



PFC Ralph T. Basiliere Bridge Replacement

Public Workshop 2

Haverhill | May 18, 2023 | 5:30 PM

Project File No. 605304



Agenda

1. Welcome & Overview
2. Orienting Presentation
3. Breakout Groups
4. Reporting from Breakout Groups



Welcome and Meeting Overview:

- Orienting presentation
 - Eamon Kernan, Project Manager, Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT)
 - Etty Padmodipoetro, Urban Idea Lab, Bridge Architecture
 - Nathaniel Cabral-Curtis, Communications and Public Involvement
- Breakout Groups
 - Bridge Concept/Aesthetics – UIL/WSP
 - Roadway Cross Section and Layout – WSP

Language Translation Speakers

- **Portuguese**
 - KATIA MORRIS
- **Spanish**
 - FRANCES PERNILLO

Notice of MassDOT / MBTA Policy Diversity and Civil Rights

All MassDOT / MBTA activities, including public meetings, are free of discrimination. The MassDOT / MBTA complies with all federal and state civil rights requirements, preventing discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, limited English proficiency, and additional protected characteristics. We welcome the diversity from across our entire service area. If you have any questions or concerns, please visit: www.mass.gov/nondiscrimination-in-transportation-program / www.mbta.com/titlevi to reach the Office of Diversity and Civil Rights.

All questions and comments are welcome and appreciated.

Please refrain from any disrespectful comments.

How to Participate

- Listen and view the orienting presentation
- Circulate through the breakout sessions
 - We will rotate breakout tables every 30 minutes
 - Please try to visit a table for each topic
- Please stay for breakout reporting if you have time
- Representatives of the media can direct media inquiries to Jacquelyn.Goddard@dot.state.ma.us

Ongoing Public Outreach

- Prior to this meeting:
 - Haverhill State delegation
 - Haverhill City offices
 - Newsprint, HCTV, WHAV
- Community organizations, medical providers, schools, and social service providers
- MassDOT email and project website
- Staffed tables
- Flyer drops at 20 locations in Bradford and Haverhill



You are subscribed to Basiliere Bridge in Haverhill project updates from the Massachusetts Department of Transportation.

Dear Friend,

Thank you for your continued interest in the Basiliere Bridge Replacement Project. The next public workshop for the replacement effort will take place on **Thursday, May 18, 2023, from 5:30-7:30PM at the UMass Innovation Hub**. The UMass Innovation Hub is located at 2 Merrimack Street in Haverhill.

This workshop is the second in a series, the first of which took place on April 3rd. On May 18th, the project team will share initial draft concepts for the new bridge's general appearance, lane configuration, accommodations for cyclists and pedestrians, and connections to the Dempsey Boardwalk and Bradford Rail Trail. These concepts build on input provided at the first workshop and our team looks forward to sharing them with you.

We ask that you save the evening of May 18th and that you share this information with your family, friends, co-workers – anyone you think would benefit from it. Our meeting flyer is available in multiple languages here: <https://www.mass.gov/event/haverhill-basiliere-bridge-replacement-project-2023-05-18t173000-0400-2023-05-18t190000-0400>.

Regards & Thanks,

-The Basiliere Bridge Replacement Team

Parking Deck Project Coordination

- Flagged at 4/3/23 Workshop
- City and project team met on 4/13/23
- Information exchange ongoing:
 - Intersection design
 - Roadway design
 - Anticipated signal timing and phasing
 - Building renderings for structures visible from the bridge
- Haverhill Renaissance Phase 1 anticipated for completion – Spring 2026
- Basiliere major construction anticipated to begin – Spring 2026
- Coordination will continue to avoid overlap

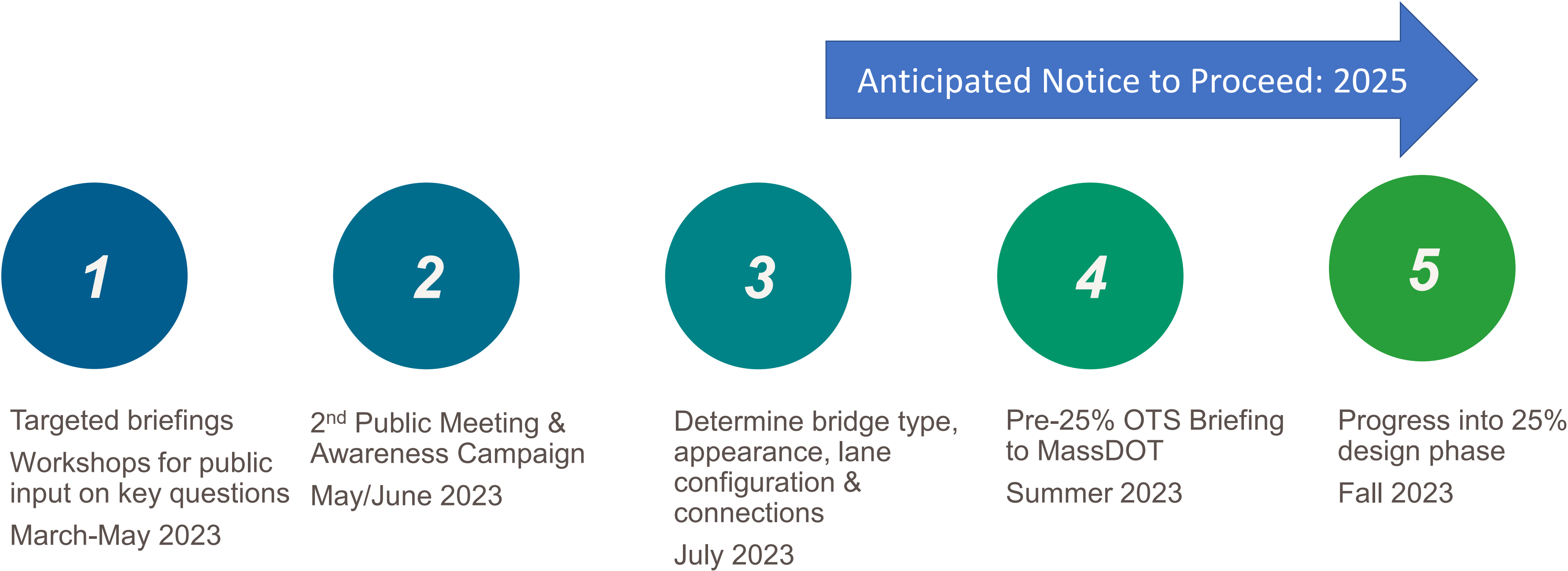


Ongoing Care for the Existing Structure

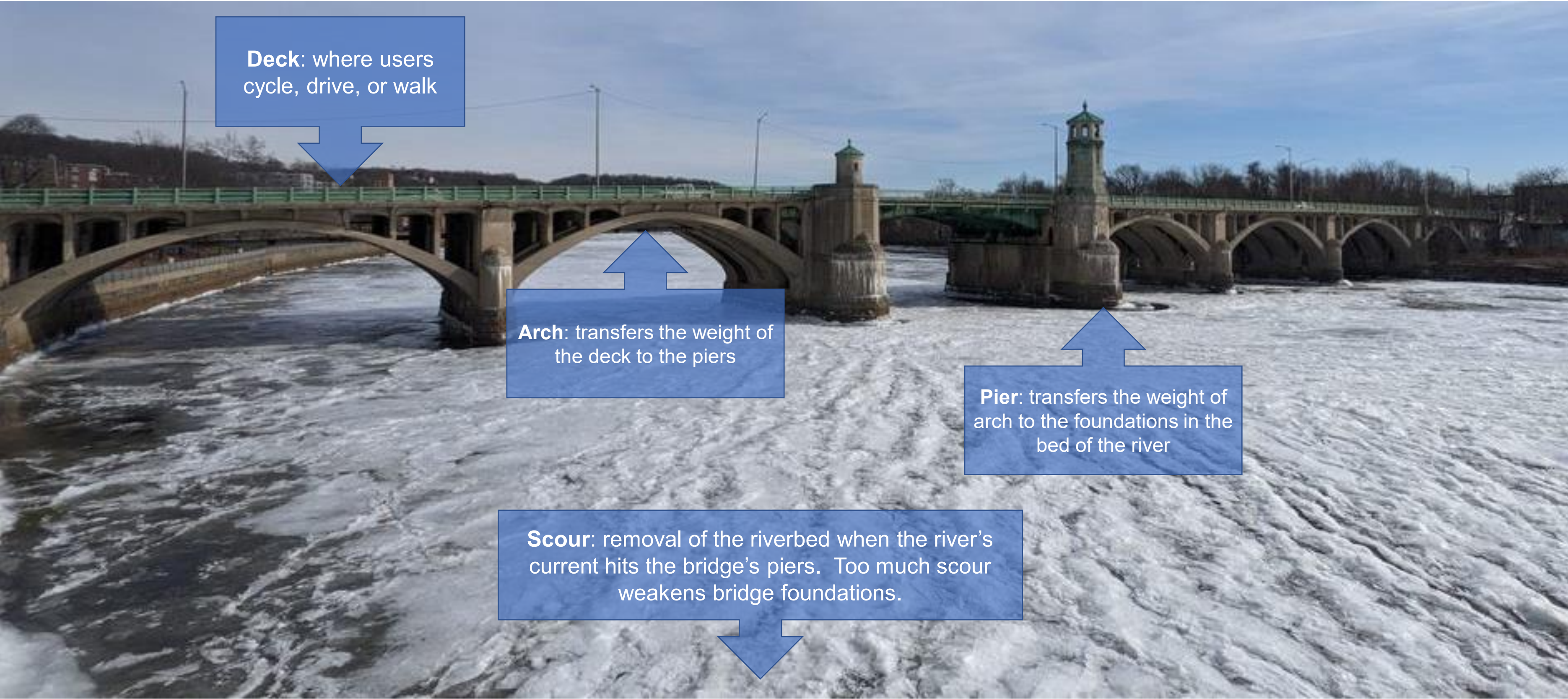
- MassDOT continues to ensure safe access over the Basiliere Bridge
 - Sidewalk repairs undertaken during the week of May 8th
 - District 4 review of under-bridge conditions to protect boaters
 - Placement of shoring and beam protections for the Bradford Rail Trail span
- Inspection and needed repairs will continue as appropriate



Our next steps



Key Terms



Bridge Architecture and Urban Design

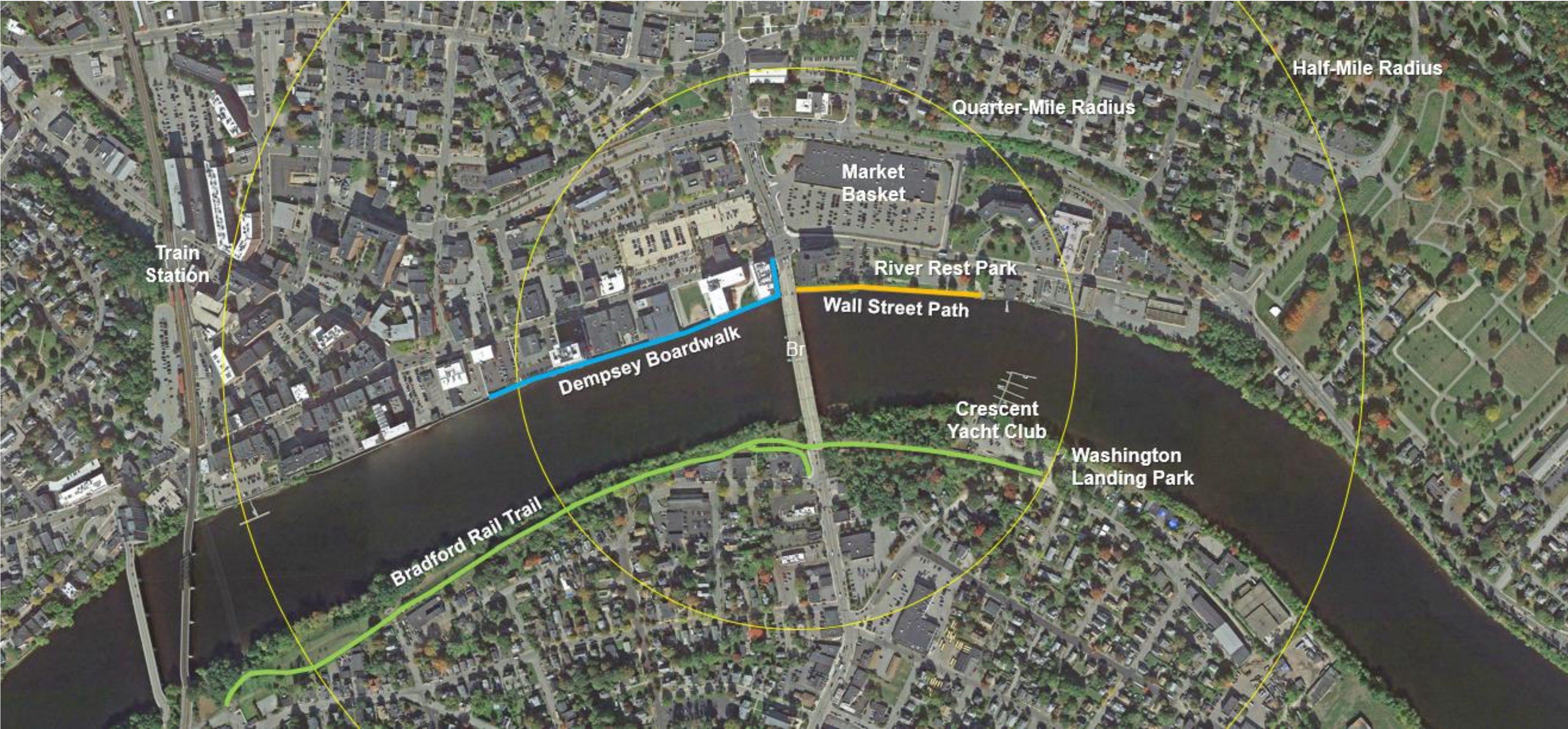
- Context
- Connections
- Components



Bridge Architecture Principles

- Bridges should be beautiful
- Create a strong relationship between the bridge and its physical context
- Incorporate aesthetics into the bridge form, not as add-on elements
- Create inviting spaces for people to enjoy
- Create a strong visual connection between neighborhoods on either bank of the Merrimack

Context within Haverhill



Views from the Bridge





**What We
Heard on April
3rd**

**Construction
Staging**

Construction Staging

Public Safety

- Work with emergency services to ensure response times are not negatively impacted
- Place netting under the bridge to ensure boater safety
- Provide more information about safety precautions during construction overall

Non-motorized Travelers

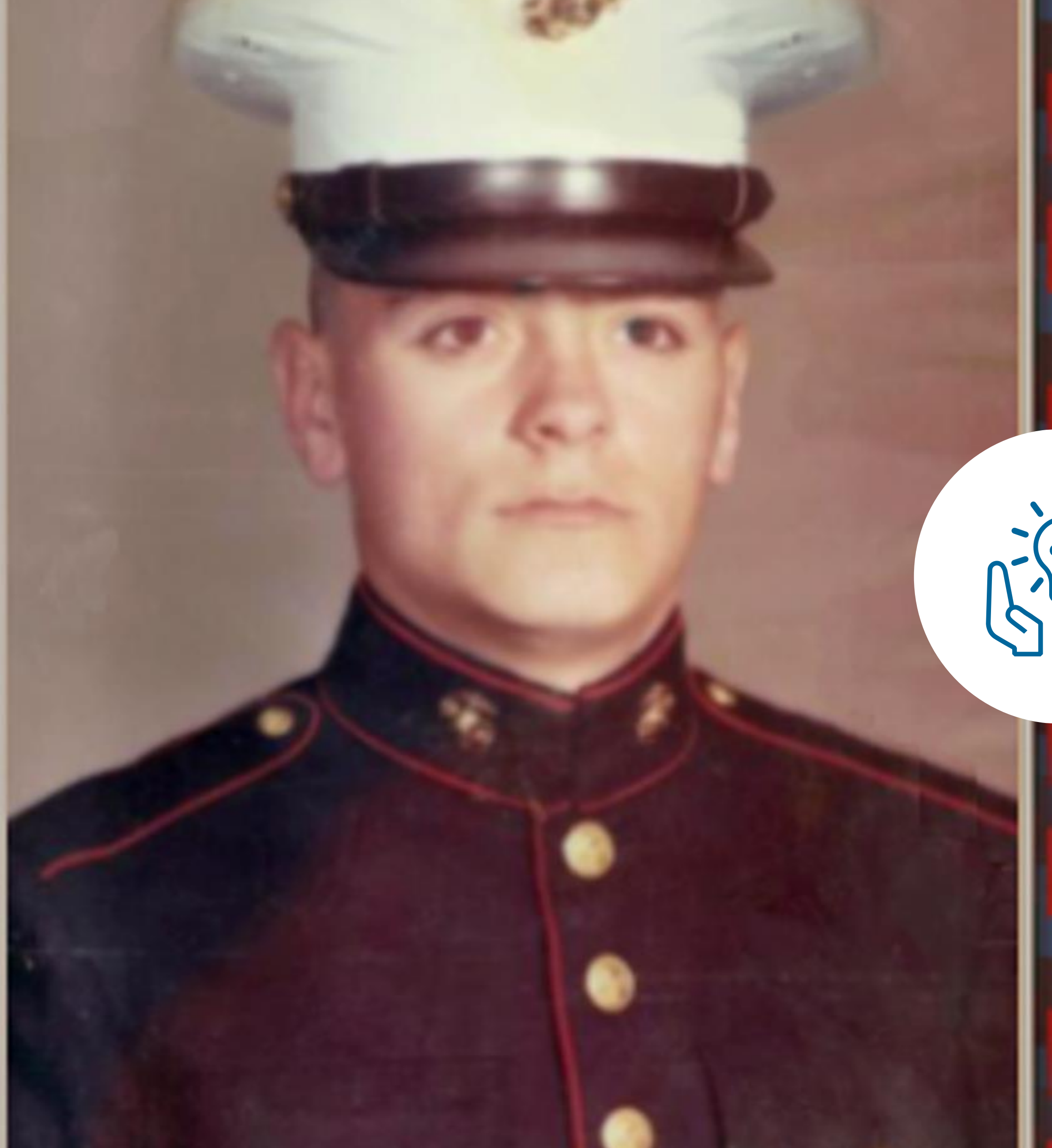
- Maintain rail trail link during construction
- Think about cyclists crossing the bridge during construction
- The west (upstream) sidewalk sees the bulk of pedestrian traffic; account for increased crossings when only the east sidewalk is open

Traffic Conditions

- Could the bridge be one way while the lane count is reduced for construction?
- Could a temporary signal at School Street/Gardner Street in Groveland alleviate congestion at the Bates Bridge?
- How can intersection signal timings at either end of the bridge change to reduce congestion/improve safety?

The Merrimack River

- Ensure construction operations do not:
 - Harm sturgeon or other local wildlife
 - Contribute to erosion of the riverbank



**What We Heard
on April 3rd and
Responses**

**Bridge
Concepts**

Bridge Aesthetics - I

Overall Bridge

- The new bridge should:
 - Feel like an arrival when you cross over it
 - Feel like “welcome to Haverhill” and “welcome to Bradford”
 - Connect the more modern look of downtown Haverhill with the older look of Bradford, responding to the buildings around it
 - Keep the arched look of the existing bridge
 - Find ways to reflect the towers with vertical elements which give the structure character above the roadway surface

Overlooks

- Provide overlooks that:
 - Incorporate historic signage; highlight indigenous groups
 - Provide a place for people to sit and enjoy fireworks over the water
 - Offer some shelter from the wind
 - Can incorporate reference to the existing towers



Bridge Aesthetics - II

Bridge Lighting

- Public Safety
- Colored
- Soft
- Respectful to abutters & natural environment

Opportunities

- Provide places for:
 - Artwork on and below the bridge including statuary
 - Native plantings that can support local pollinators

Existing Towers

- If the towers can be moved:
 - Do not hide them
 - Look for ways to incorporate with the rail trail
- If the towers cannot be moved:
 - See if pieces can be saved and incorporated into the project

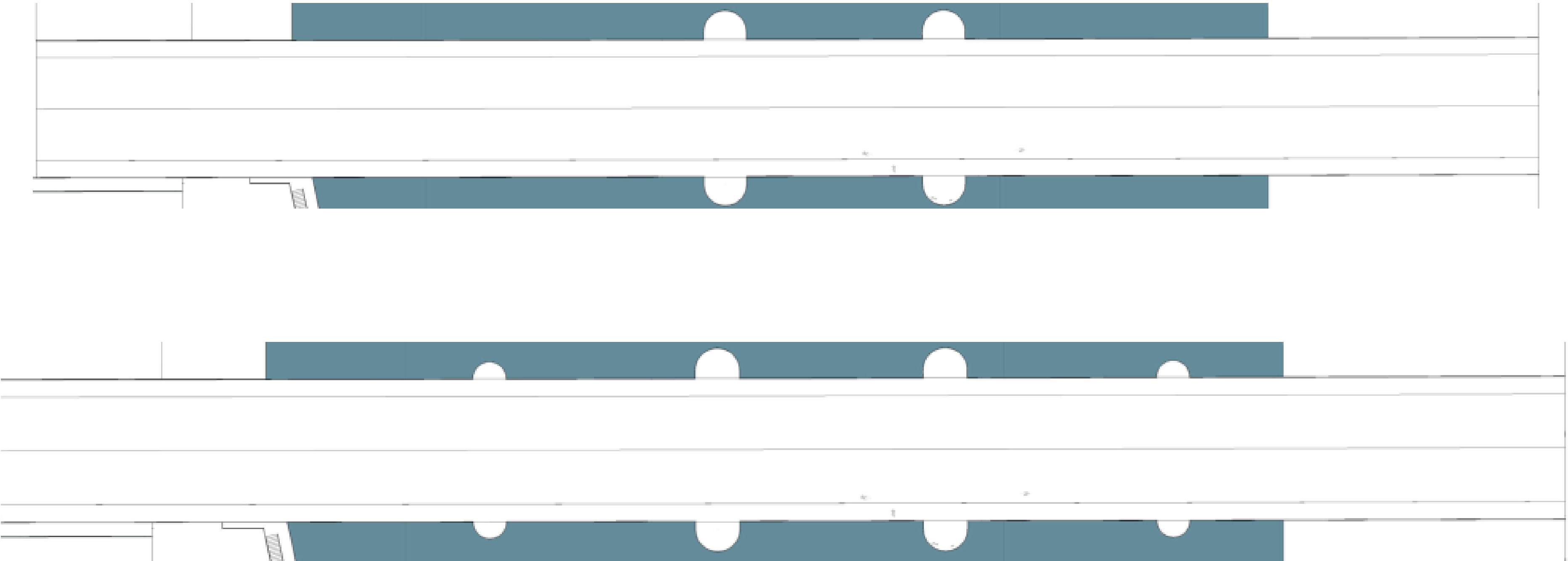


Bridge Connections and Circulation

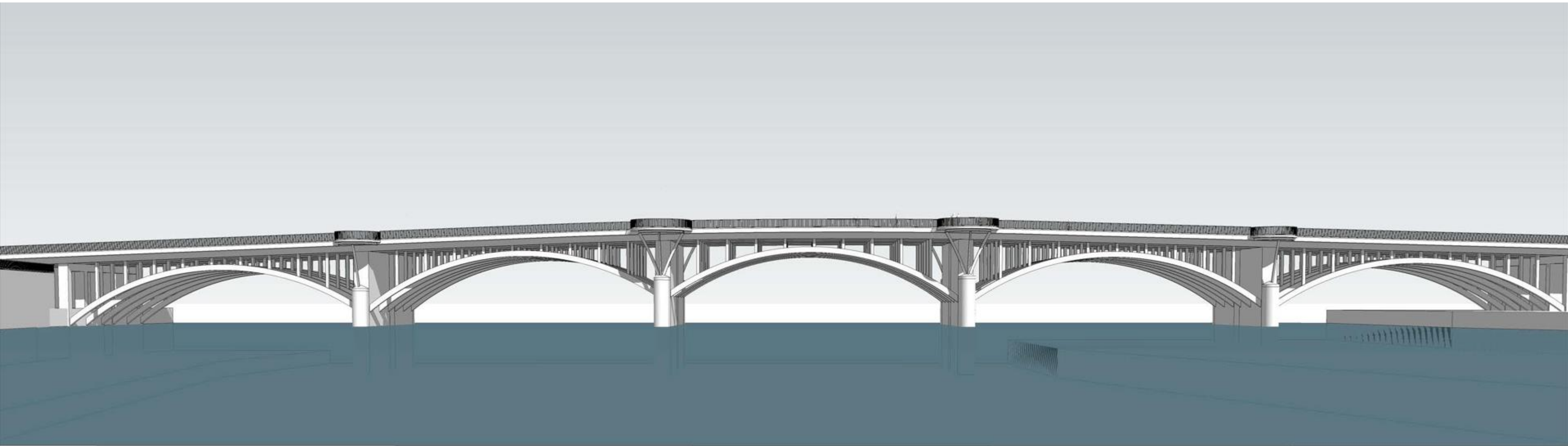
- Provide access to/views of the river, especially from the Bradford Rail Trail
 - Canoe/kayak
 - Fishing
- Reduce the “tunnel feeling” when passing under the bridge
- Make the turn onto the trail at Dunkin easier to take on a bicycle
- Try to connect the Dempsey Boardwalk with Wall Street



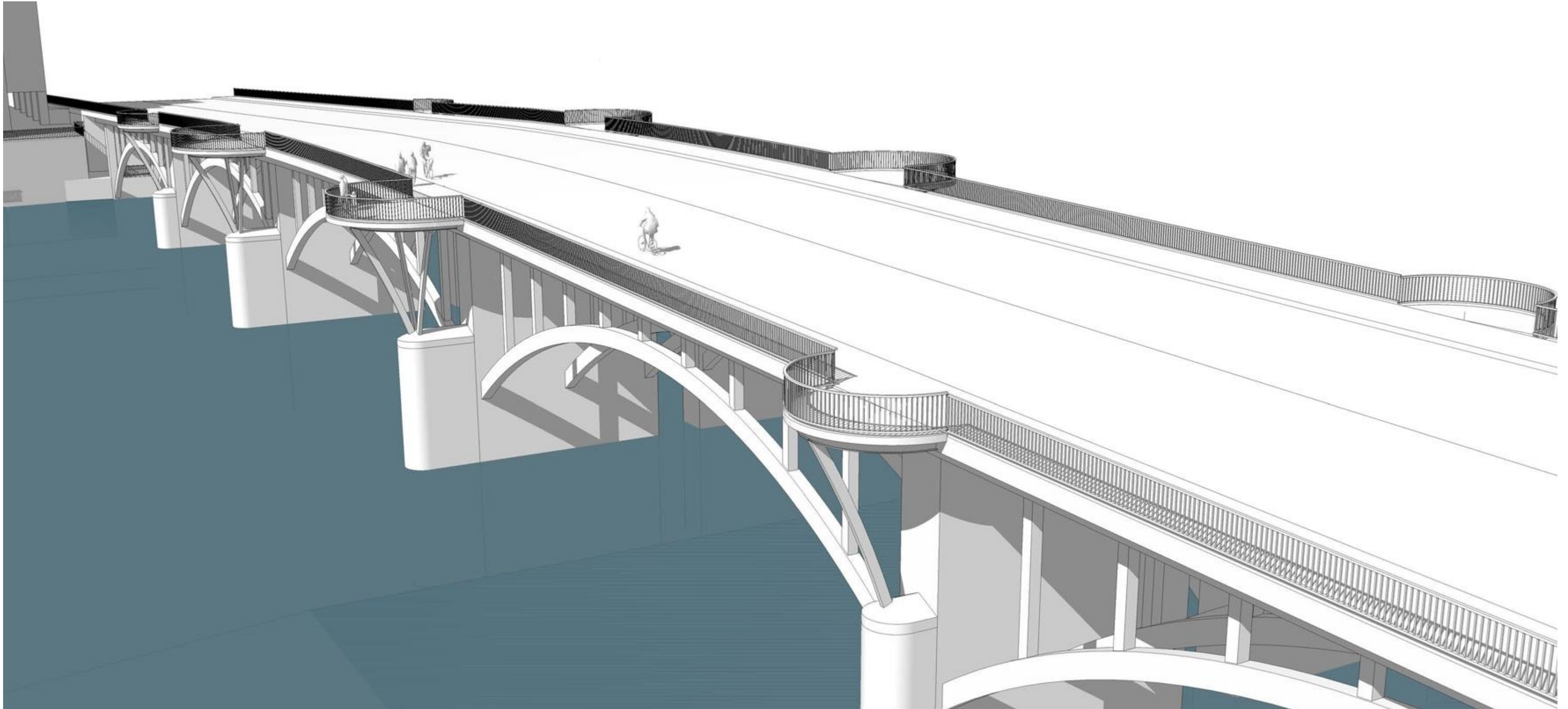
Evoking Today's Basiliere – Central vs. Distributed Overlooks



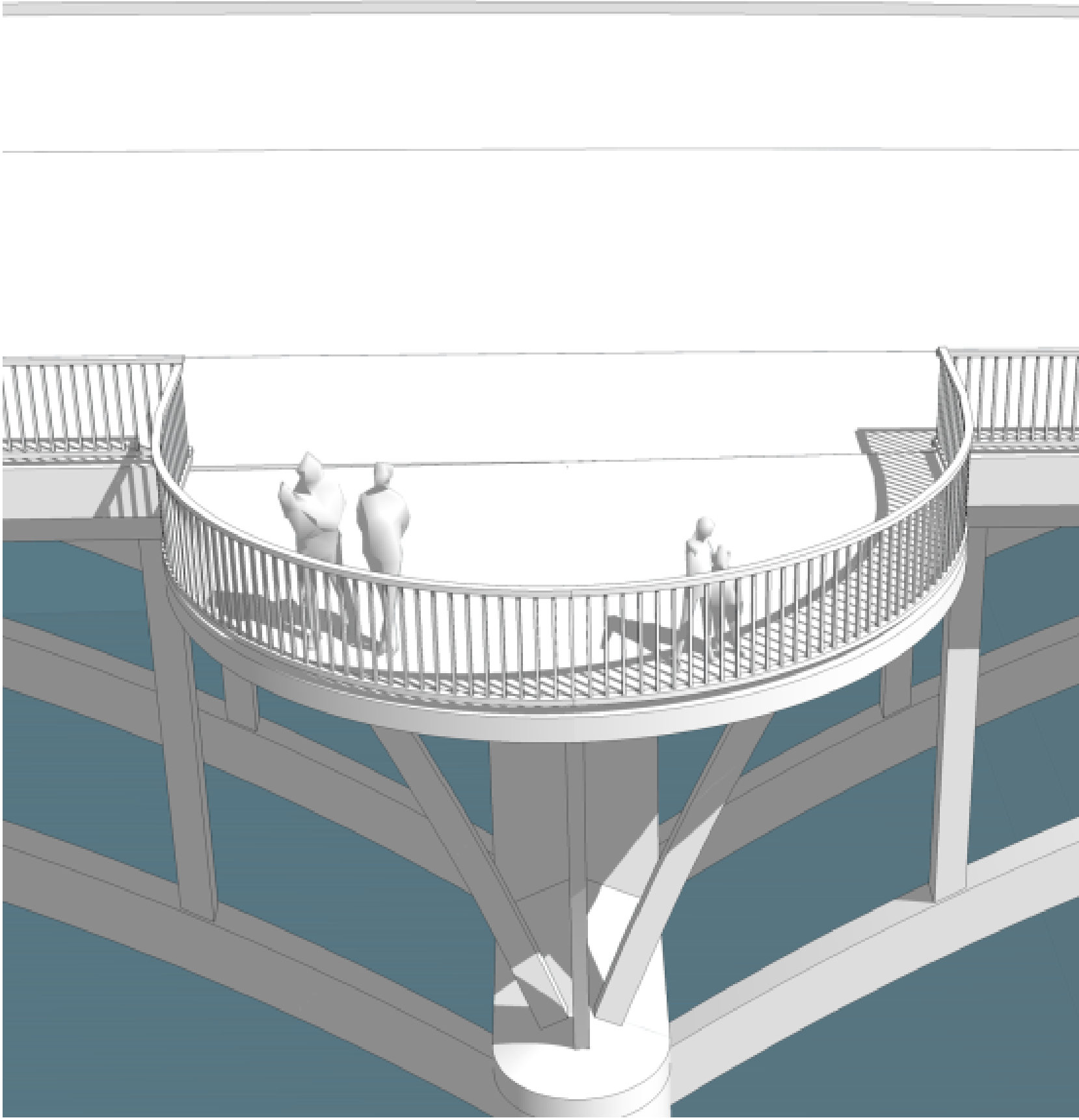
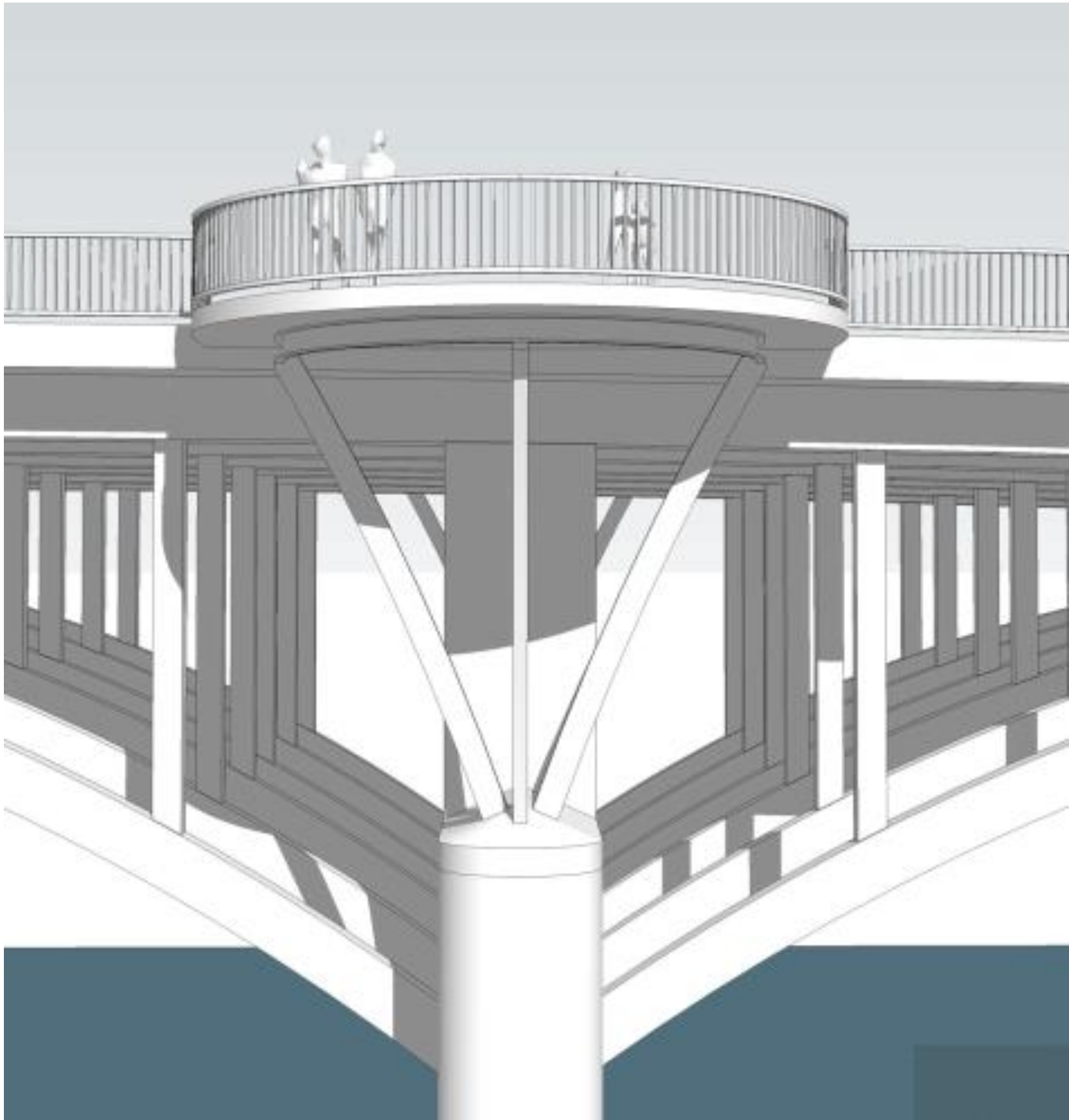
Evoking Today's Basiliere – From the River



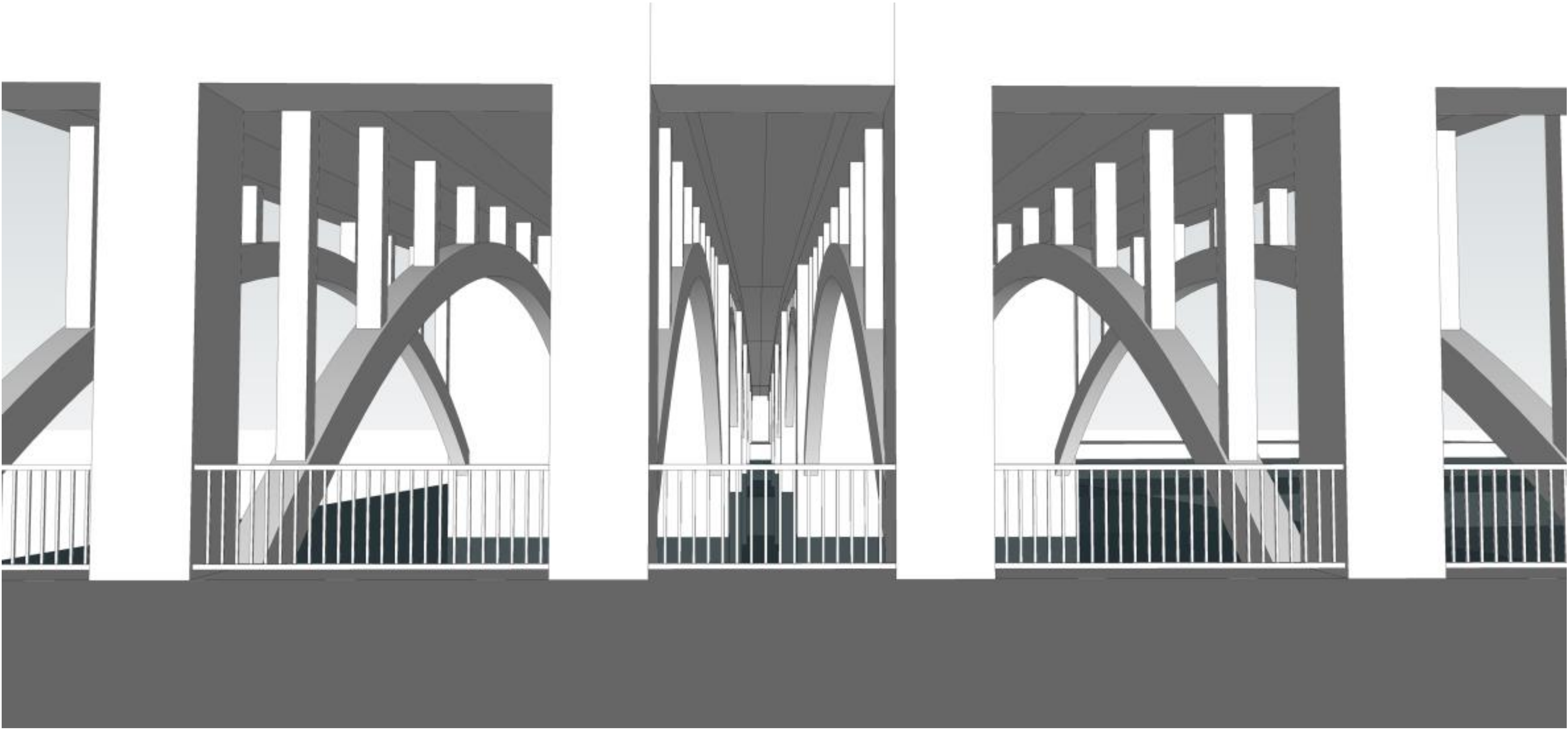
Evoking Today's Basiliere – From Above



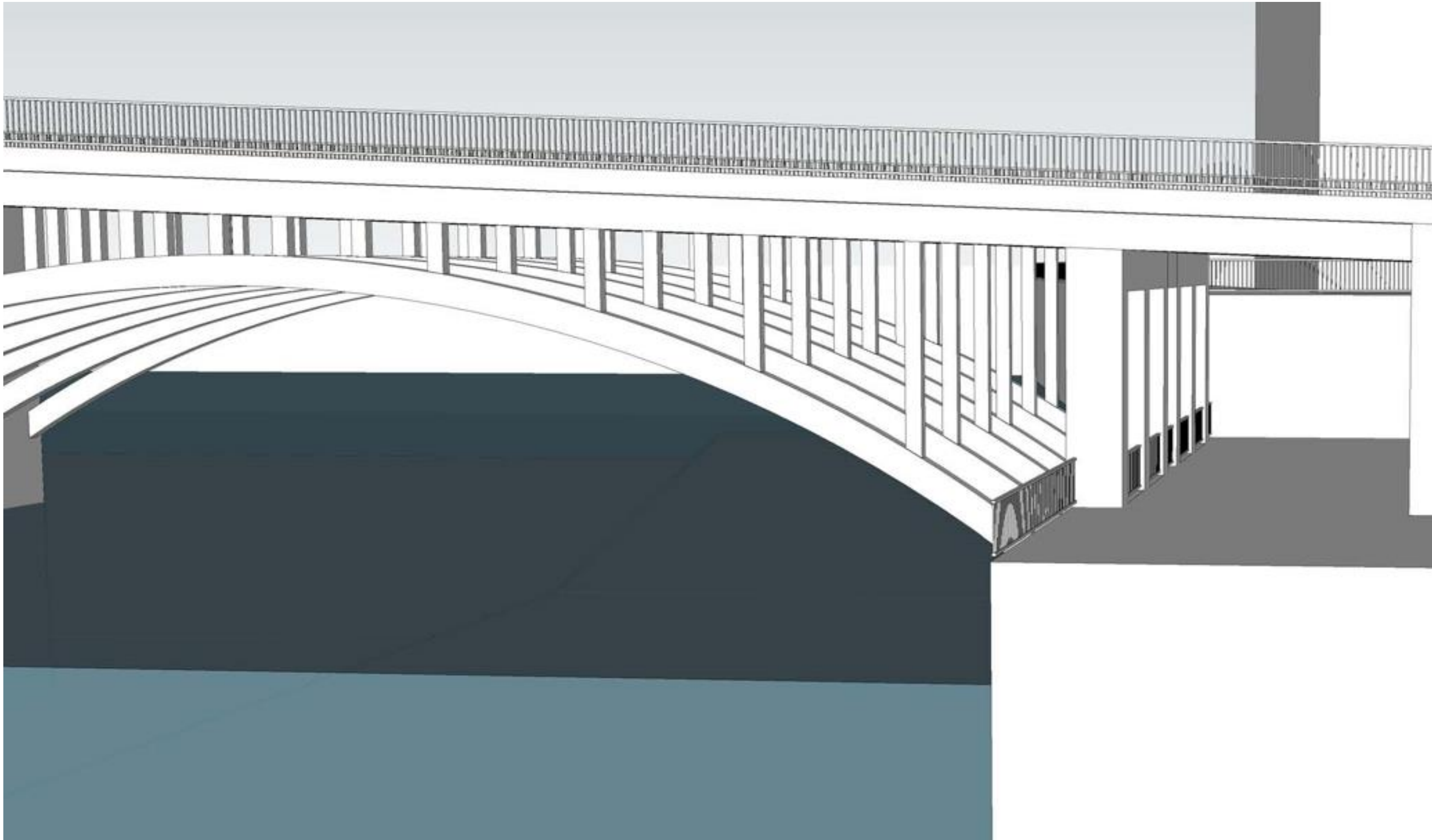
Evoking Today's Basiliere – Overlook Details



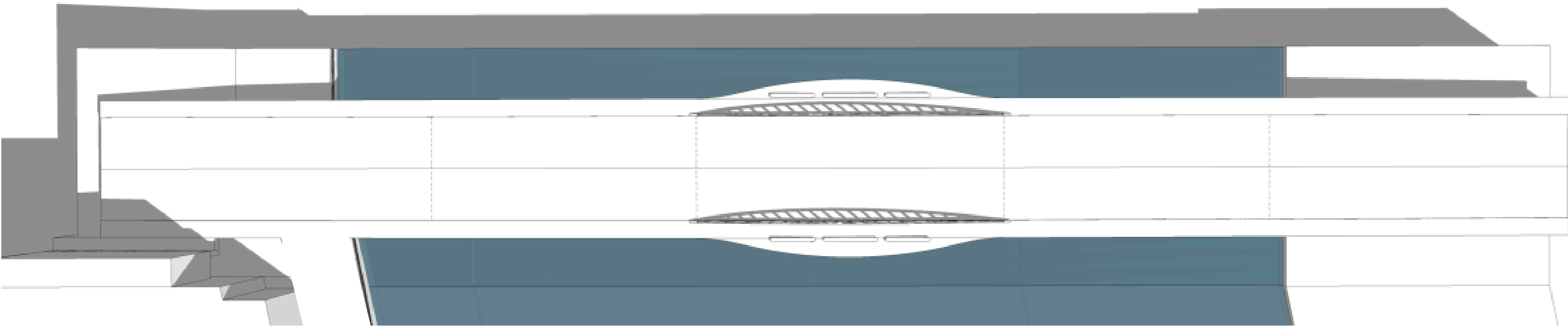
Evoking Today's Basiliere – Windows on the Water



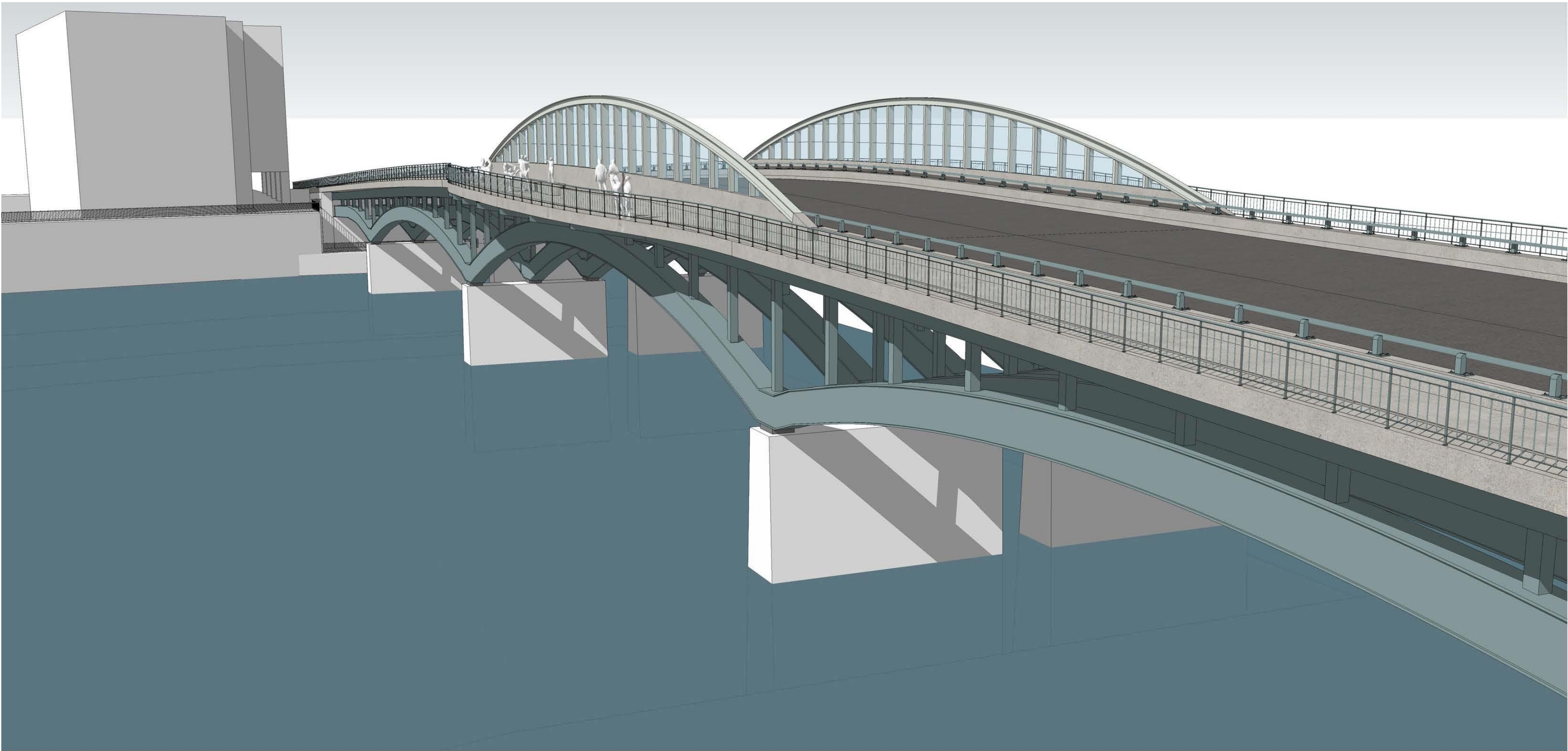
Evoking Today's Basiliere – North Bank Detail



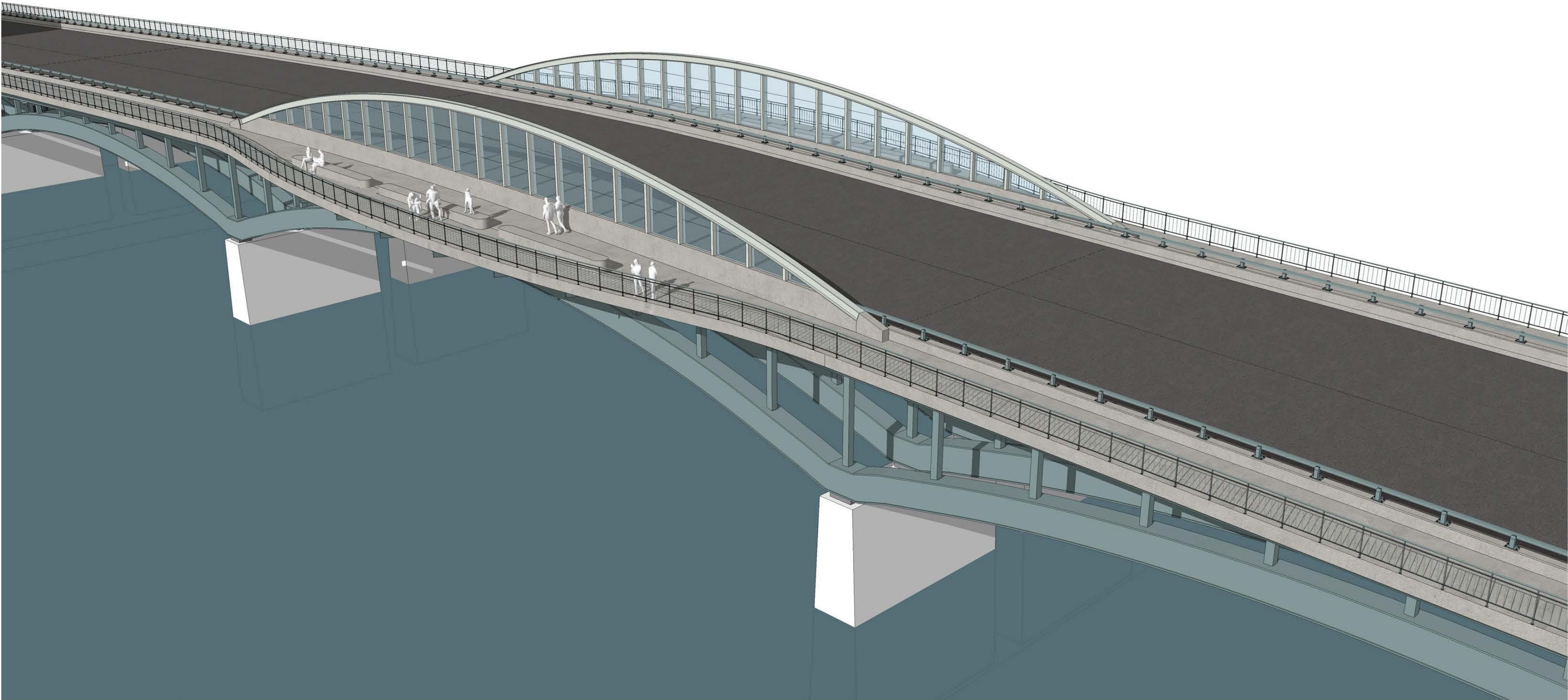
Steel Girders – Central Overlook



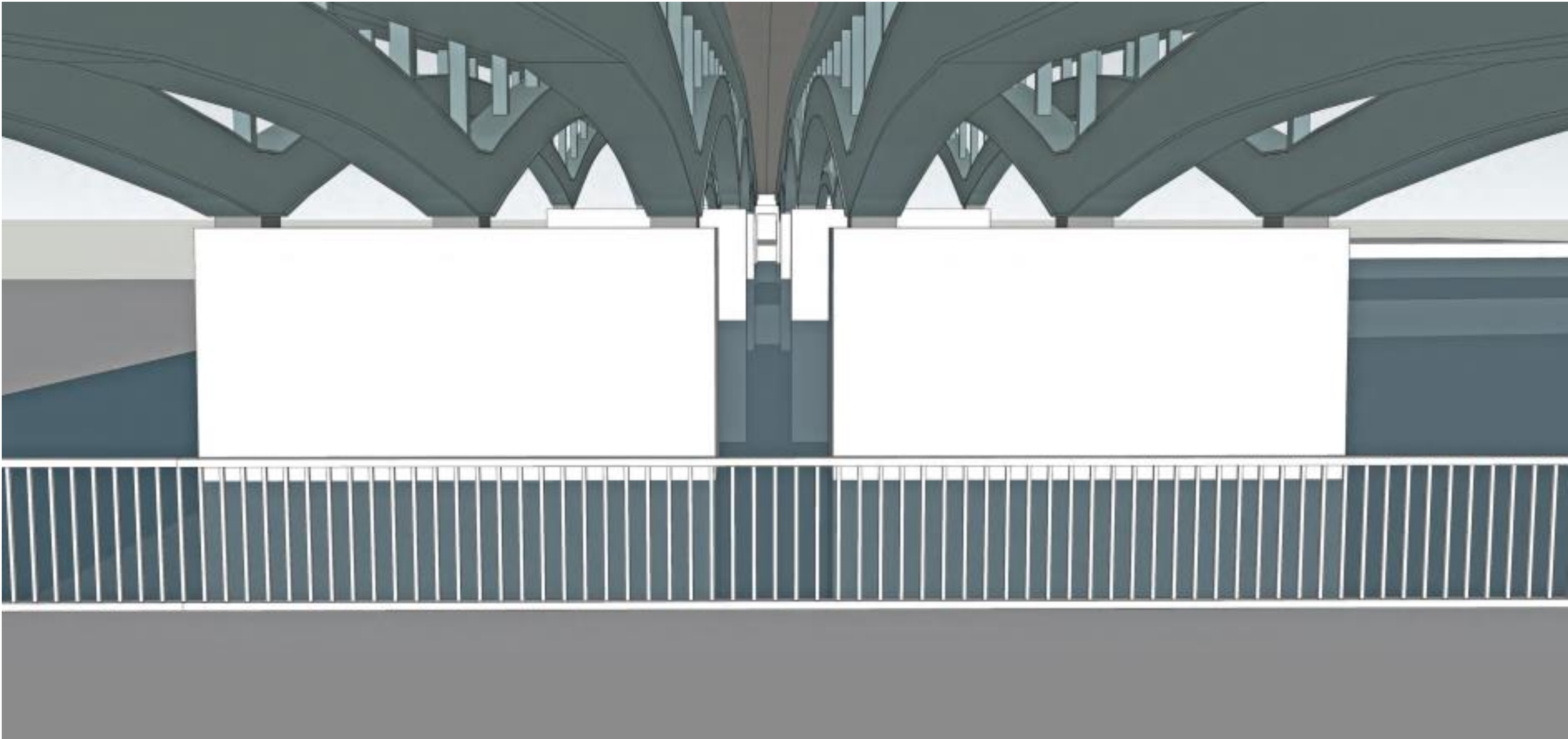
Steel Girders – Side View



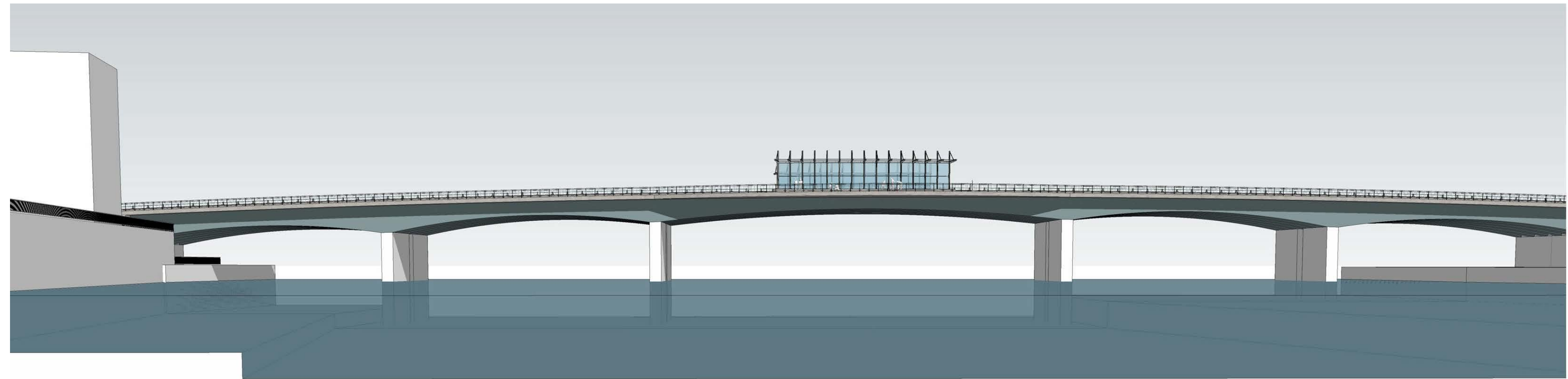
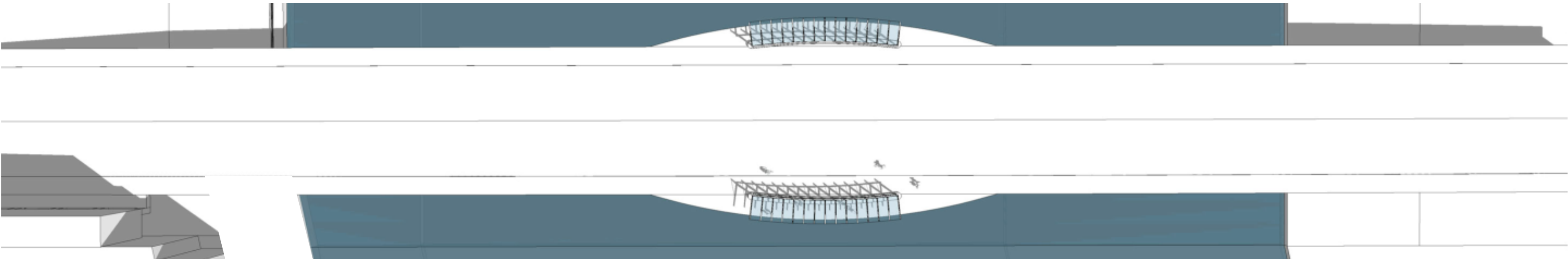
Steel Girders – Seating Detail



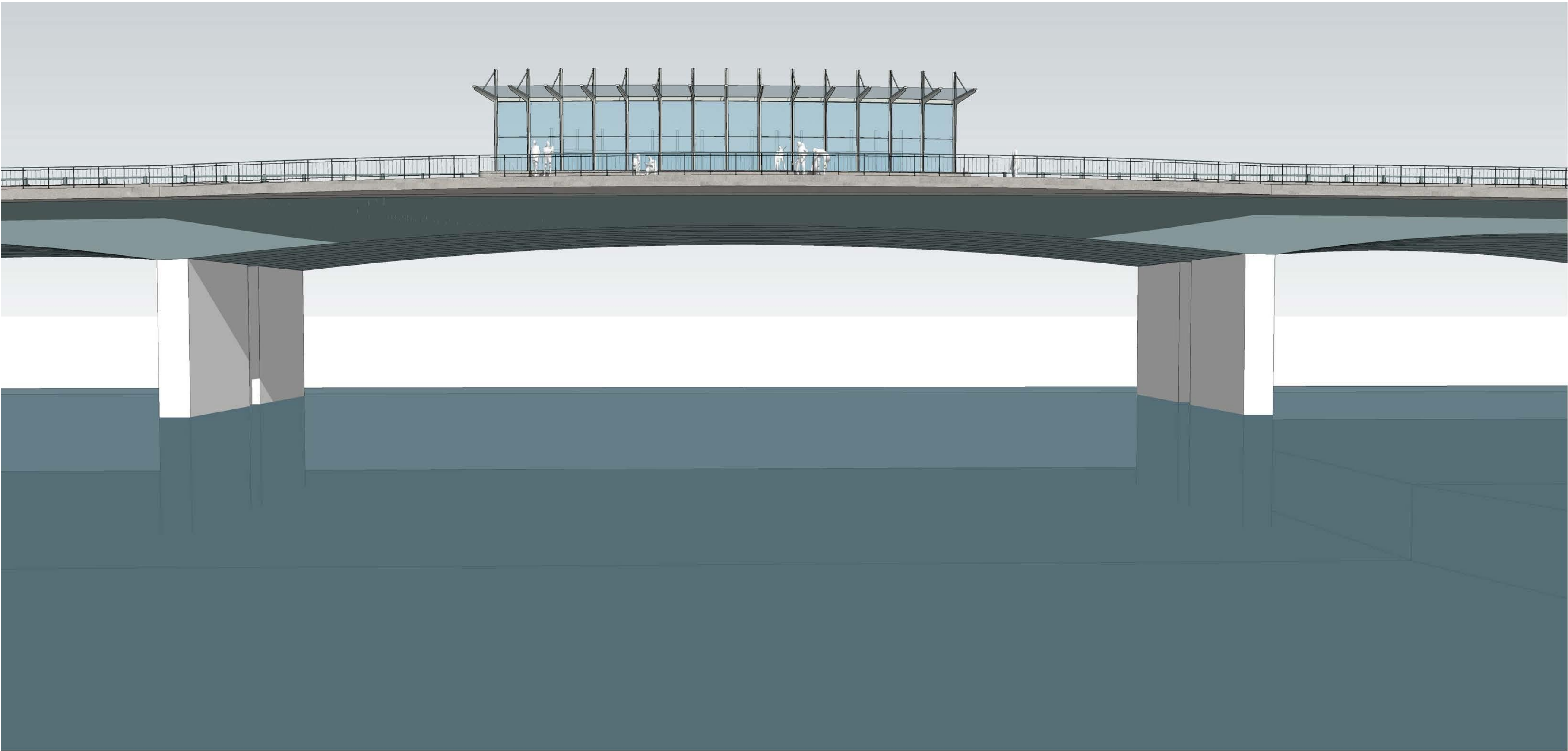
Steel Girders – A Wider Water View



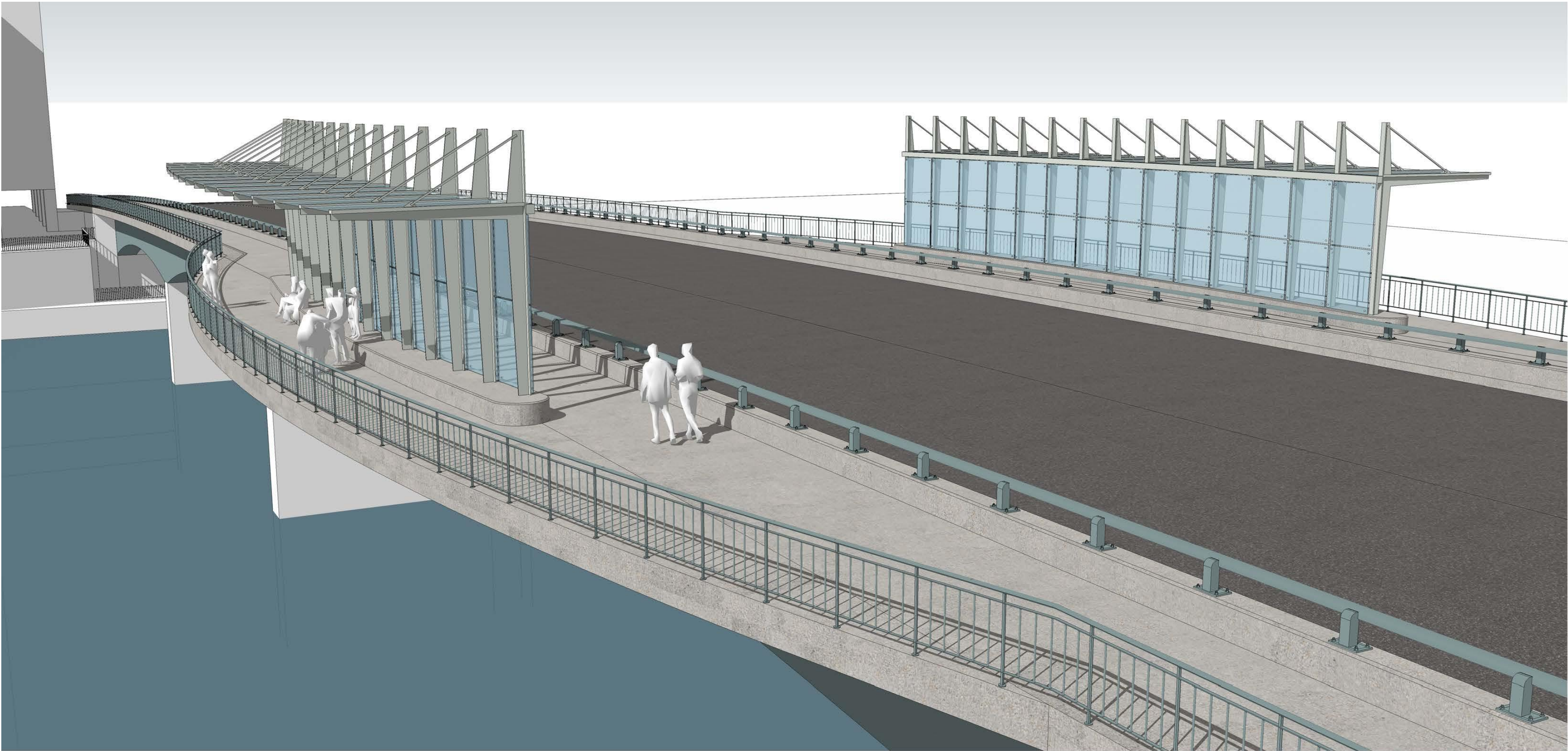
Haunched Girders – Central Overlook and Windbreak



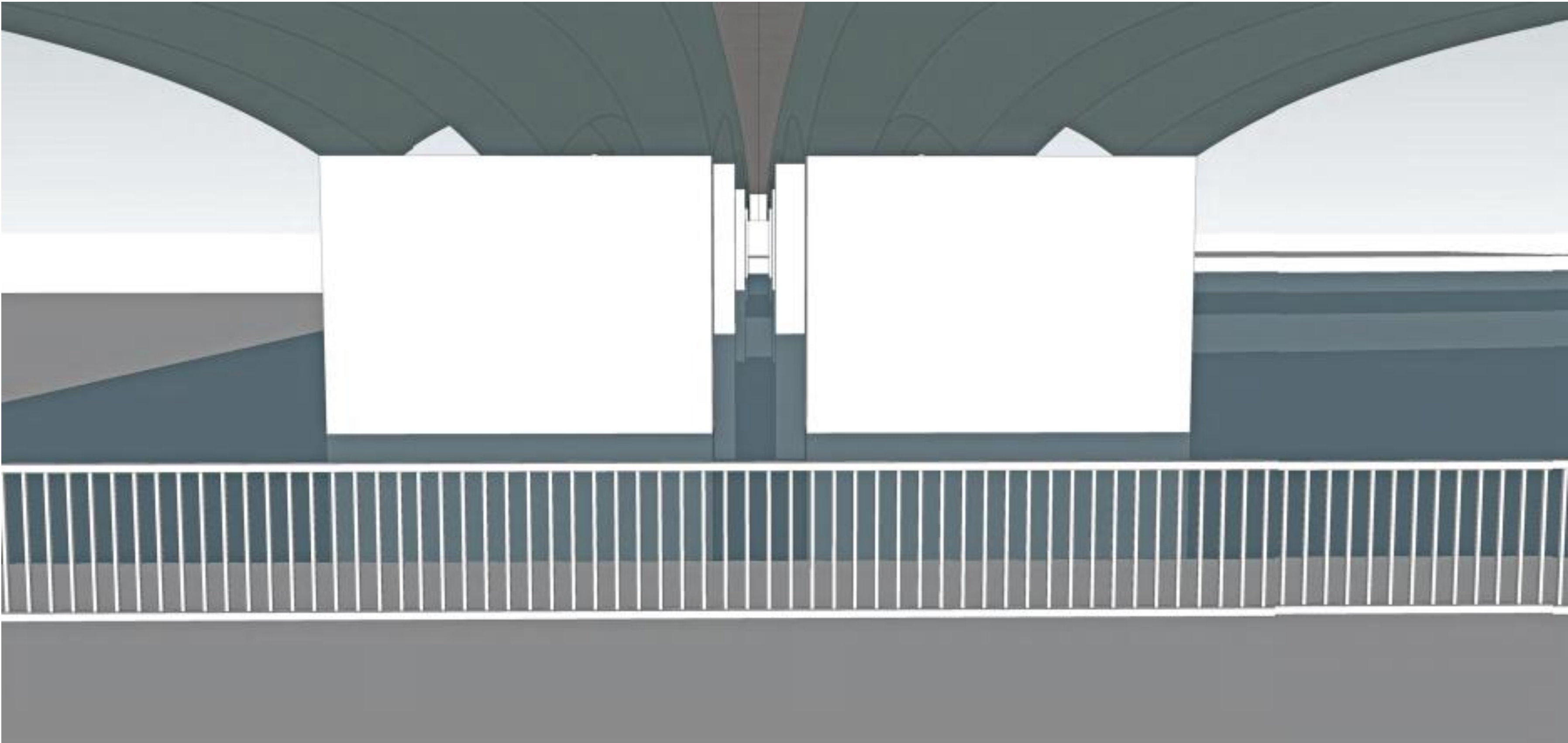
Haunched Girders – Side View



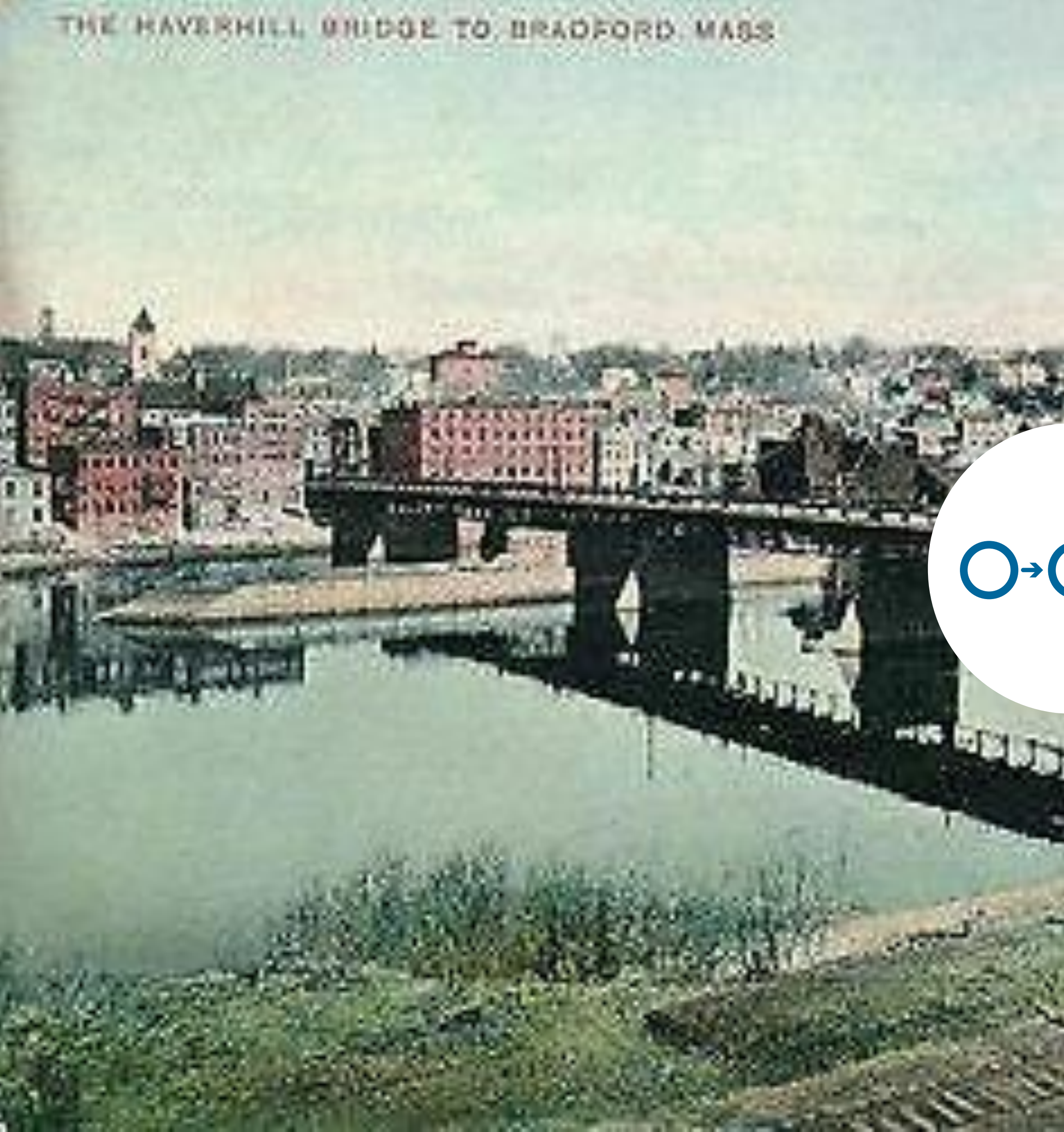
Haunched Girders – Seating Detail



Haunched Girder– A Wider Water View



THE HAVERHILL BRIDGE TO BRADFORD MASS



**What We
Heard on April
3rd and
Responses**

Cross Section

Cross Section

Travel Lanes

- Preference for 4 lanes over 3
- Concerns over future traffic volumes
- Increased signage may be needed to help align drivers to upcoming turn lanes off the bridge

Non-motorized Travelers

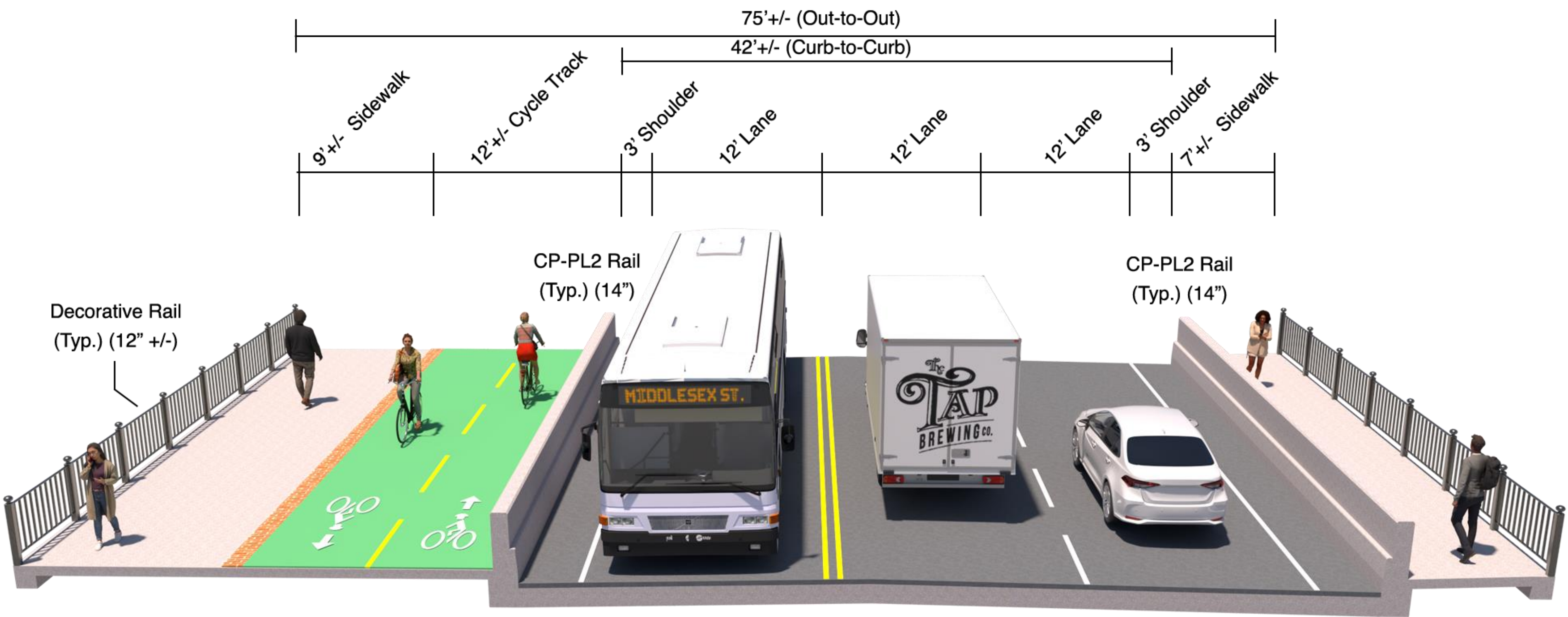
- More cyclists use the Basiliere as part of a loop going along the Merrimack than pass through going north/south
- Physical barrier between vehicles and cyclists/pedestrians preferred; paint fades
- Pedestrian area should be adequate to pass slower users and accommodate mobility aids
- If cyclists and pedestrians are at the same level some delineation, e.g., rumble strips are needed

Non-motorized Travelers Cont'd

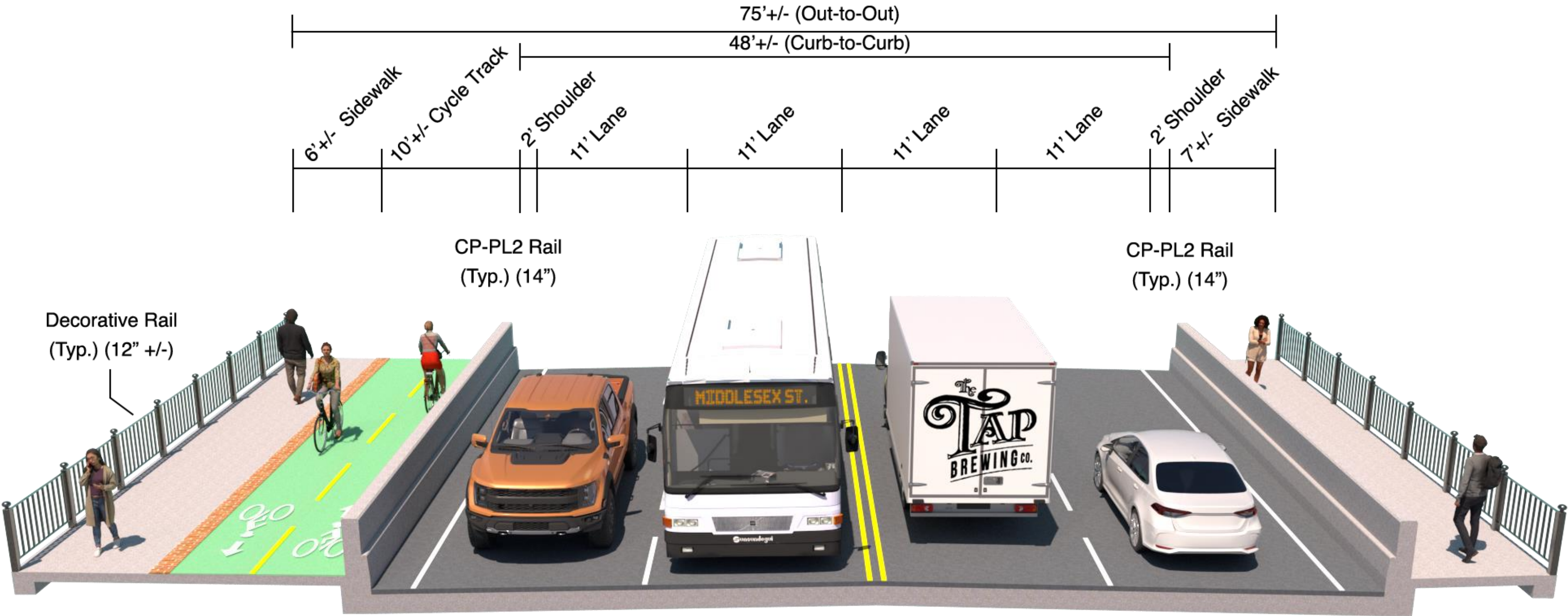
- Bicycle/pedestrian facilities need not be symmetrical on either side of the bridge
- The Bradford Rail Trail works well as a shared use path
- Bridge accommodations need to transition safely to adjoining roadway sections



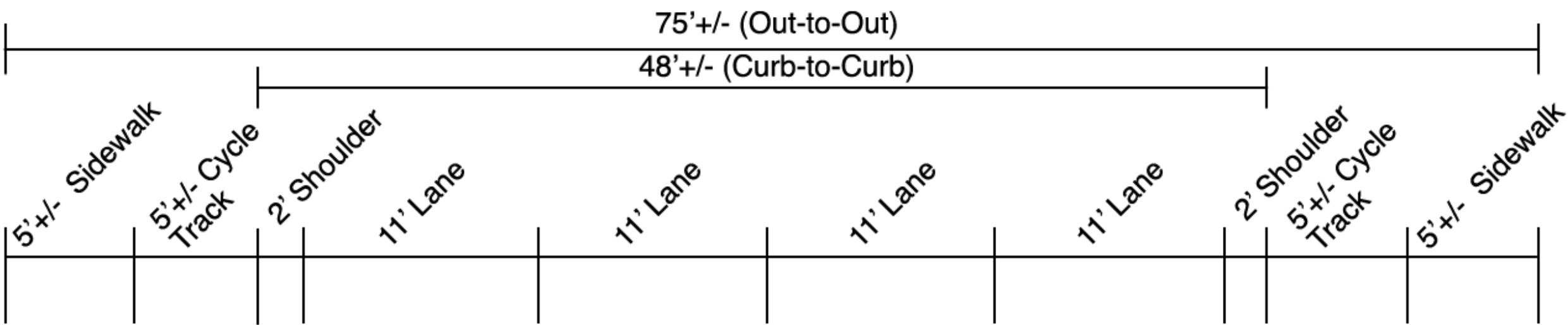
Three Lane Cross Section – Two-Way Cycling Facility



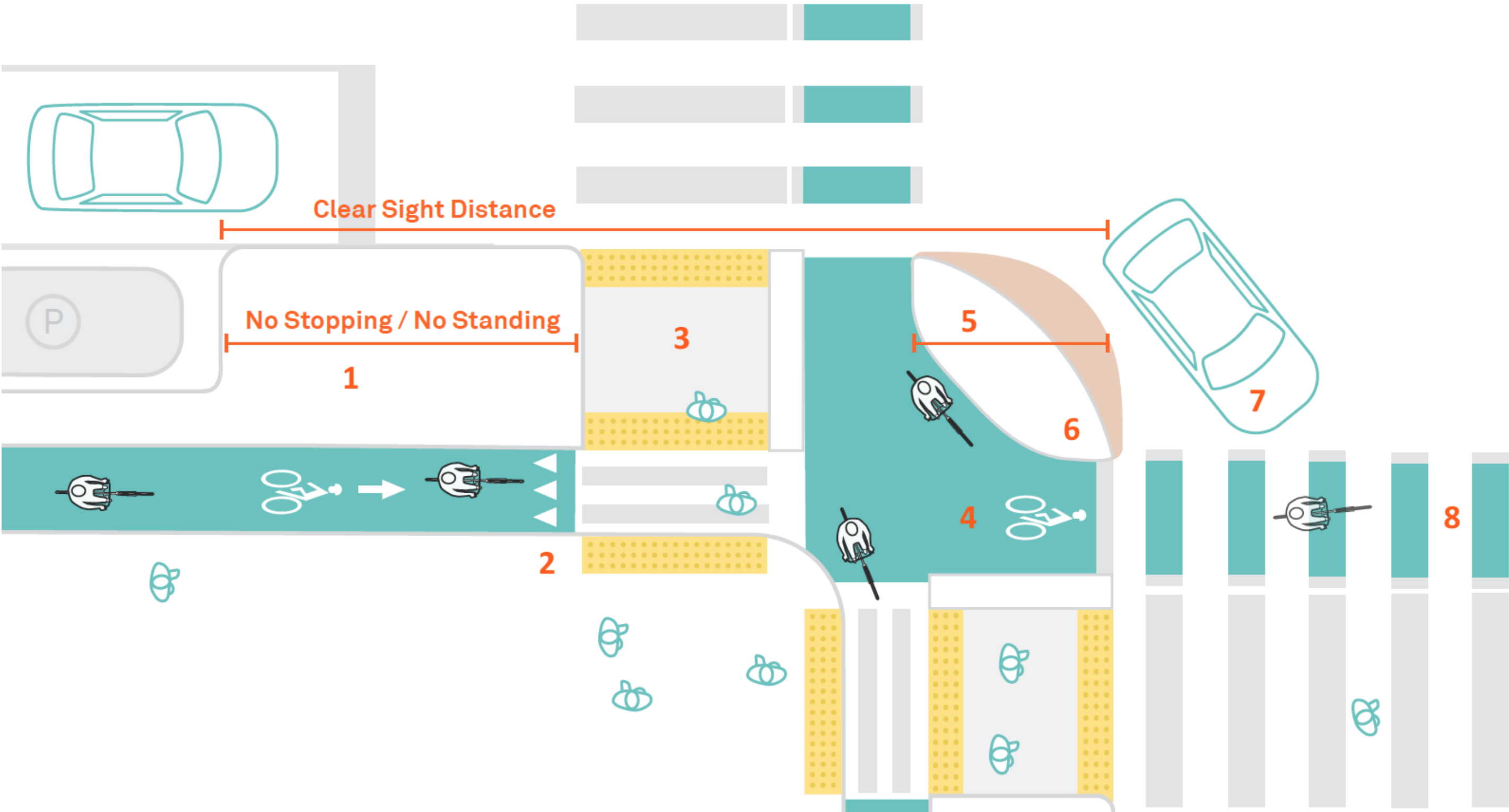
Four Lane Cross Section – Two-Way Cycling Facility



Four Lane Cross Section – Directional Cycling Facilities



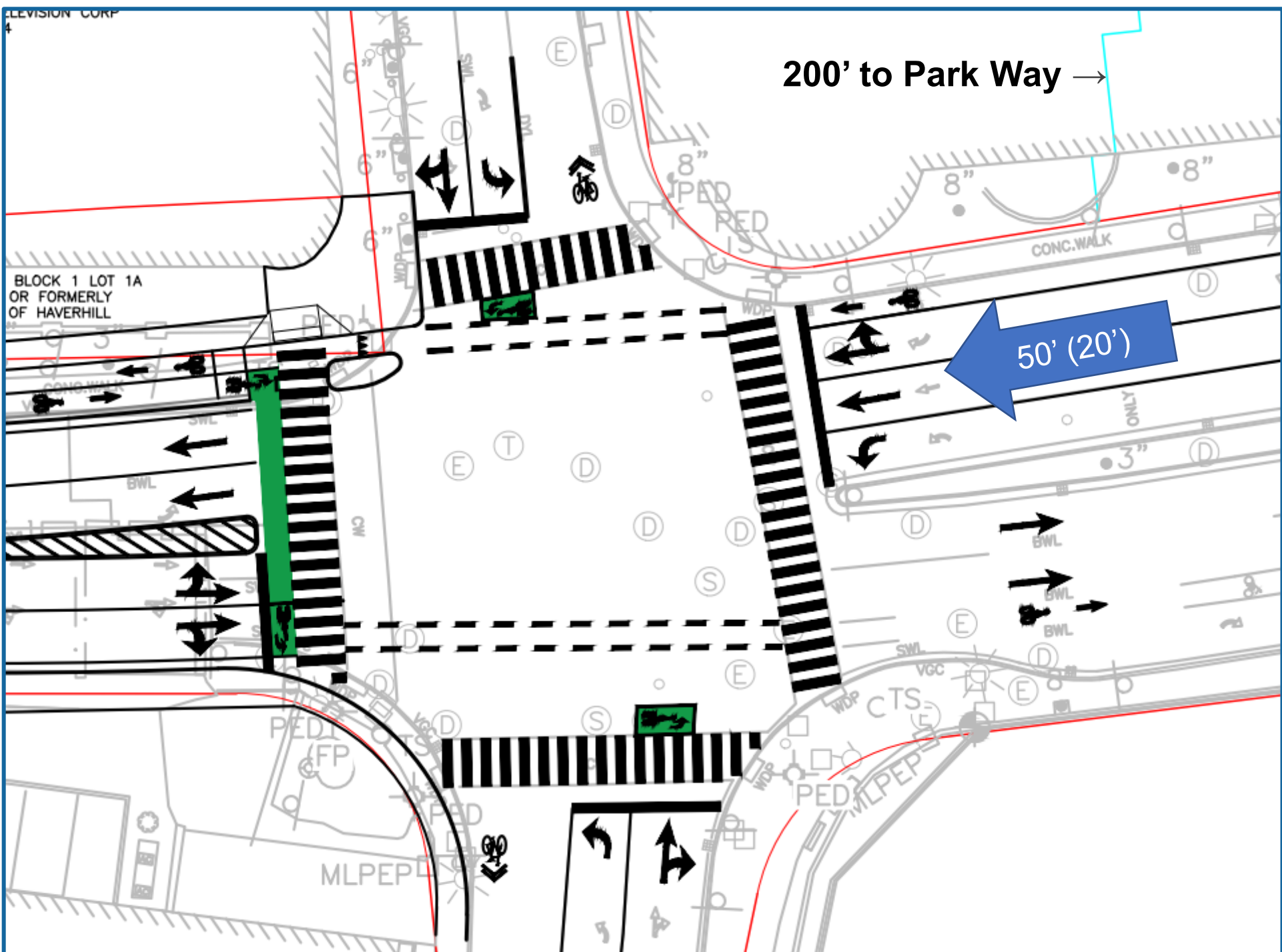
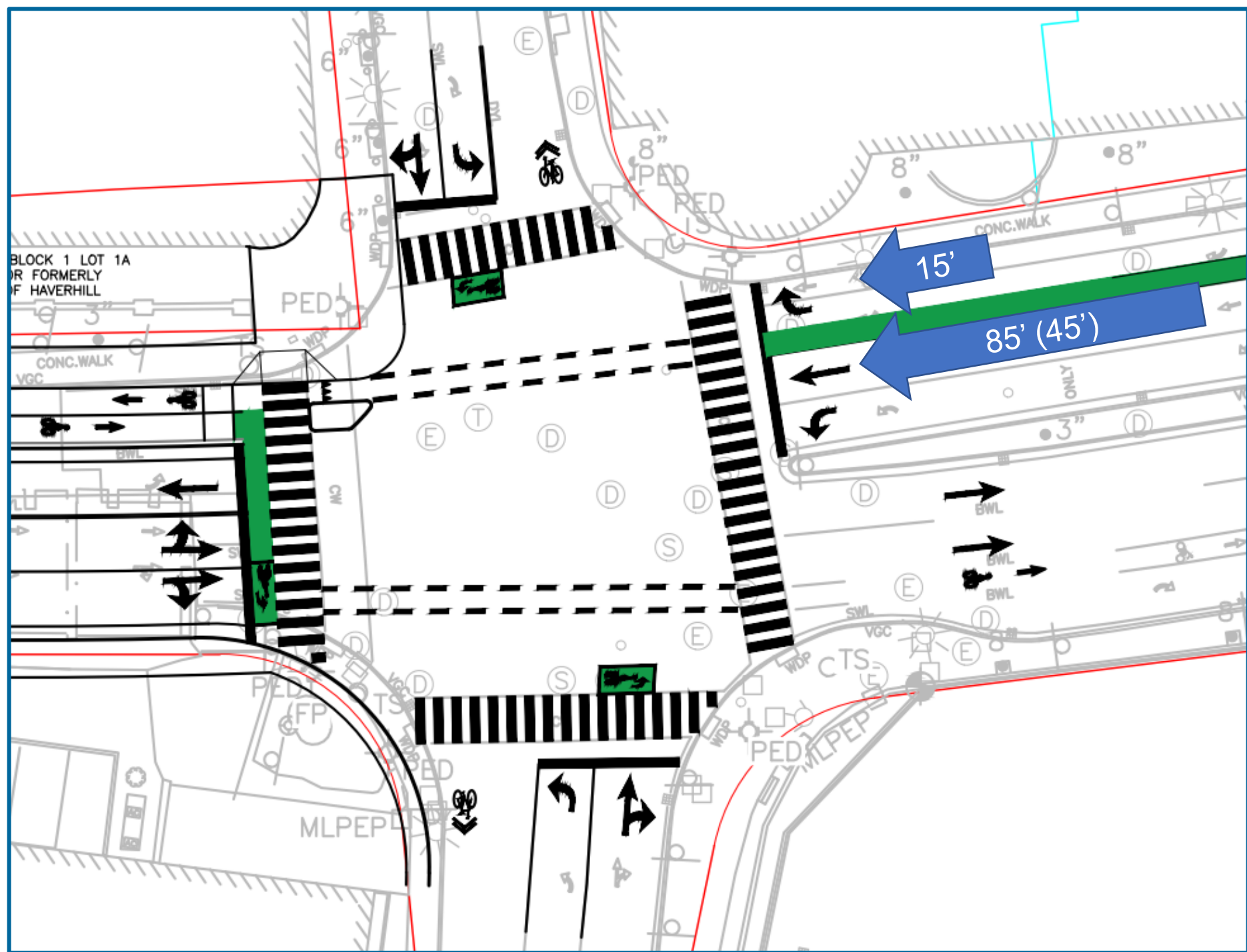
Fully Protected Intersections



Average Queue Lengths: Merrimack/Water Street

Three Lanes

Four Lanes

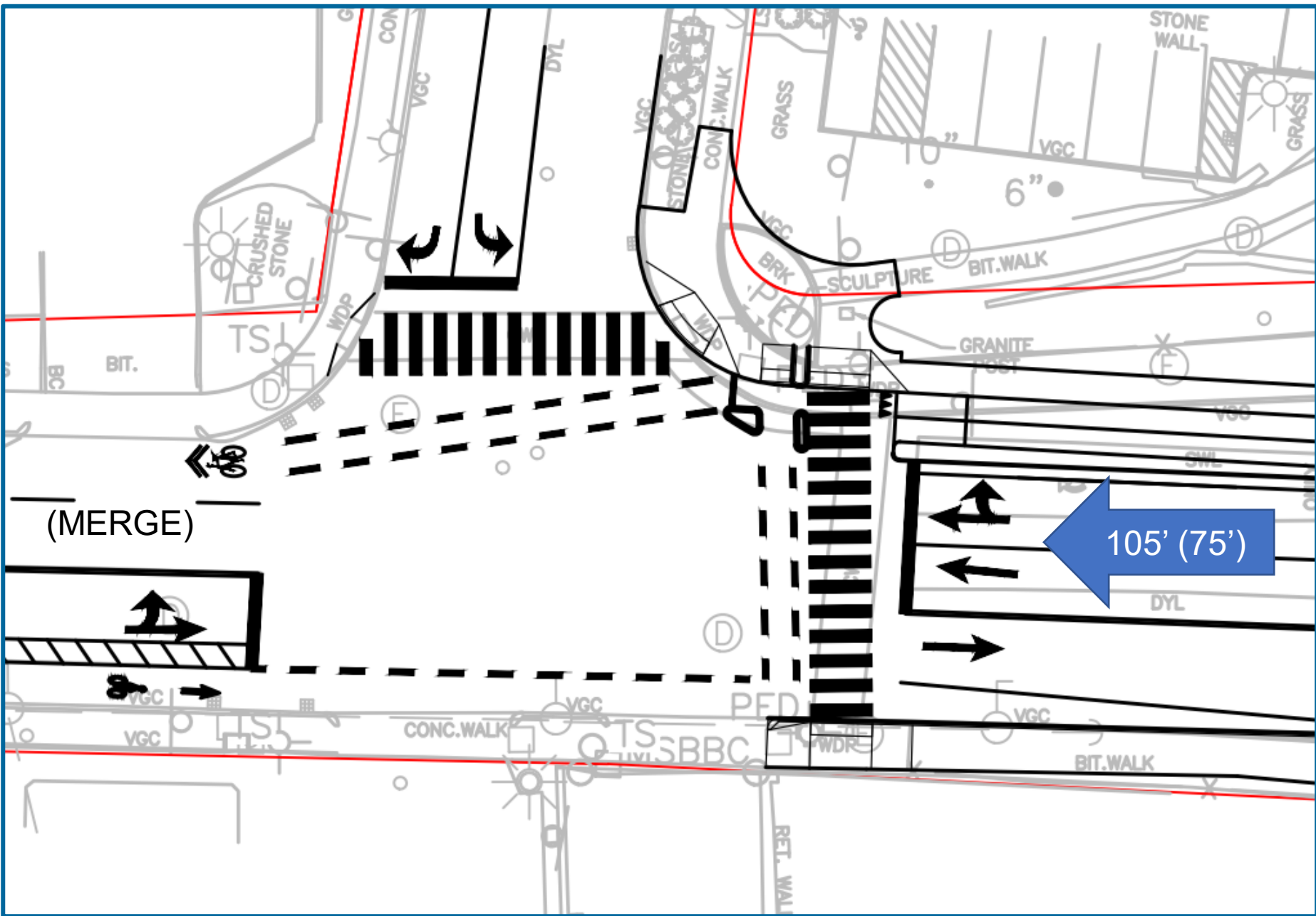
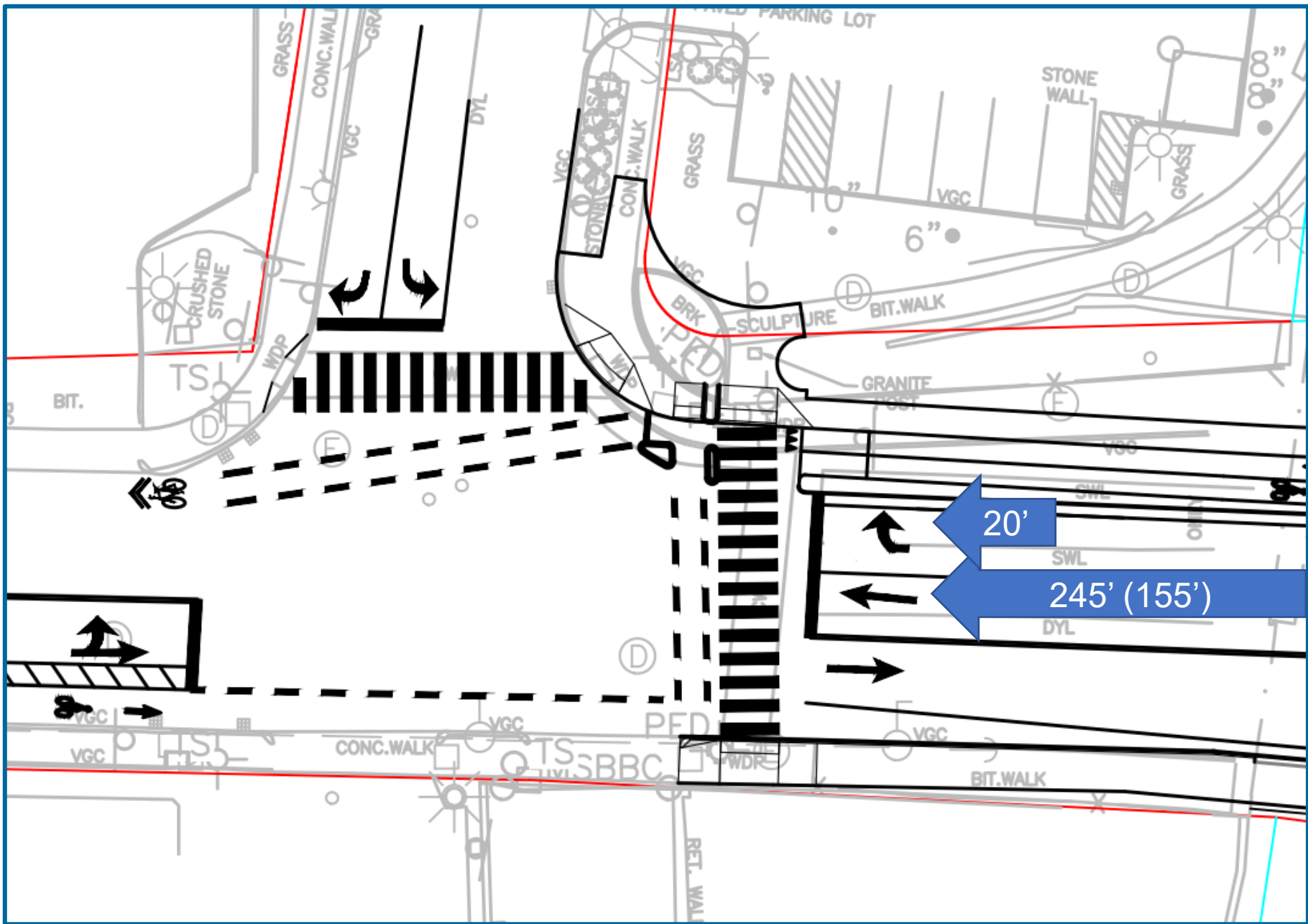


Average Queue: AM (PM)

Average Queue Lengths: Middlesex Street

1 Through Lane & 1 Right-Turn Only Lane

2 Through Lanes



Average Queue: AM (PM)

Key Takeaways – Intersection Operations

- Modeling shows that future traffic conditions will be same or a slight improvement over today:
 - Phasing and timing optimization
 - New signal equipment (as needed)
- Queues do not vary significantly between options
- No option causes queues extending to the next intersection
- The driver's experience is mostly the same between options
- The difference is how much space remains on the bridge for non-motorized users



Breakout Groups and Reporting

Breakout Group Thought Questions

- What do you like?
- What don't you like?
- How well does each option align to the input recorded on April 3rd?
- Are there elements of different concepts to blend?
- Are there tradeoffs we need to consider?

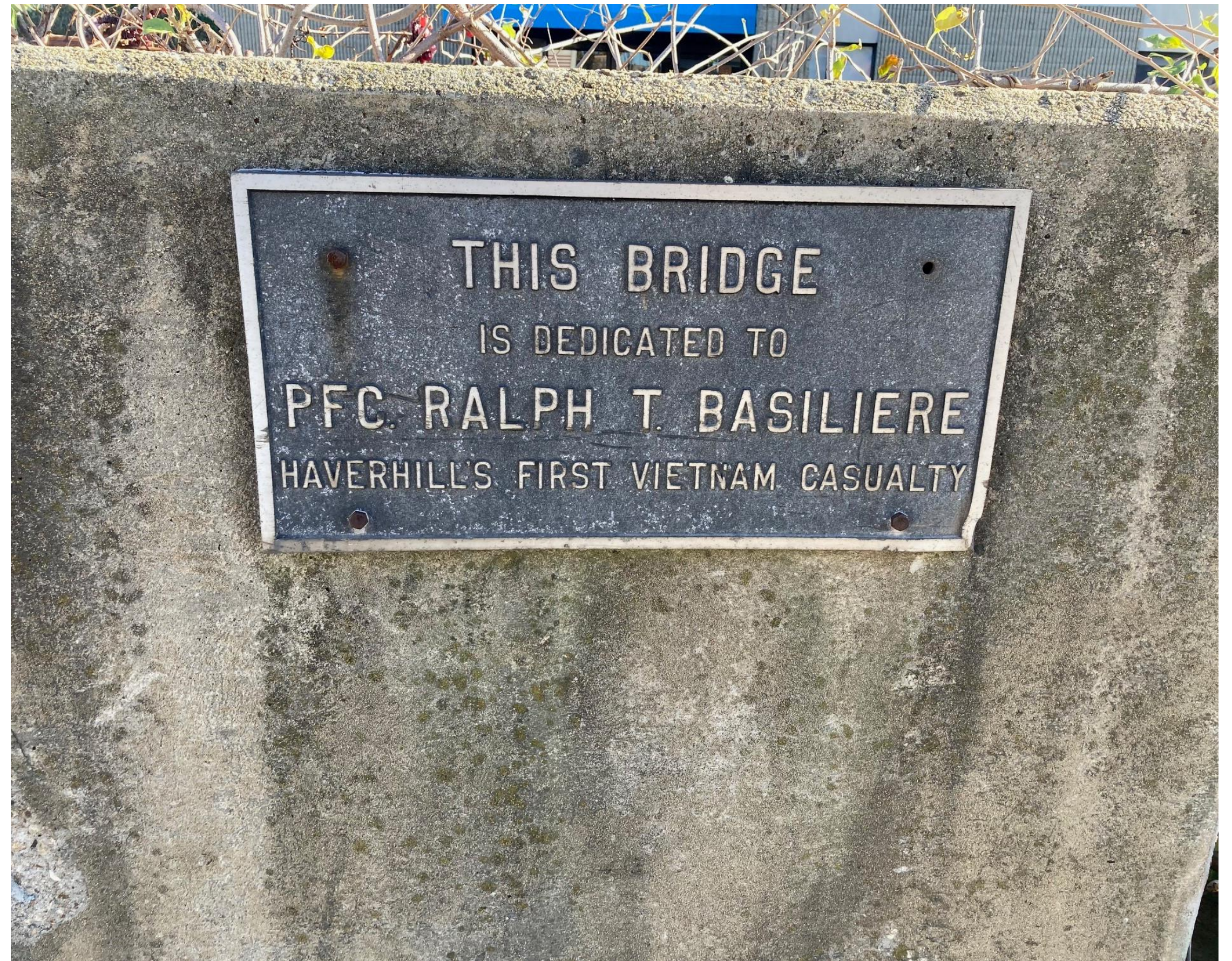




**How will we
keep you
informed?**

Upcoming public outreach

- March, April, May: workshop sessions to discuss:
 - Bridge type
 - Bridge appearance
 - Lane configuration
 - Bicycle/pedestrian accommodations & connections
- March, April, May:
 - Stakeholder discussions
- May: additional staffed tables to boost project awareness
- June: 2nd public information meeting to provide an update on concept design



How to reach us?

- Submit written comments to:
Carrie Lavallee, P.E., Chief Engineer
MassDOT
10 Park Plaza
Boston, MA 02116
Attention: BRIDGE SECTION, PROJECT FILE NO. 605304
- Submit email comments to:
haverhillbasilierebridge@dot.state.ma.us
- Visit the project website at:
www.mass.gov/basiliere-bridge-project-haverhill



Thank You

PFC Ralph T. Basiliere

Bridge Replacement

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Haverhill | May 18 2023 | 5:30PM

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Eamon Kernan - Eamon.kernan@dot.state.ma.us

