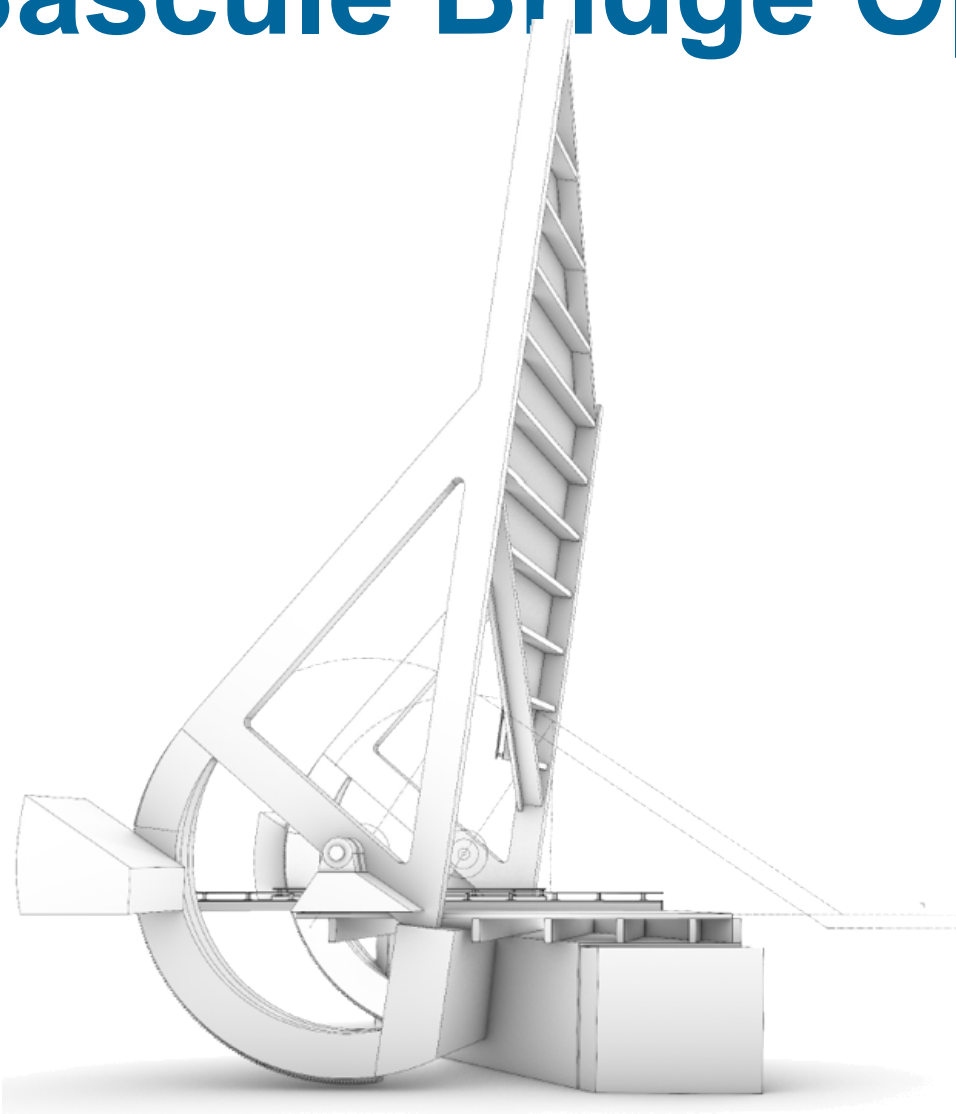
# Single-Leaf Trunnion (not feasible)

Profile View

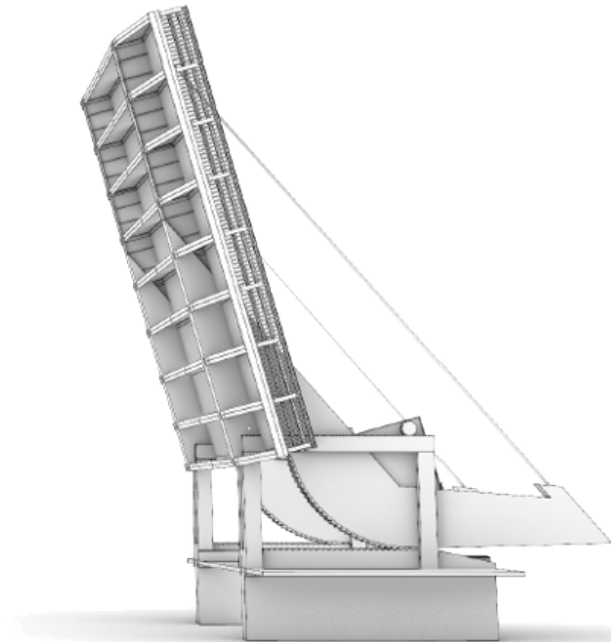
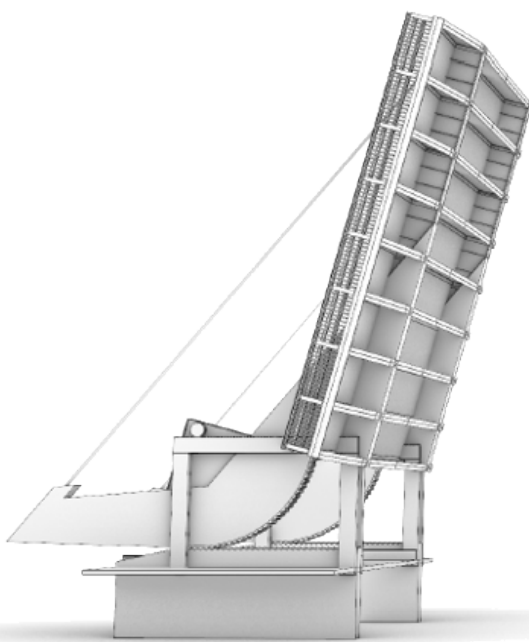




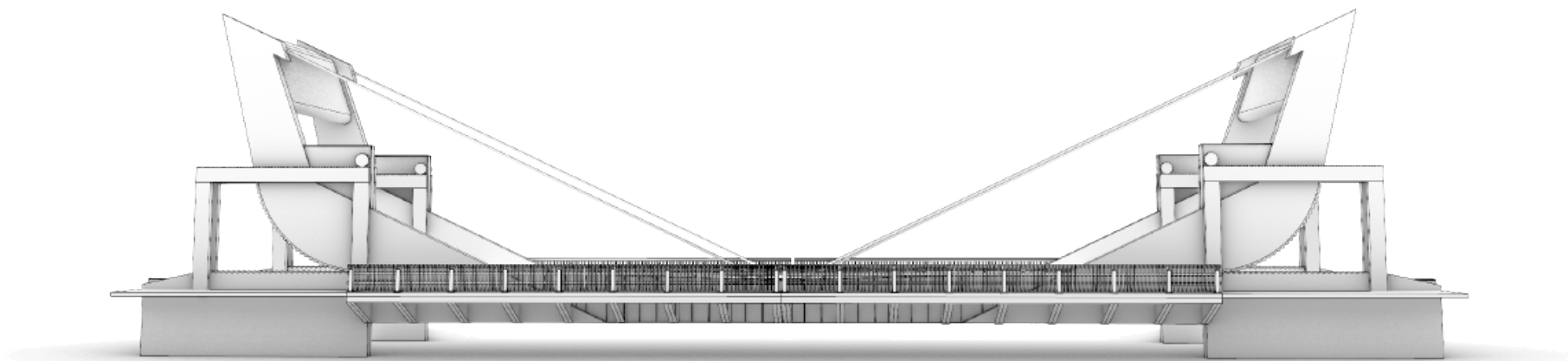
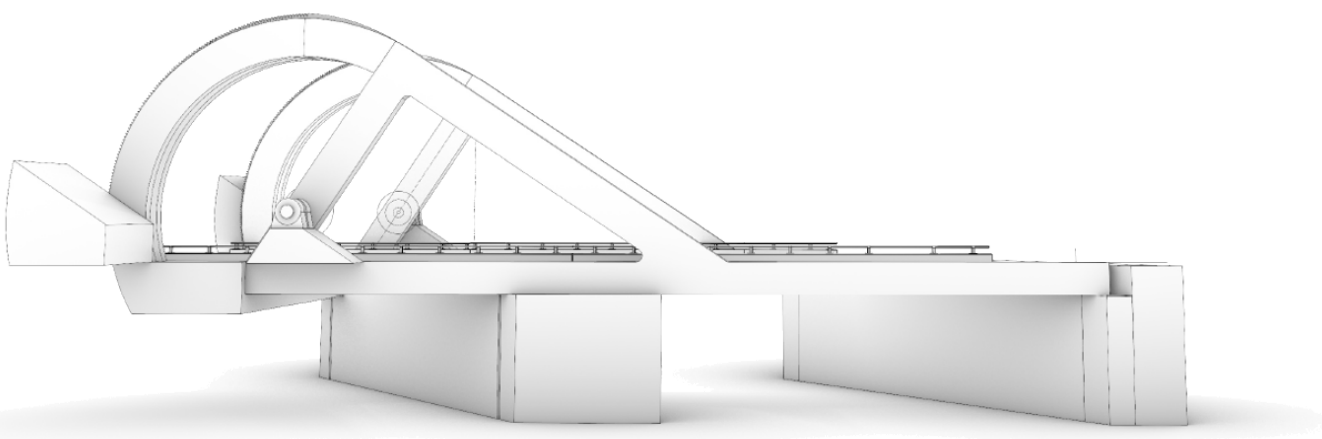
# Bascule Bridge Options



*Single-Leaf*



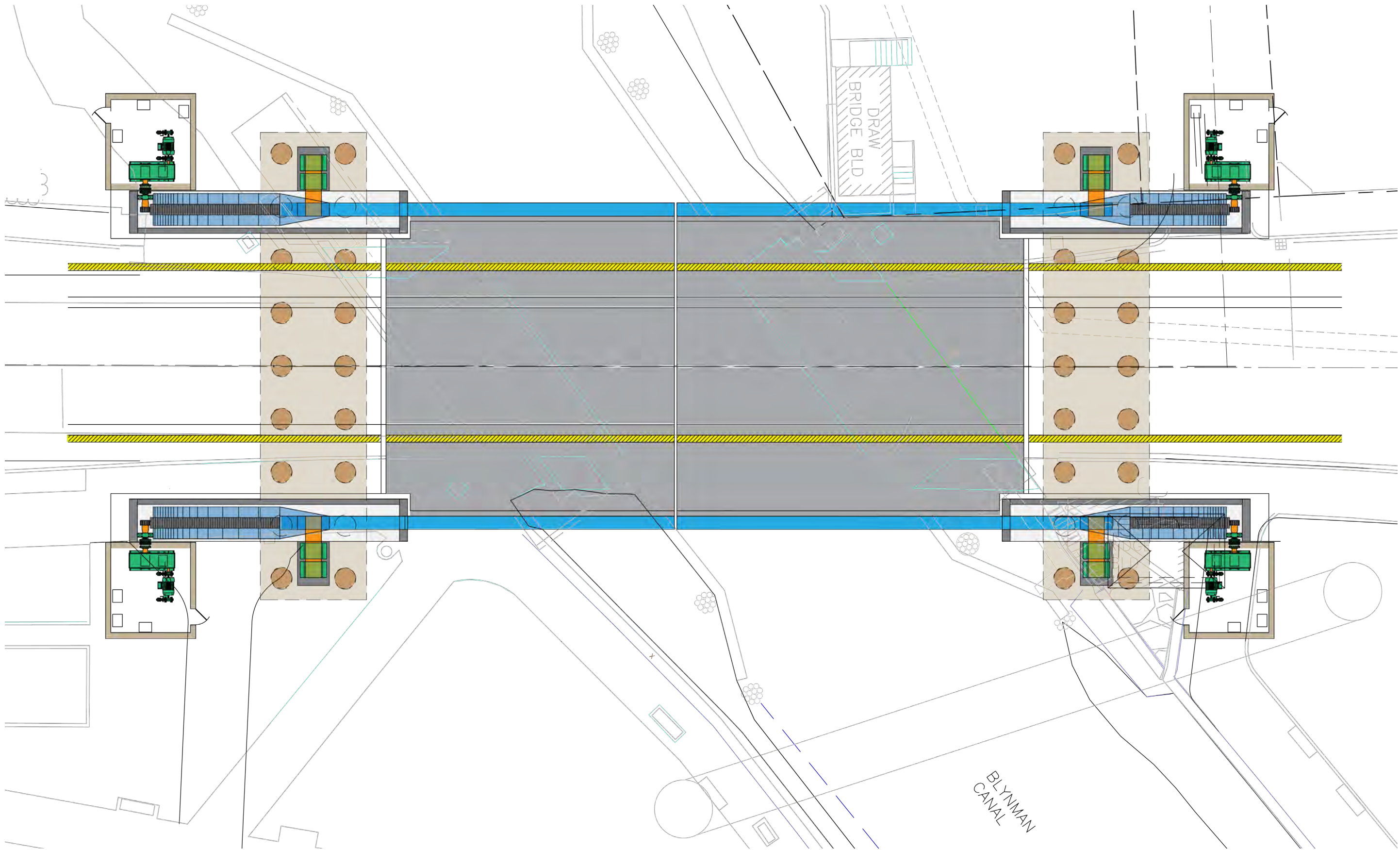
*Double-Leaf*





# Double-Leaf Trunnion

Plan View





## Double-Leaf Trunnion (continued)

## Plan View

## ROW Impacts

## ROW Impacts

## Sewer Line Impacts

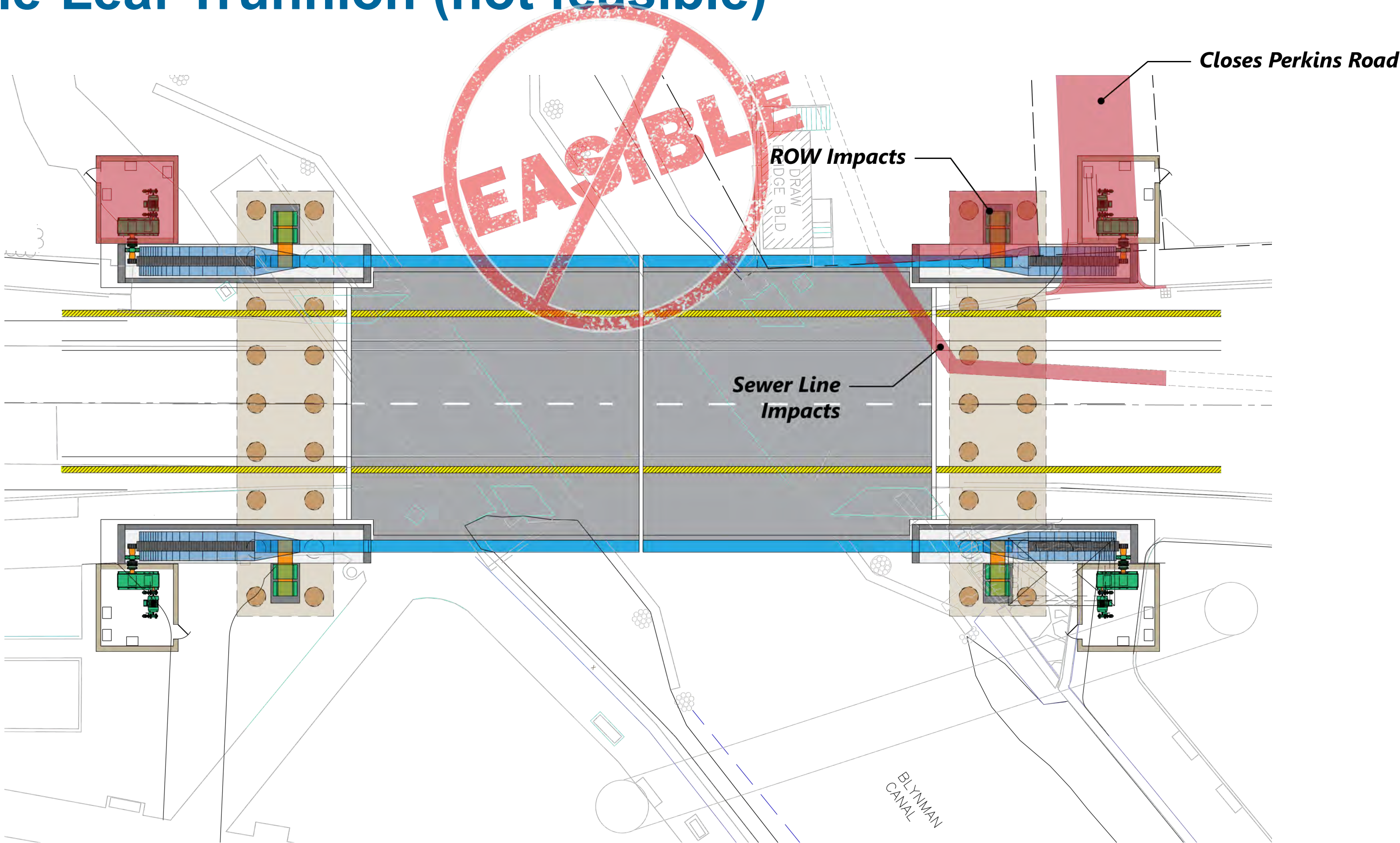
– ***Closes Perkins Road***

BLYNMAN  
CANAL



# Double-Leaf Trunnion (not feasible)

Plan View



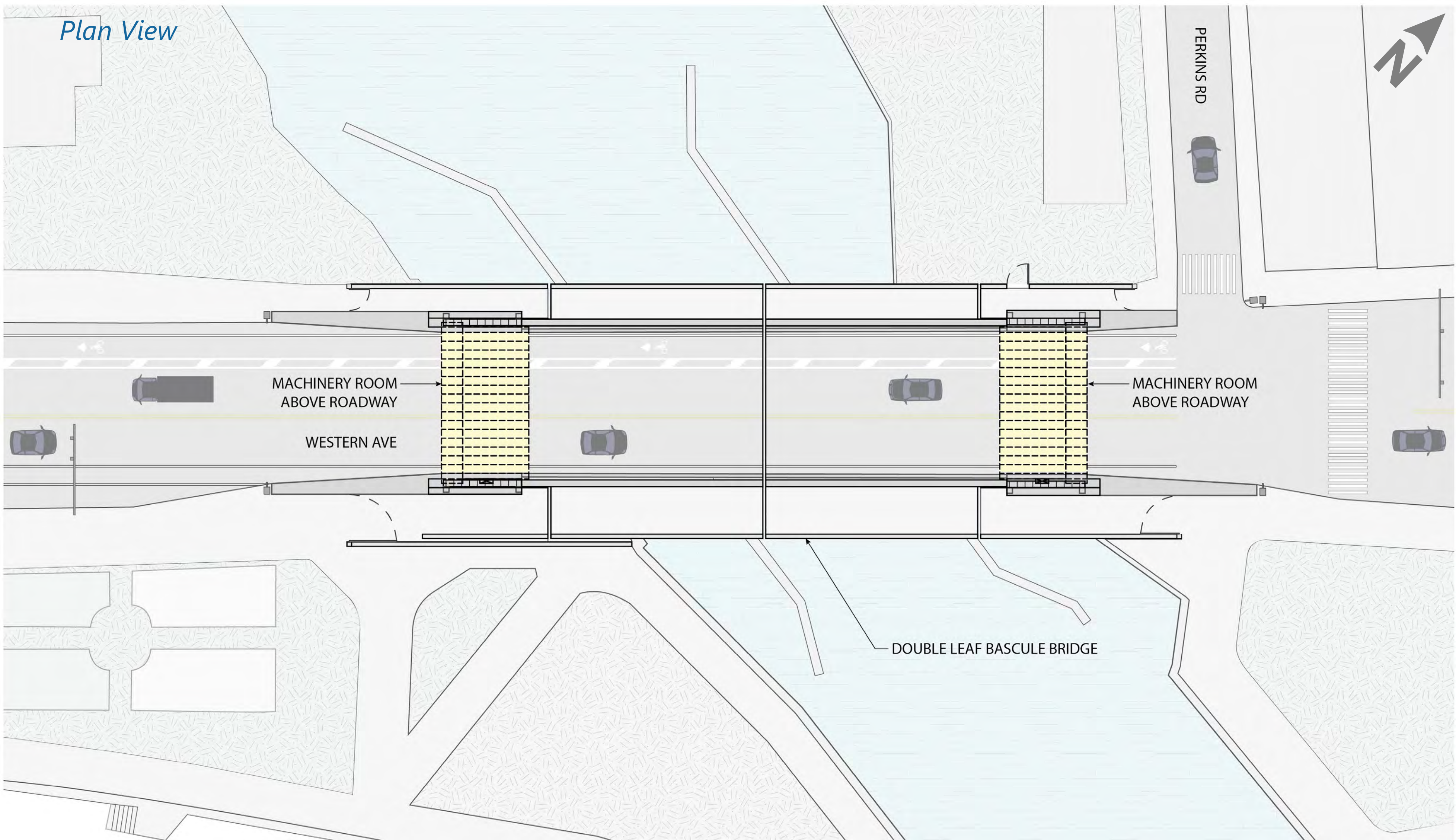




**Design  
Solution**

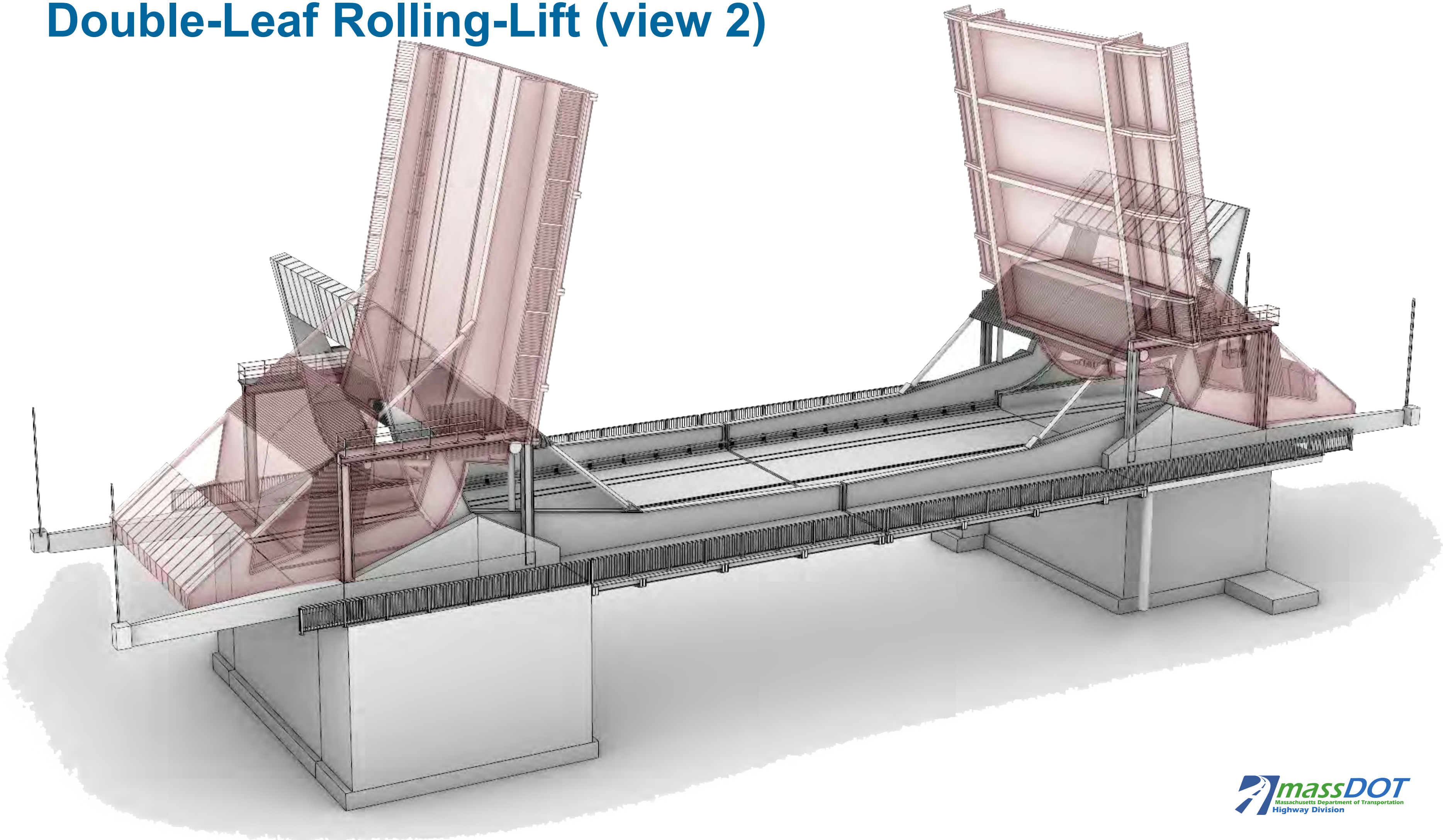


# Double-Leaf Rolling-Lift (view 1)





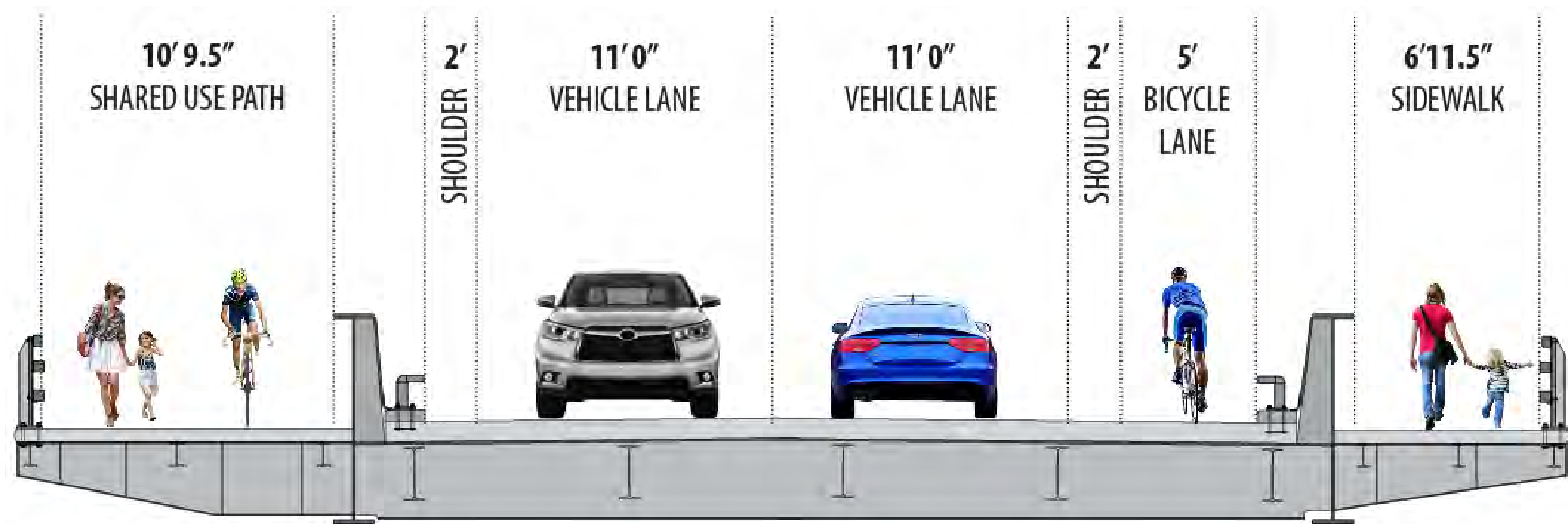
# Double-Leaf Rolling-Lift (view 2)





# Double-Leaf Rolling-Lift (view 3)

Cross-Section



View Looking West

Gloucester Harbor



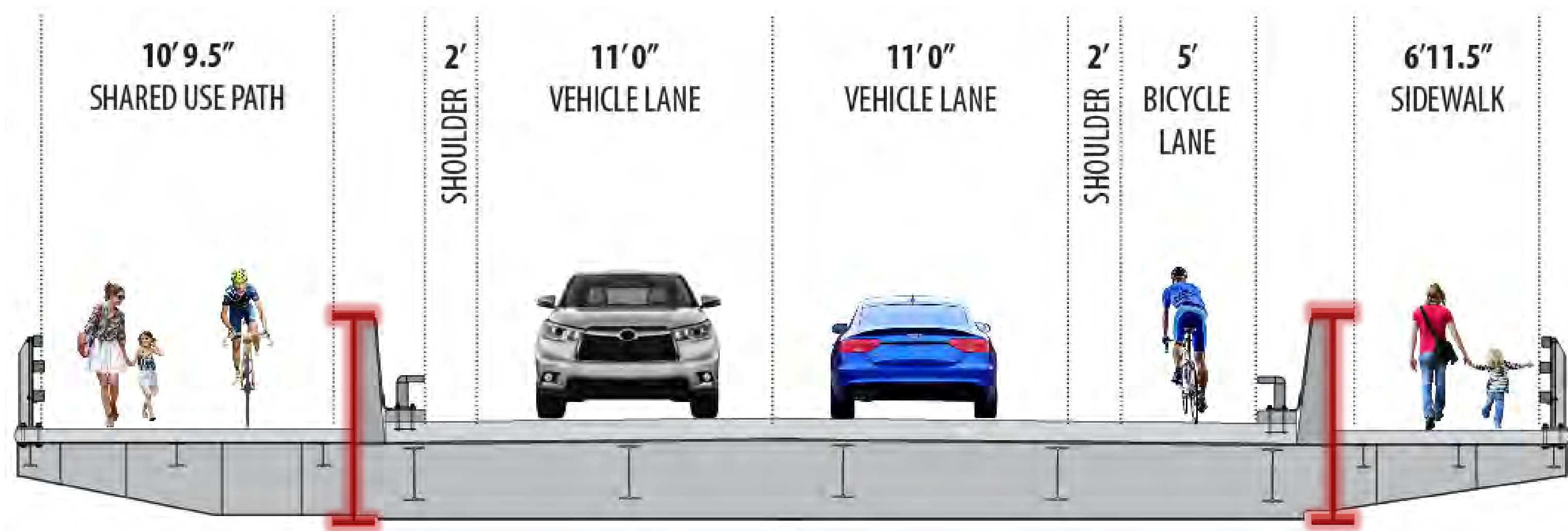
Annisquam River





# Double-Leaf Rolling-Lift (view 4)

Cross-Section



View Looking West

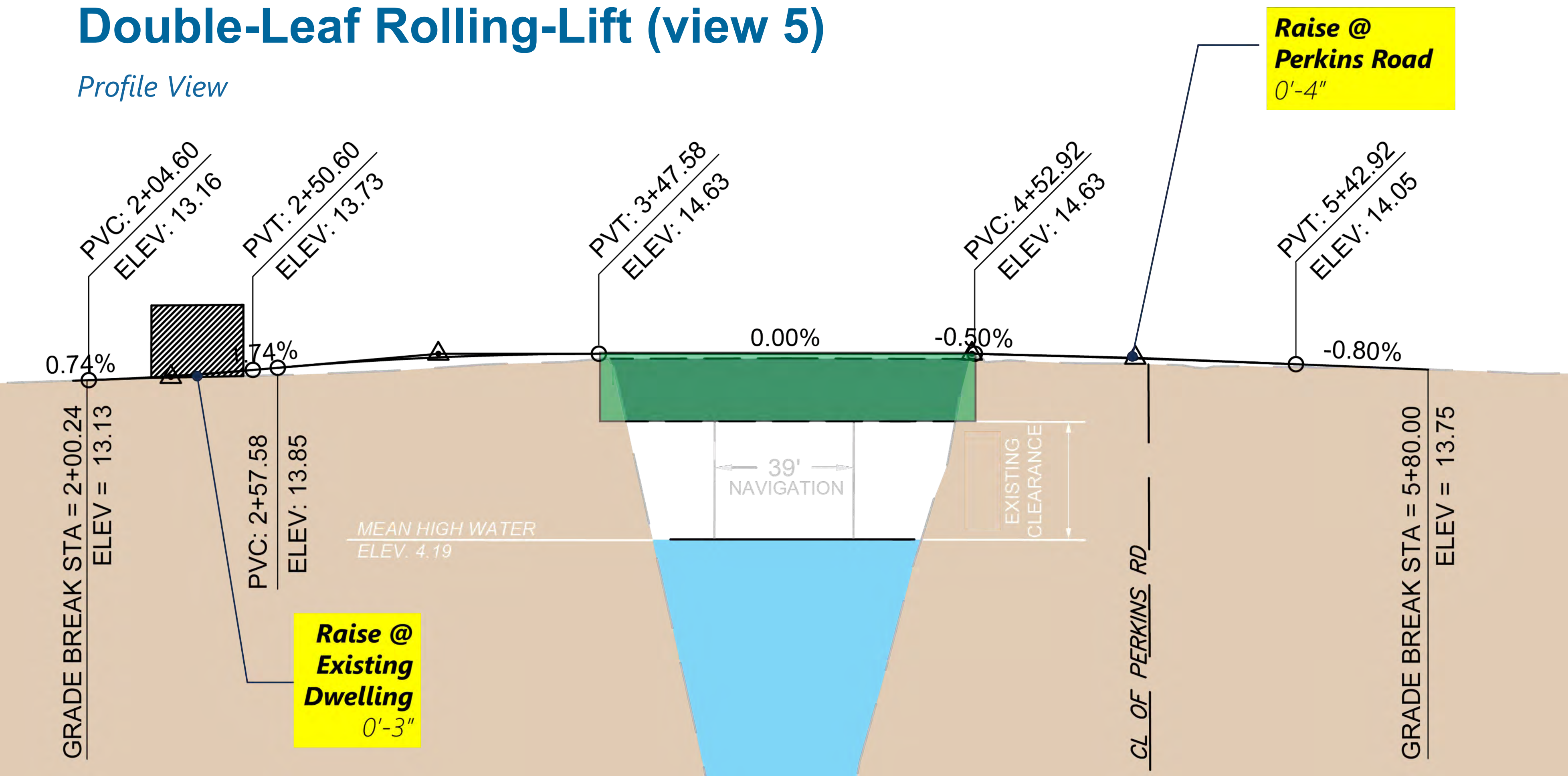
Gloucester Harbor  
←

Annisquam River  
→



# Double-Leaf Rolling-Lift (view 5)

Profile View





# Double-Leaf Rolling-Lift Bascule (view 1)

*View from West Side of Park Looking North – Bridge Closed*





# Double-Leaf Rolling-Lift Bascule (view 2)

*View from West Side of Park Looking North – Bridge Open*





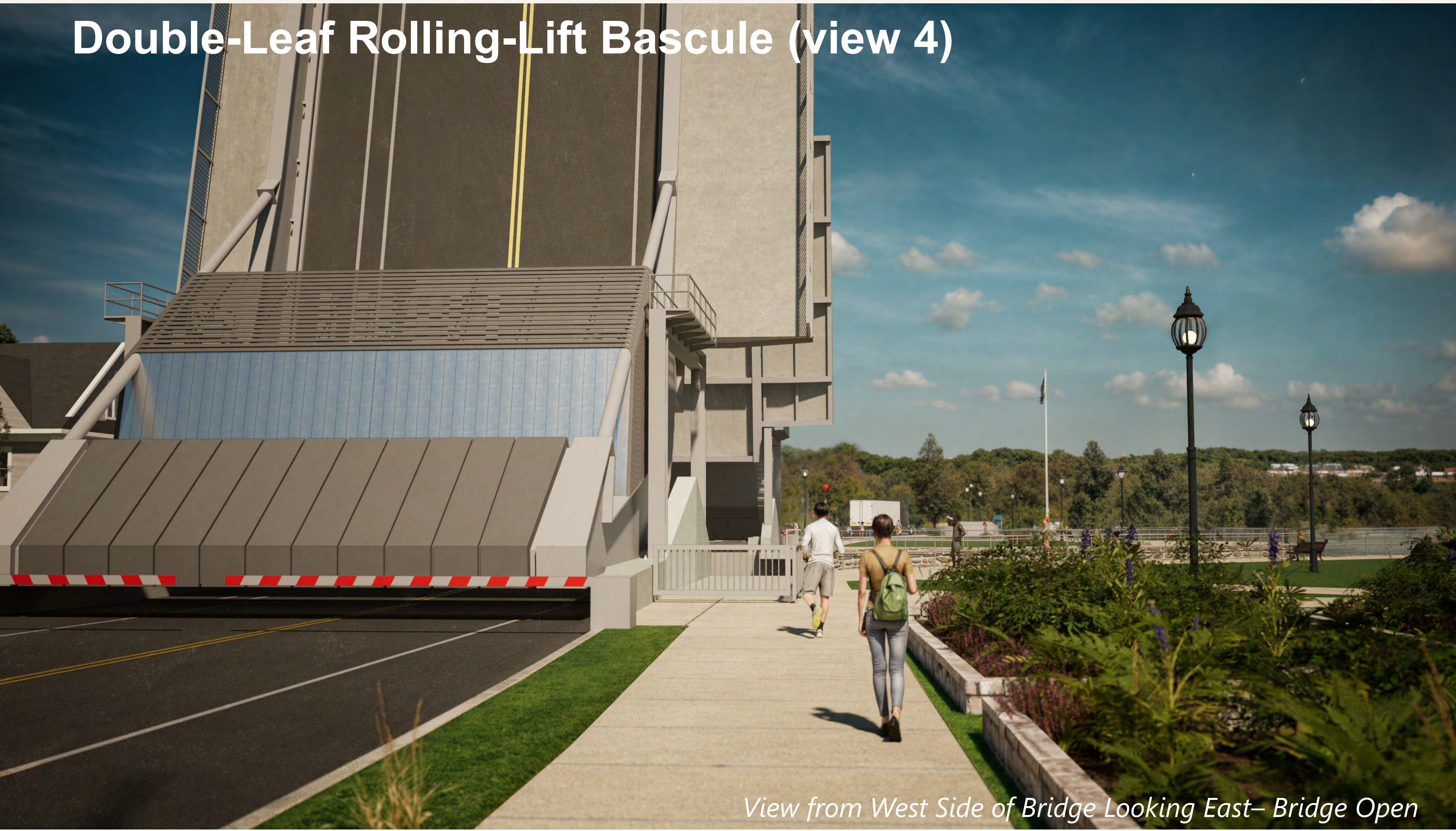
# Double-Leaf Rolling-Lift Bascule (view 3)



*View from West Side of Bridge Looking East – Bridge*



# Double-Leaf Rolling-Lift Bascule (view 4)



*View from West Side of Bridge Looking East– Bridge Open*





**How will your  
property be  
impacted?**



## Preliminary Right of Way (ROW) Discussion

- MassDOT is responsible for acquiring all necessary rights in public land for design, construction, and implementation of this project.
  - Fee takings, permanent easements and/or temporary construction easements may be required.
- Affected property owners will be contacted by personnel from the MassDOT ROW Bureau or consultants representing the responsible agency.
  - Property owners are protected under Massachusetts General Laws, primarily Chapter 79.
- Currently anticipating small fee takings for bridge maintenance clearance and minor easements for grading and relocated utility poles.
- Preliminary ROW drawings will be available at the final design stage.

**At this stage of design, the Right of Way process has not been finalized. This meeting is an opportunity for the public to comment on any impacts to properties.**





# Construction Approach?



# Temporary Bypass



**TEMPORARY  
BYPASS**

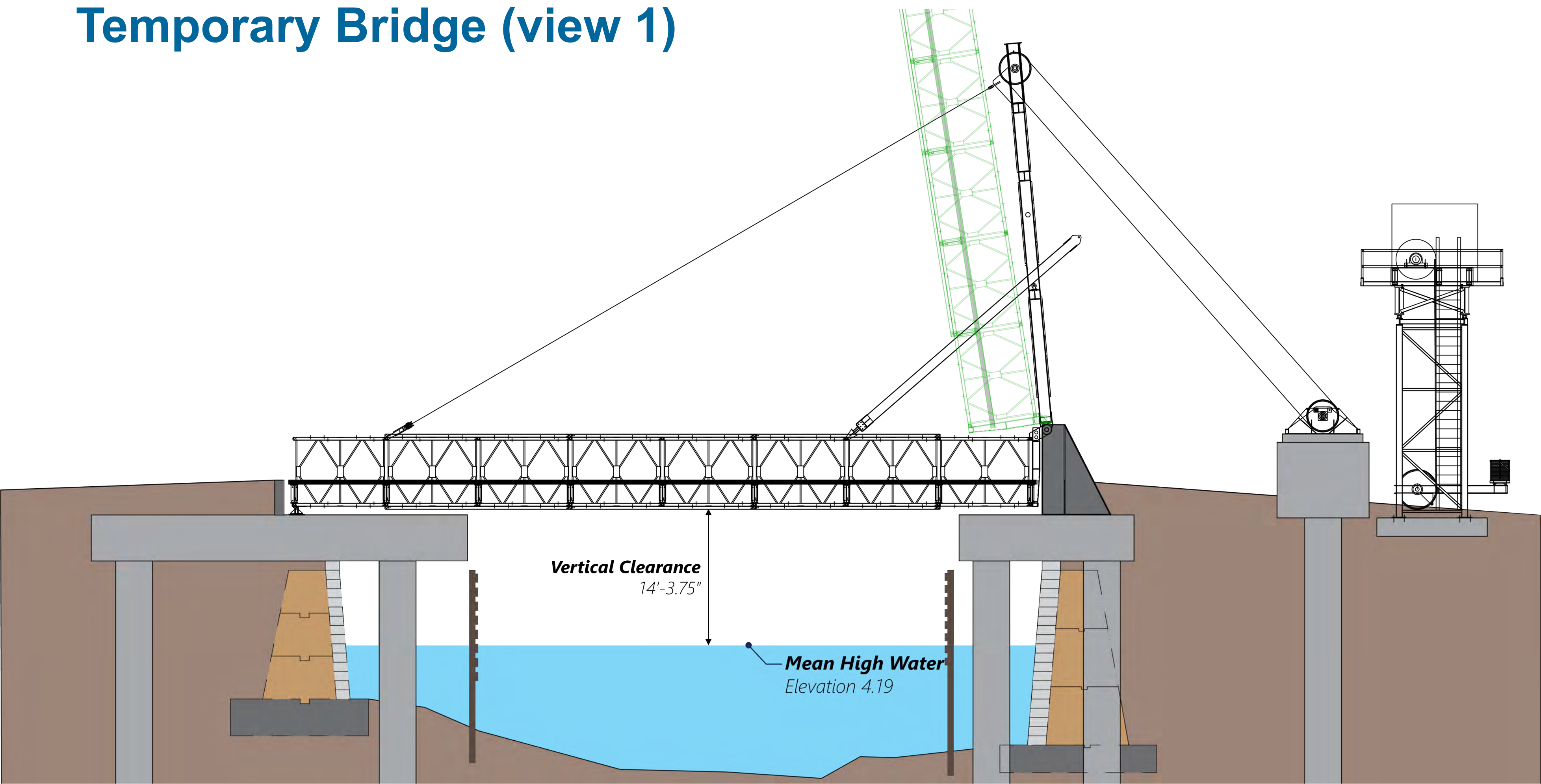
**TEMPORARY  
MOVABLE SPAN**

**TEMPORARY  
BYPASS**



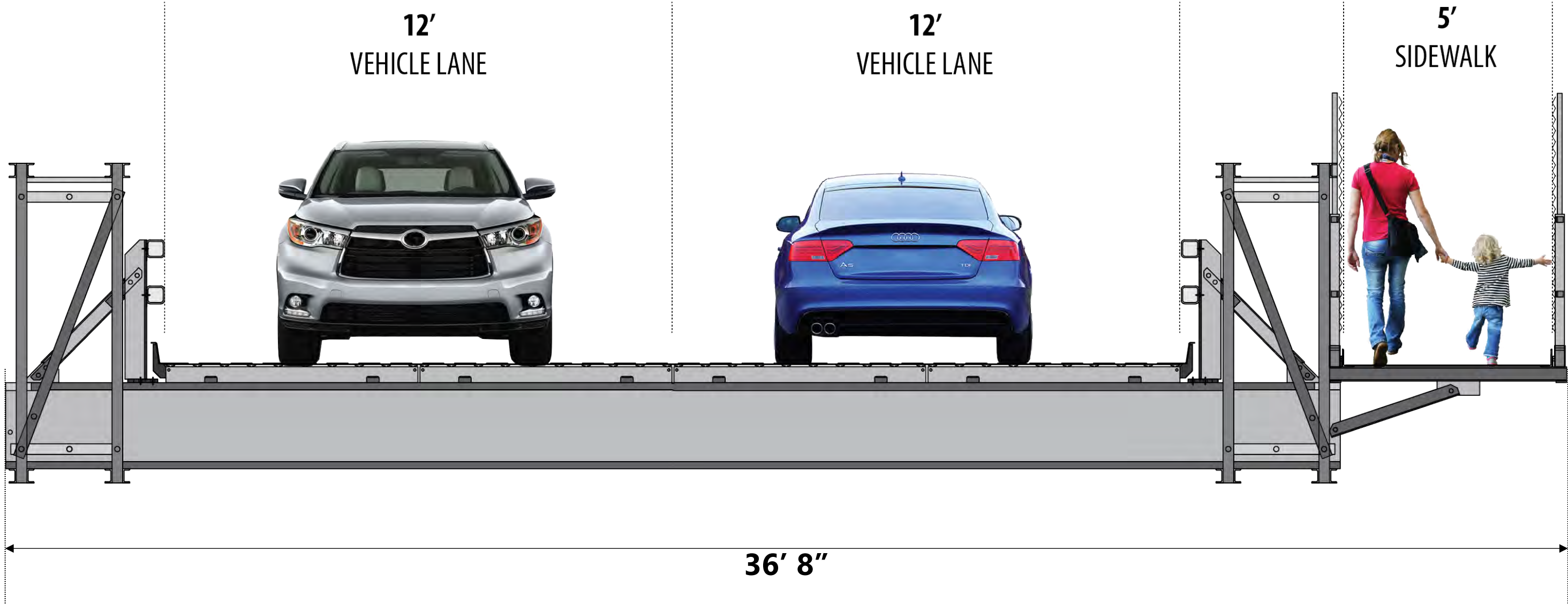


# Temporary Bridge (view 1)





# Temporary Bridge (view 2)





# Our next steps



Public Information Meeting #2



25% Design



Final Design



US Coast Guard Approval and Bridge Permit



Advertise for Construction Bids

*Summer 2028*



# How to reach us

**Submit email comments to:**

MassDOTMajorProjects@dot.state.ma.us

**Submit written comments to:**

Carrie Lavallee, P.E., Chief Engineer  
MassDOT  
10 Park Plaza  
Boston, MA 02116  
Attention: Major Projects, Project File No. 608397

**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







# Bridge Preservation Activity



# Bridge Preservation Overview

## Project Purpose

- To complete steel repairs on the Blynman Bridge
- Requires changes to the existing traffic pattern using a temporary Traffic Management Plan (TMP)
- TMP includes restriping, temporary traffic signals, and alternating one-way traffic

## Anticipated Project Schedule

- TMP implementation: January 2026
- Steel repair work: January to March 2026
- Work hours:
  - Dayshift work hours: 7:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
  - Nightshift work hours: 8:00 p.m. – 5:00 a.m.





# Public Outreach and Project Contacts

## Stakeholder Coordination

- Dedicated email and phone banking updates will be provided
- Coordination with City of Gloucester for roadway traffic and fishing vessel impacts
- Information in accessible formats and multiple languages as-needed
- Comment methods for the public to reach the project team

## Media Outreach

- Press advisories for updates and milestones

## Social Media

- Facebook: @massdotinfo
- X: @MassDOT

## Bridge Preservation Project Team

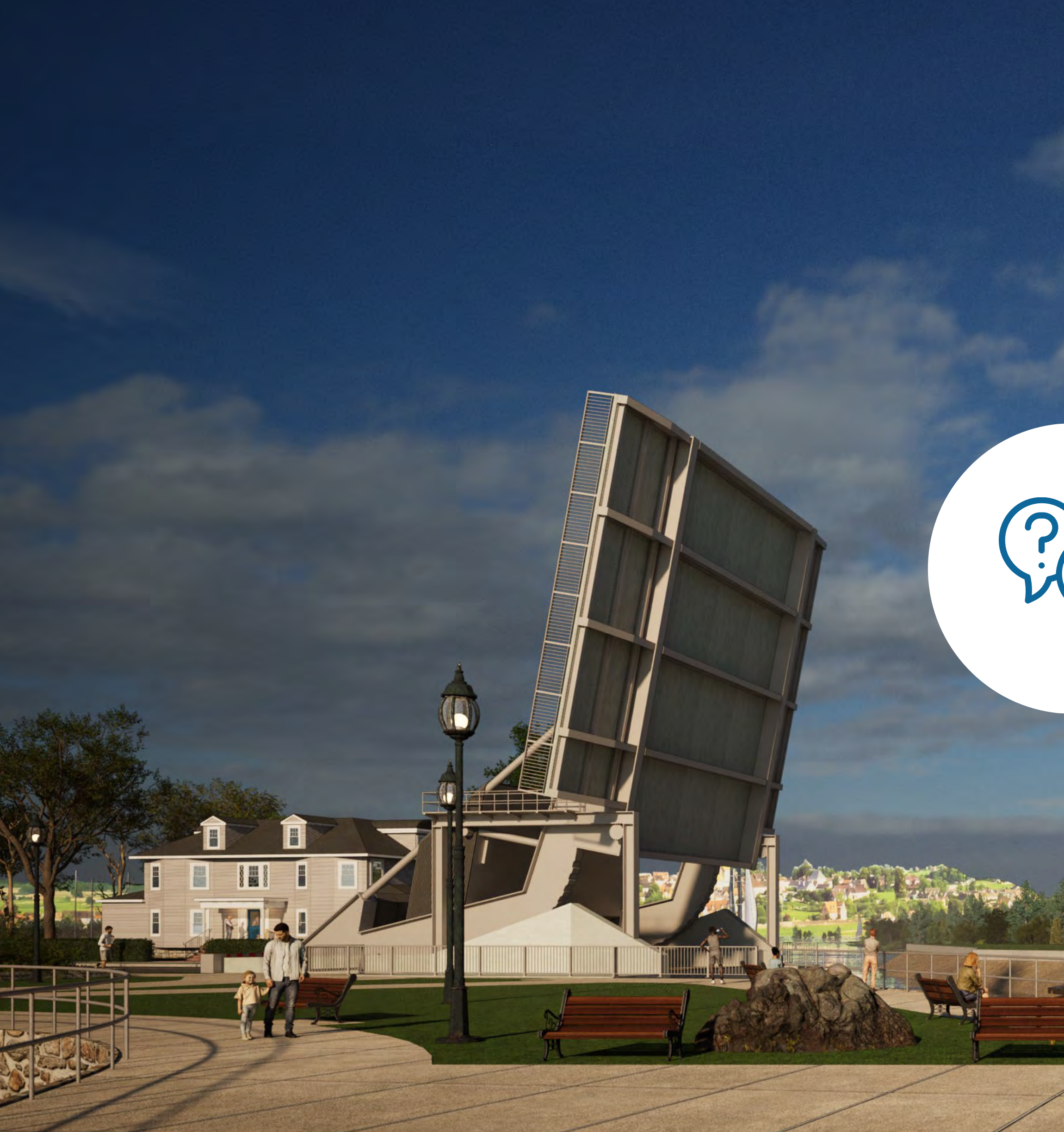
- Christopher Leahy, MassDOT District 4
- Billy Parent, HNTB



Scan to submit feedback  
regarding **the steel repair work**

[pima.massdotpi.com/public/comment/project-comment-dynamic?project\\_id=15538&pe\\_id=4617](https://pima.massdotpi.com/public/comment/project-comment-dynamic?project_id=15538&pe_id=4617)





# Questions and Discussion



## Questions and Answers



- “Raise your hand” to be unmuted for verbal questions; \*9 for attendees calling into the meeting



- 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



- Submit your questions and comments using the Q&A button (Alt + H)



- 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



- Please take a few minutes to complete the survey after the meeting to let us know how your experience was with this virtual meeting





# ***Thank You***

*Reconstruction of the Blynman  
Canal Bridge – Route 127 over  
the Blynman Canal*

December, 2025

Project File No. 608397

Joseph Breen, PE

