



**Replacement of Bridge M-27-026,
Stafford Hollow Road over the
New England Central Railroad (NECRR)
Monson, MA**

Thank you for joining us.

This meeting will begin shortly.



Replacement of Bridge M-27-026, Stafford Hollow Road over the New England Central Railroad (NECRR) Monson, MA

In-person Meeting | September 19, 2024 | 6:30PM

Project File No. 613139

Public meeting notes and procedures

Notification of recording

- This in-person public meeting is being recorded for audio only. The Massachusetts Department of Transportation may choose to retain and distribute the audio and/or transcript.
- All parts of this meeting are considered public record.
- By continuing attendance with this in-person public meeting, you are consenting to participate in a recorded event.
- If you are not comfortable being recorded, you may choose not to speak and submit comments via email or you may choose to excuse yourself from the meeting.

Important note

- 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.

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!

Thank You for Your Support

Town of Monson (Facebook Page and Town Website)

Monson Free Library

Monson Cultural Council

Monson Council on Aging

Pioneer Valley Planning Commission

Quaboag Hills Chamber of Commerce

Advertisements

MassDOT Website

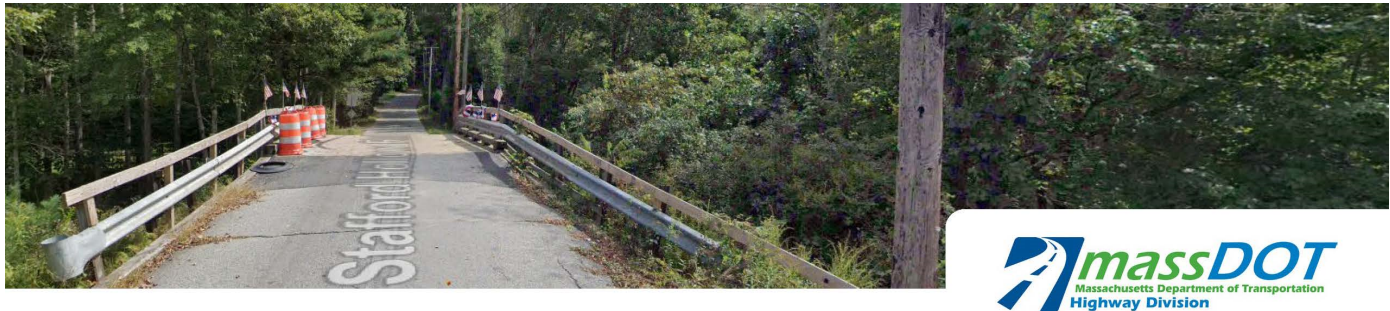
- Flyer posted on August 13, 2024

The Republican

- Notice printed on September 5th, 2024 and September 12th, 2024

The Palmer Journal Register

- Notice printed on September 5th, 2024 and September 12th, 2024



Replacement of Bridge M-27-026, Stafford Hollow Road over New England Central Railroad (NECRR) In-person Public Information Meeting

What is happening?

The purpose of this meeting is to provide the public with the opportunity to become fully acquainted with the proposed replacement of Bridge M-27-026, Stafford Hollow Road over NECRR. Public comment and concerns are being solicited and will be reviewed and considered to the maximum extent possible.

How will this affect you?

The proposed project initially consisted of replacement of the timber superstructure. After the initial site visit, a full bridge replacement is now being considered. The project limits extend approximately 200 feet in either direction from the ends of the current bridge. Bicycle and pedestrian facilities do not exist within this area; however, accommodations are currently being considered in the design. Options are also being investigated on routes that may be necessary for a detour during construction.

When

Thursday, September 19th, 2024
6:30PM

Attend

Monson Free Library
2 High Street
Monson, MA 01057



To ensure its meetings are accessible, MassDOT reasonably provides: translation, interpretation, modifications, accommodations, alternative formats, and auxiliary aids and services. To request such services, please contact MassDOT's Chief Diversity and Civil Rights Officer at 857-368-8580 or MassDOT.CivilRights@dot.state.ma.us. For adequate time to process such request, please make them as early as possible, ideally 10-15 days prior to the event.

Project inquiries may also be emailed to MassDOTProjectManagement@dot.state.ma.us. Please submit any written statements regarding the proposed undertaking to: **Carrie A. Lavallee, P.E., Chief Engineer, MassDOT, 10 Park Plaza, Boston, MA 02116, Attention: PROJECT MANAGEMENT, PROJECT FILE NO. 613139**

Presentation Participants

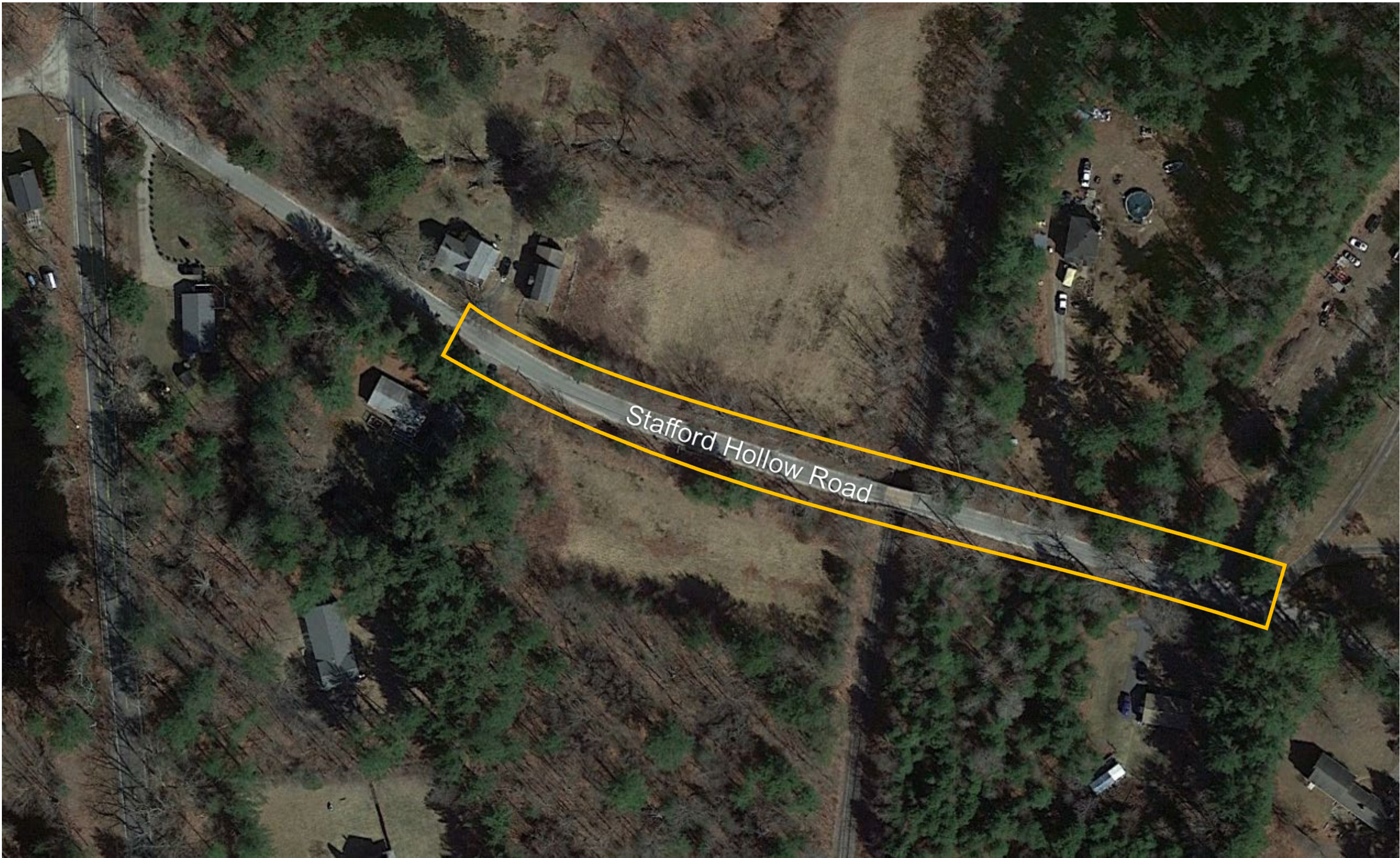
- **MassDOT Project Manager**
 - Adam W. Kiel, P.E.
- **MassDOT District 2 Office**
 - Paula K. Simmons, P.E. - District Proj.Dev.Engr.
- **MassDOT Legislative Affairs Office**
 - Daniel Racicot
- **MassDOT Right of Way Office**
 - Brenda Codella
- **Town of Monson, Highway Surveyor**
 - Benjamin Murphy
- **Design Consultant – Patrick Engineering**
 - James Szczupaj, P.E.

Agenda

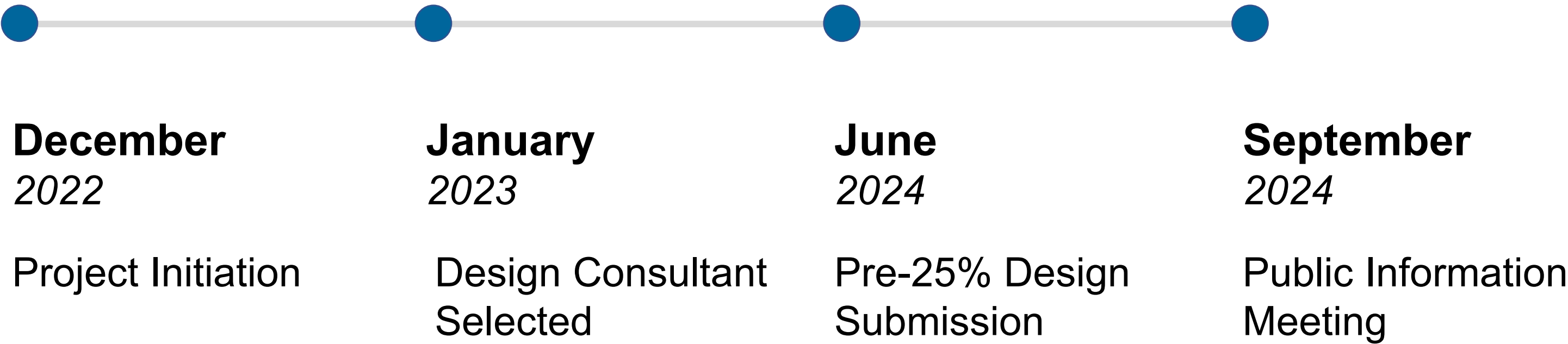
- 01 Project Area
- 02 Project History
- 03 Existing Issues
- 04 Project Purpose
- 05 Proposed Design
- 06 Pedestrian & Cyclists
- 07 Construction Impacts
- 08 Property Impacts
- 09 Next Steps
- 10 Contact Information
- 11 Questions



Project Area



How did we get here?





**Why was this
project
initiated?**



Existing Issues

- Structurally deficient bridge with posted weight limits
- Bridge operates as a one-lane bridge due to narrow width
- Lack of safe pedestrian and bicycle accommodations



**What do we
want to
accomplish?**

Project Purpose

Bridge Replacement | Replace structurally deficient timber and stone bridge that carries Stafford Hollow Road over New England Central Railroad (NECR)

Roadway Improvement | Eliminate narrow lane width restriction at the bridge

Pedestrian & Cyclist Improvements | Provide safe and accessible facility over NECR



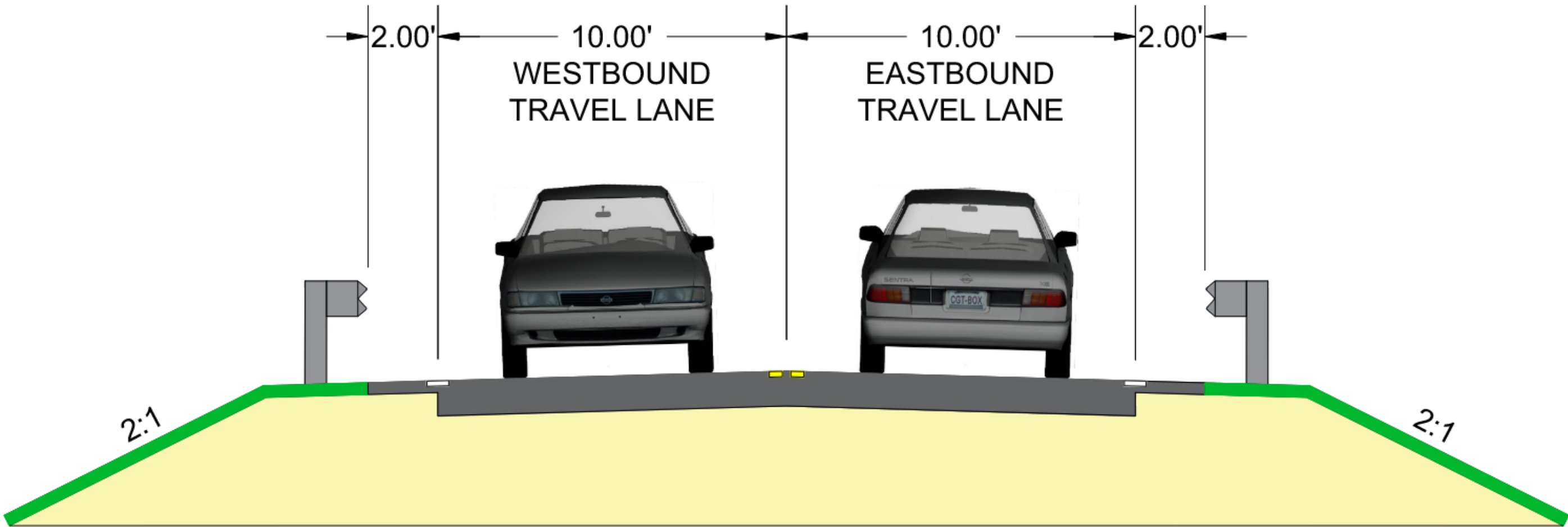


**What is the
proposed
design?**

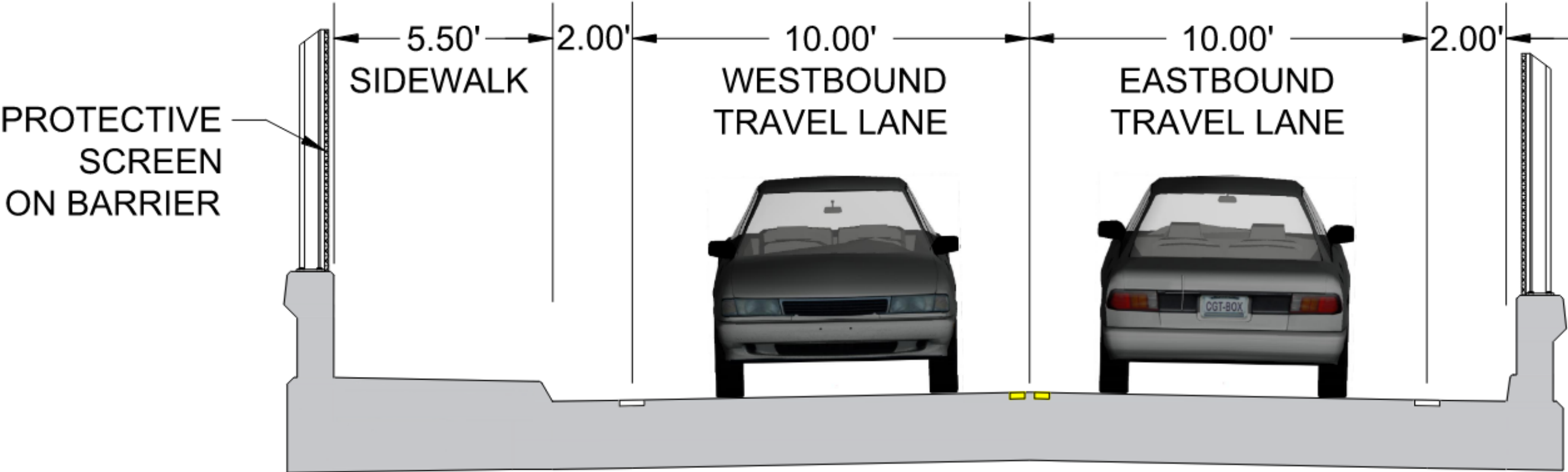
Proposed Design



Proposed Design – Stafford Hollow Road Approach



Proposed Design – Stafford Hollow Bridge Section





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

Pedestrians & Cyclists

- Currently there are no bicycle or pedestrian facilities in this area
- Concept design includes installation of a sidewalk on one side of the bridge
- Concept design adds usable shoulders within the project limits

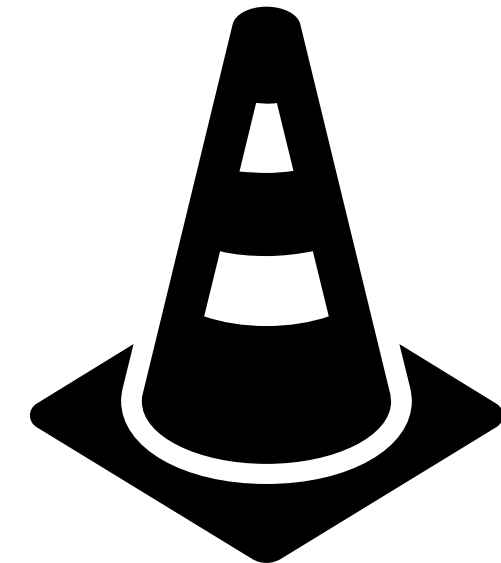
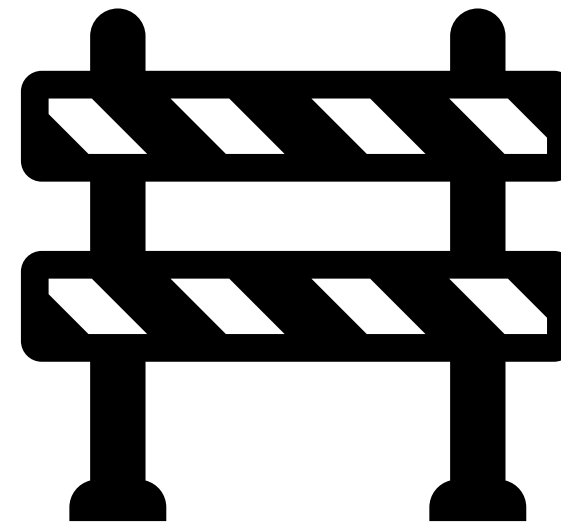




**What is the
construction
approach?**

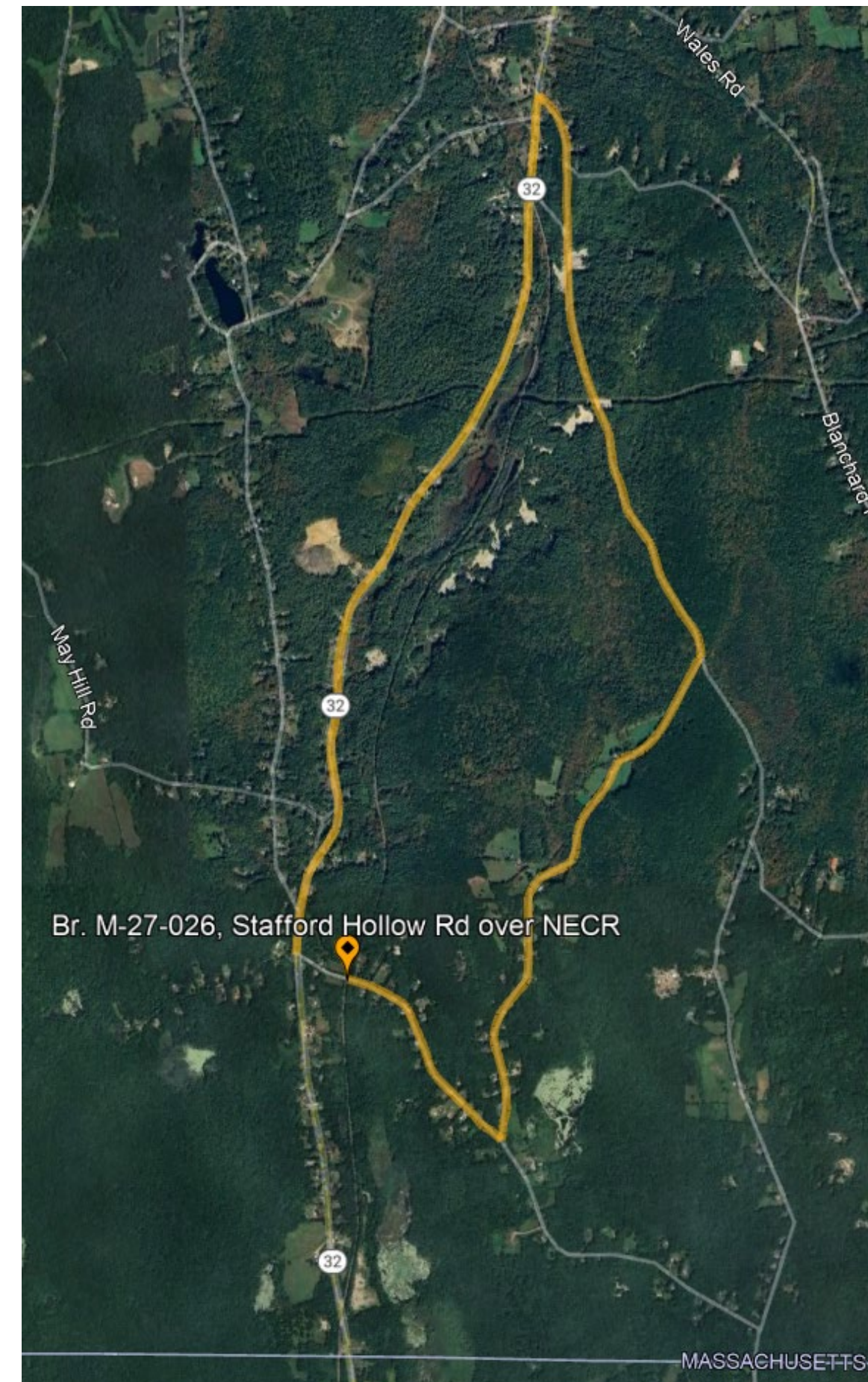
Construction Impacts

- Good possibility of traffic being detoured around the bridge to facilitate its removal and reconstruction.
- Advance signing will be used to alert the traveling public to the closure and detour route.
- Access to all adjacent residences will be maintained at all times during construction.



Traffic Detour

- Stafford Road (Route 32) to Cedar Swamp Road to Peck Brothers Road to Stafford Hollow Road
- Similar detour route was implemented in 2021 for previous bridge repair work
- Advance signing will be used to alert the traveling public to the closure and detour route.
- Access to all adjacent residences will be maintained at all times during construction.





**How will your
property be
impacted?**

Preliminary Right of Way (ROW) discussion

Public Information Meeting

- 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.
- Preliminary ROW drawings are still being developed and should be available for the 25% design public hearing.

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.

Our next steps



25% Design
Submission

Spring 2025



25% Design Public
Hearing

Summer 2025



Tentative
Advertising Date

Summer 2027



**How will we
keep you
informed?**

How to reach us

- Submit email comments to:
 - MassDOTProjectManagement@dot.state.ma.us
 - Subject: MassDOT Project File No. 613139 – Monson
- 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: PROJECT MANAGEMENT, PROJECT FILE NO. 613139





Questions and discussion

Questions and answers



- “Raise your hand”



- 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

All questions and comments are subject to disclosure for public records.



Thank You

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Adam W. Kiel, P.E. | MassDOTProjectManagement@dot.state.ma.us