



Vietnam Veterans' Memorial Bridge Replacement

*Patriotic & Memorial Committee
American Legion 452*

Chicopee | June 19 | 5:00 PM

Project File Number: 612187



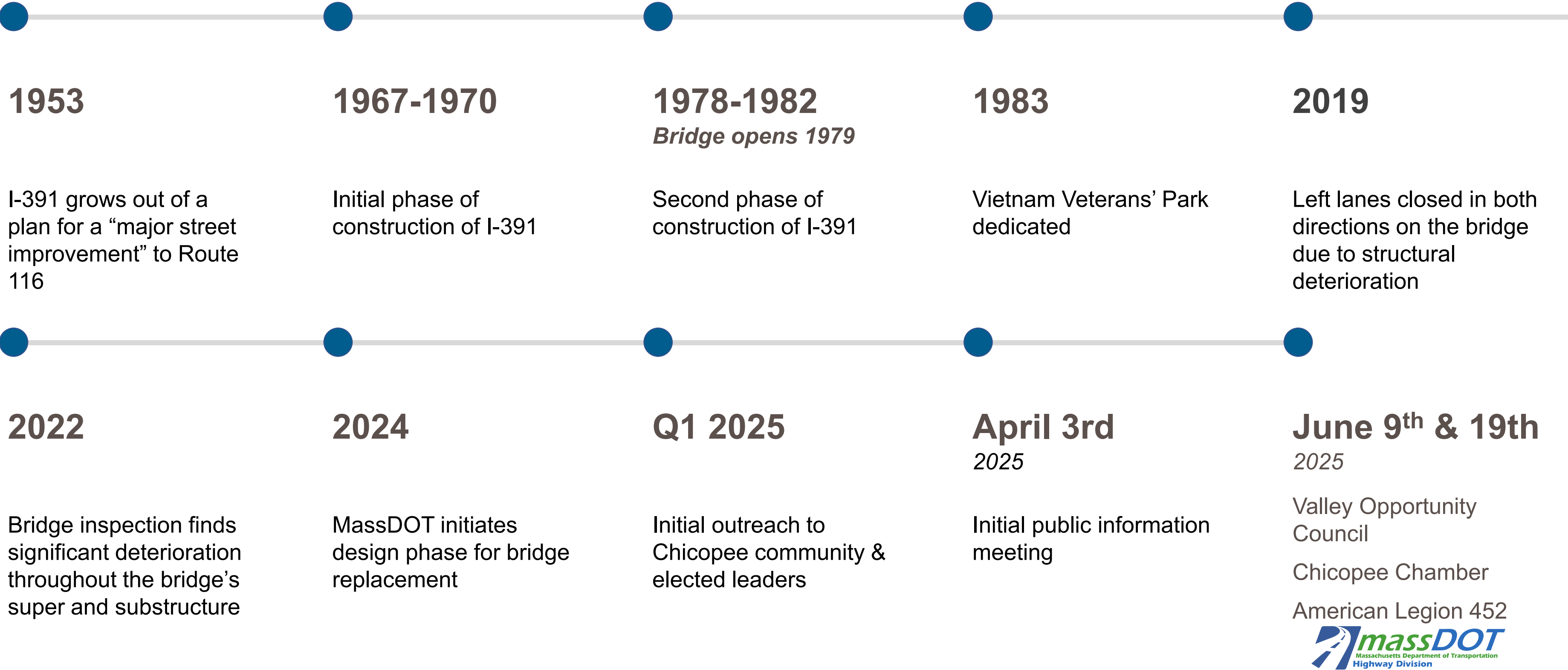
Thank You for
your Service

Agenda

1. Welcome & Overview
2. Why Was This Project Initiated
3. What is our Construction Approach
4. Project Status
5. Impacts to Vietnam Veterans Park and Potential Remedies
6. How will we keep you informed?
7. Questions and discussion



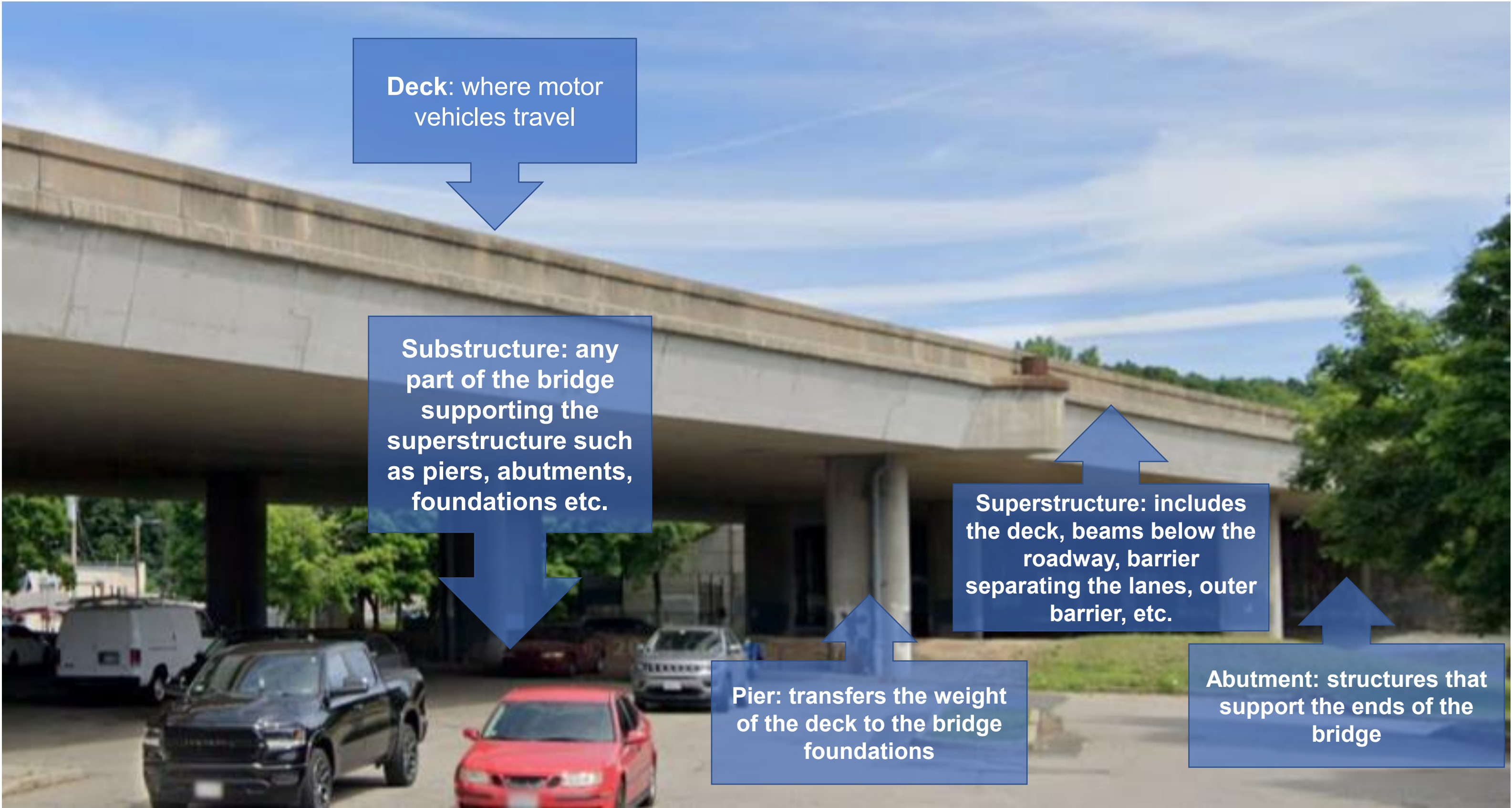
How did we get here?



Project Limits and Context



Key Terms



Deck: where motor vehicles travel

Substructure: any part of the bridge supporting the superstructure such as piers, abutments, foundations etc.

Superstructure: includes the deck, beams below the roadway, barrier separating the lanes, outer barrier, etc.

Pier: transfers the weight of the deck to the bridge foundations

Abutment: structures that support the ends of the bridge



**Why was this
project
initiated?**

10/16/20

Vietnam Veterans' Memorial Bridge: Key Facts

- Configuration
 - 840' long
 - 111' wide (edge-to edge)
 - Concrete box girder superstructure
 - Six piers
 - Two abutments
- Approximate daily traffic:
 - 14,600 northbound
 - 13,000 southbound
 - 3% heavy vehicles (buses, trucks)
- Three lanes in each direction
 - Left lanes closed in both directions due to structural deterioration



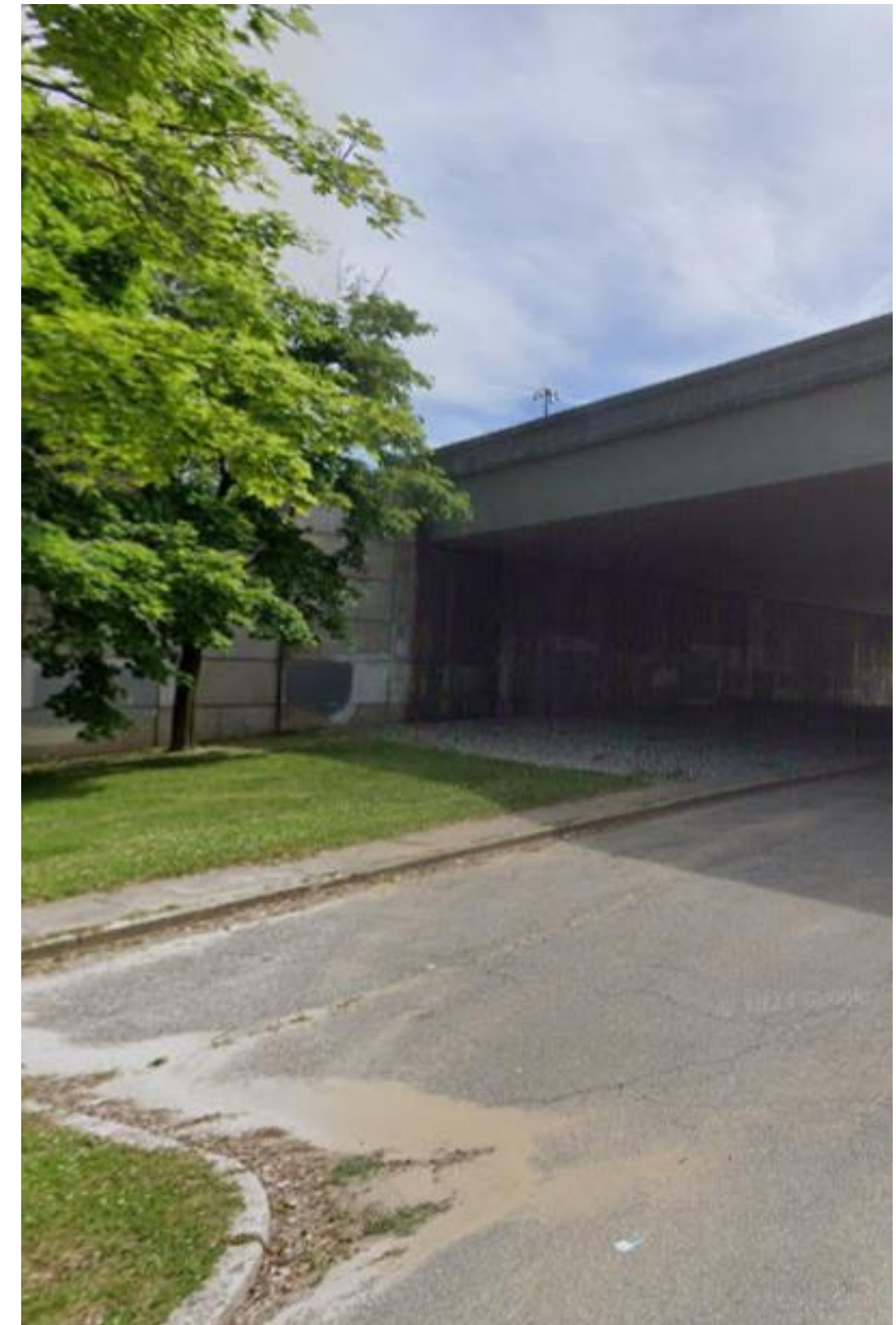
A Deteriorated Structure

- Super- and Substructure are in poor condition:
 - Spalled/delaminated concrete
 - Exposed reinforcing steel
 - Damaged expansion joints
- *Remains safe for all users*
- Has reached the end of its useful lifespan and must be replaced



Goals for the New Bridge

- A new bridge should:
 - Restore I-391 to a full six lane cross section (3 lanes NB and 3 lanes SB)
 - Provide for current and future traffic volumes including heavy vehicles
 - Be constructible in halves to maintain highway traffic during construction
 - Provide a 75-year design lifespan to reduce long-term impacts to local and regional motorists and transit users





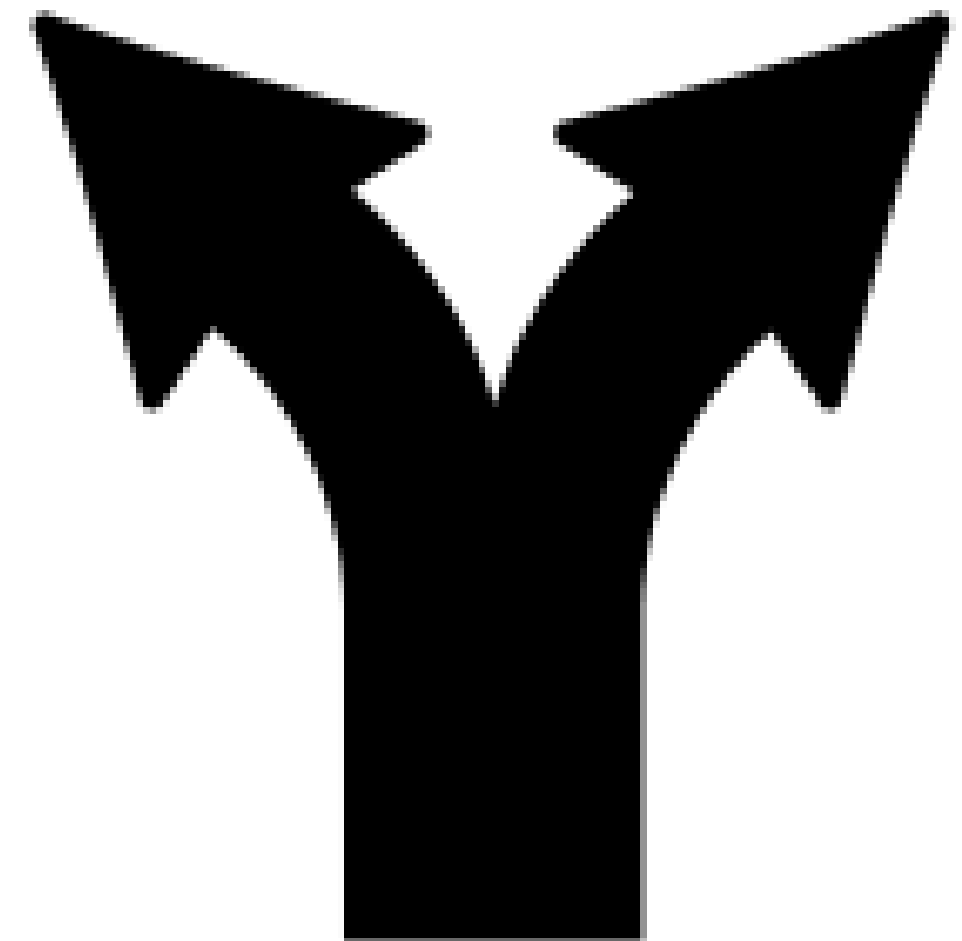
**What is the
construction
approach?**

Proposed construction approach: Design-Build

- The current team will develop a 25% design and base technical concept (BTC) for bid by Design-Build (DB) entities
- DB Best Value procurement
 - Short-List Best Qualified Teams
 - Shorten project duration
 - Promote innovation by teaming the engineer and the general contractor
 - Allow for accelerated bridge construction (ABC) techniques if applicable
- MassDOT's contract with the Design Builder will stipulate requirements for traffic management while also providing the DB flexibility to develop their own approach to staging.
- Incentives / Disincentives may be used to ensure compliance with contract timelines

Alternative Technical Concepts (ATC's)

- Design Builders may propose ATC's as part of their bid
- ATC's may address:
 - Construction staging
 - Construction techniques
 - Materials used for construction
 - Structure type
 - Traffic management
- The advantages of any ATC must be proven to MassDOT's satisfaction





Project Status

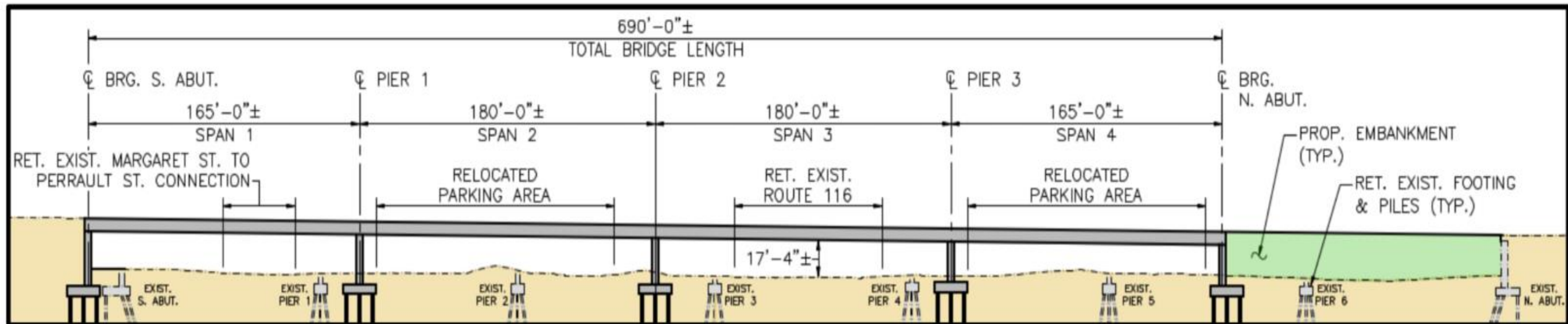
Status of Design Work

- Completed:
 - Bridge Type Selection Worksheet
 - Initial & Supplemental Traffic Data Collection
 - Preliminary Structures Report
 - Survey
- In progress:
 - Test borings
 - 25% design elements



Anticipated Span Arrangement

- Reduces unused/nuisance activity space below the bridge
- Avoids existing pier locations
- Limits ROW impacts
- Maintains Margaret St. to Perrault St. connection



4 Span Arrangement

Anticipated Structure Type - I

- Several structure types evaluated:
 - Steel Plate Girder
 - Steel Box Girder
 - Spliced Concrete Bulb Tee Girder
- The spliced concrete bulb tee girder offers the best performance:
 - Similar appearance to existing structure
 - Reduced maintenance means fewer community and traveler impacts
 - Less susceptible to damage from roadway deicing salt
 - Lowest anticipated construction and lifecycle costs

Anticipated Structure Type - II

- Replacement bridge will mirror other recent MassDOT bridges and viaducts
 - MassDOT aesthetic column treatment to be used, given visible neighborhood location



Winter St. over I-95 in Waltham



Belmont St. over I-290 in Worcester

Keeping You Moving During Construction - I

- Presented on April 3rd:
 - One northbound lane and two southbound lanes
- Investigating design refinement:
 - Two northbound lanes and two southbound lanes
- Existing structure demolished/new structure built one half at a time to provide a consistent two lanes in both directions during peak periods
- Repairs to allow traffic onto currently closed areas could begin as early as fall 2026



Keeping You Moving During Construction - II

- Public safety impacts:
 - Chicopee Street, Margaret/Perrault connector would close for demolition or construction above them, but not at the same time unless absolutely necessary
 - Sections of parking would need to periodically close for the same reason
 - Rolling roadblocks on I-391



DEDICATED TO THE MEMORY OF
THE MEN & WOMEN WHO SERVED
IN THE VIETNAM CONFLICT,
ESPECIALLY THOSE HERE HONORED
WHO GAVE THEIR LIVES, AND TO

FATHER LOUIS ARTHUR SIMARD
WHO MINISTERED TO THE PEOPLE
IN THE SERVICE OF GOD AS
PASTOR OF NATIVITY B.V.M.P.

1919 - 1944

MAY YOUR VISIT BRING BACK MEMORIES
OF THOSE HONORED BY THIS PARK.
THEIR SERVICE TO GOD AND COUNTRY
WAS FOR THE GOOD OF ALL MANKIND.

MAY THEIR DEEDS ALWAYS BE
REMEMBERED.

OCTOBER 23, 1983



Impacts to Vietnam Veterans Park and Potential Remedies

The Park is Important

- MassDOT takes the presence of the Vietnam Veterans' Park seriously
- Coordination with Veterans' Services Director Stephanie Shaw began in November 2024
- A landscape architect has been retained and is here tonight to speak with you
- **Any construction impact to the park will be fully restored at the end of the project**
- **Access will be maintained to allow the commemoration on the Saturday before Memorial Day to go on without disruption**

Our Concern

- Some impact to the Vietnam Veterans' Park appears to be inevitable
- The crane's anticipated path-of-travel impacts the park's western-most edge



Existing Conditions



Bridge Reconstruction Offers an Opportunity to Renovate the Park

- Retain basic layout
- Install new paving, benches, receptacles, plantings, lighting, and fencing
- Create more attractive and respectful setting
 - Add planted area along Chicopee Street
 - Redesign plantings with birch grove, meadow, and other plants to better separate Park from Bridge
 - Add stone dust path inside Chicopee St. edge of park
 - invitation to walk along and read veteran's memorials
 - Makes more accessible
 - Consider: adding QR codes for each veteran connecting to memorial website
- Incorporate new path connecting Park to Connecticut River and Rivers Park
 - Helps increase awareness and adds eyes on Park





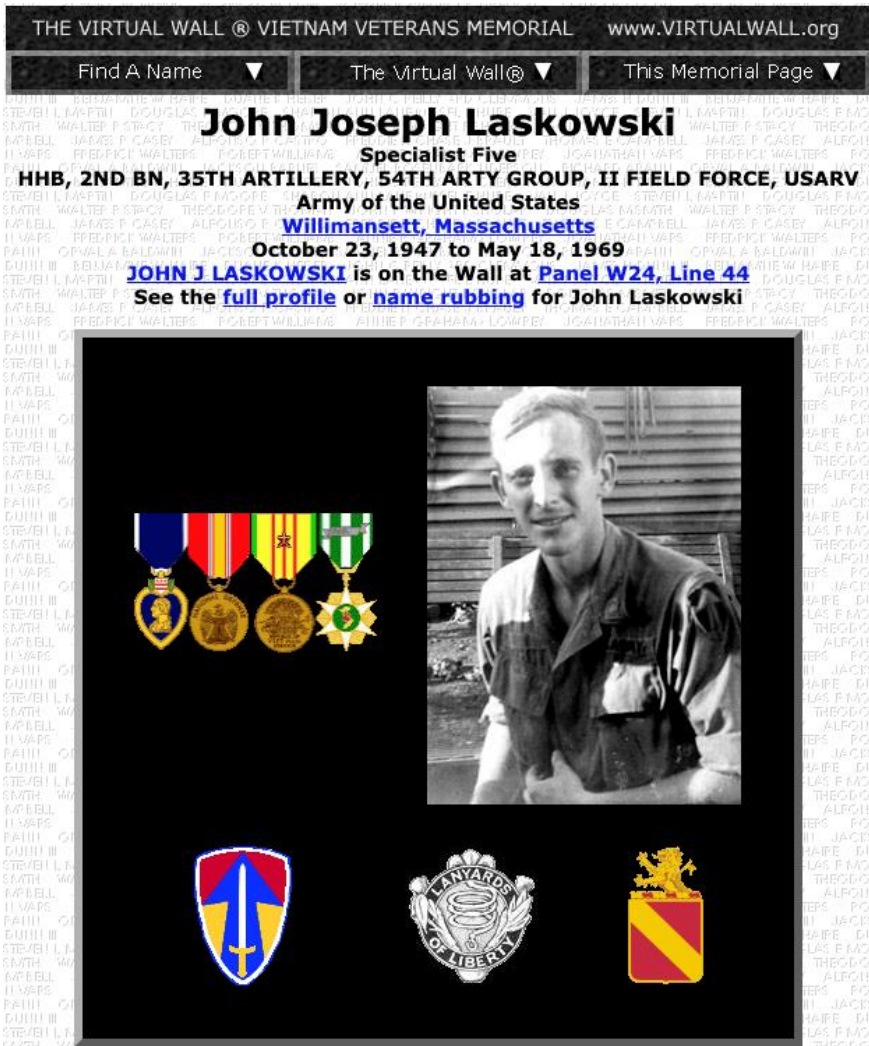


SP5 John J. Laskowski, 21 years old, son of John S. and Emilea (Przybyc) Laskowski of 50 Cross Street, Chicopee, MA, a meteorologist, was killed on May 18, 1969 in Xuan Loc, Vietnam when enemy mortar fire shelled his company. SP5 Laskowski was a member of H.H.B. 2nd BN, 35th Arty, 54th Arty Group, and had three months left of an enlistment in Vietnam.

SP5 Laskowski had been awarded posthumously the Bronze Star Medal for heroism, Purple Heart, and the Good Conduct Medal. Prior to his death, he had been awarded the National Defense Service Medal, Vietnam Service Medal with one Bronze Service Star, Vietnam Campaign Ribbon, and the Expert Badge with Rifle bar.

He was born in Holyoke, October 23, 1947, was educated in the Chicopee school system and was graduated from Chicopee Comprehensive High School in 1965. SP5 Laskowski played basketball and baseball with St. Mary's of Williamsett.

He enlisted shortly after his graduation from high school and took his basic training at Fort Monmouth, New Jersey and had been in Vietnam for about nine months. SP5 Laskowski had 3 sisters, Ms. Linda Hernhe, the late Mrs. Joan Deforge and Mrs. Phyllis Potvin. SP5 Laskowski was buried in the St. Stanislaus Cemetery, Chicopee on May 28, 1969.



On that day, SFC Litwin was a rifle platoon sergeant of Company A, an infantry unit, on a search and destroy mission near Dak To. His platoon was attacked by a North Vietnamese battalion and pinned down by an intense hail of automatic weapons fire. Seeing his platoon leader killed, SFC Litwin stood up in the midst of the firefight to rally his men against the numerically-superior hostile force. Wounded early in the battle, he refused medical aid and directed the fire of his men on the onrushing enemy soldiers. Hearing a cry for help, under fire he ran forward of his lines to aid a wounded comrade. Wounded a 2nd time, he still carried the man back to safety under heavy fire. He continued to repel the mass assaults while radioing for air strikes within 50 meters of his positions. He sustained a 3rd wound while directing the air and artillery strikes, but still refused aid while he continued fighting to repulse the enemy onslaught. Knowing that his defenses could not last much longer, he moved through the bullet-swept area directing the withdrawal of his men. While evacuating the wounded, he was hit a 4th time. Continuing to refuse aid, he sent his men ahead and remained to cover the withdrawal. He was mortally wounded while leading his men in the face of grave danger. SFC Litwin's extraordinary heroism, at the cost of his life, earned him the U.S. Army's second highest award for valor, the Distinguished Service Cross.



THE VIRTUAL WALL © VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIALwww.VIRTUALWALL.org

Find A Name

The Virtual Wall@

This Memorial Page

Robert Richard Litwin

Platoon Sergeant

A CO, 2ND BN, 503RD INFANTRY, 173RD ABN BDE, USARV








Army of the United States


Willimansett, Massachusetts

August 05, 1941 to June 22, 1967

ROBERT R LITWIN is on the Wall at Panel 22E, Line 43

See the full profile or name rubbing for Robert Litwin

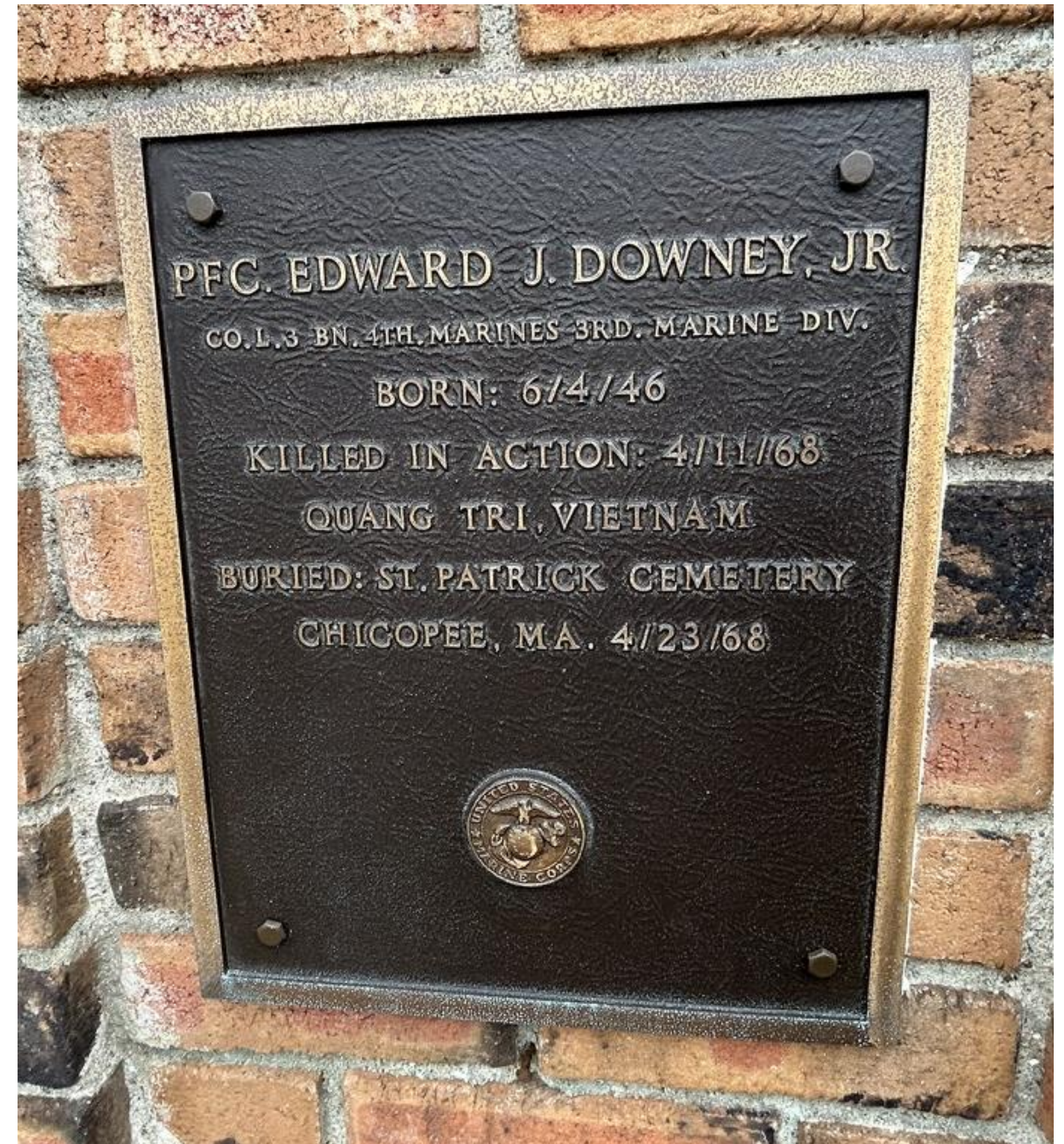
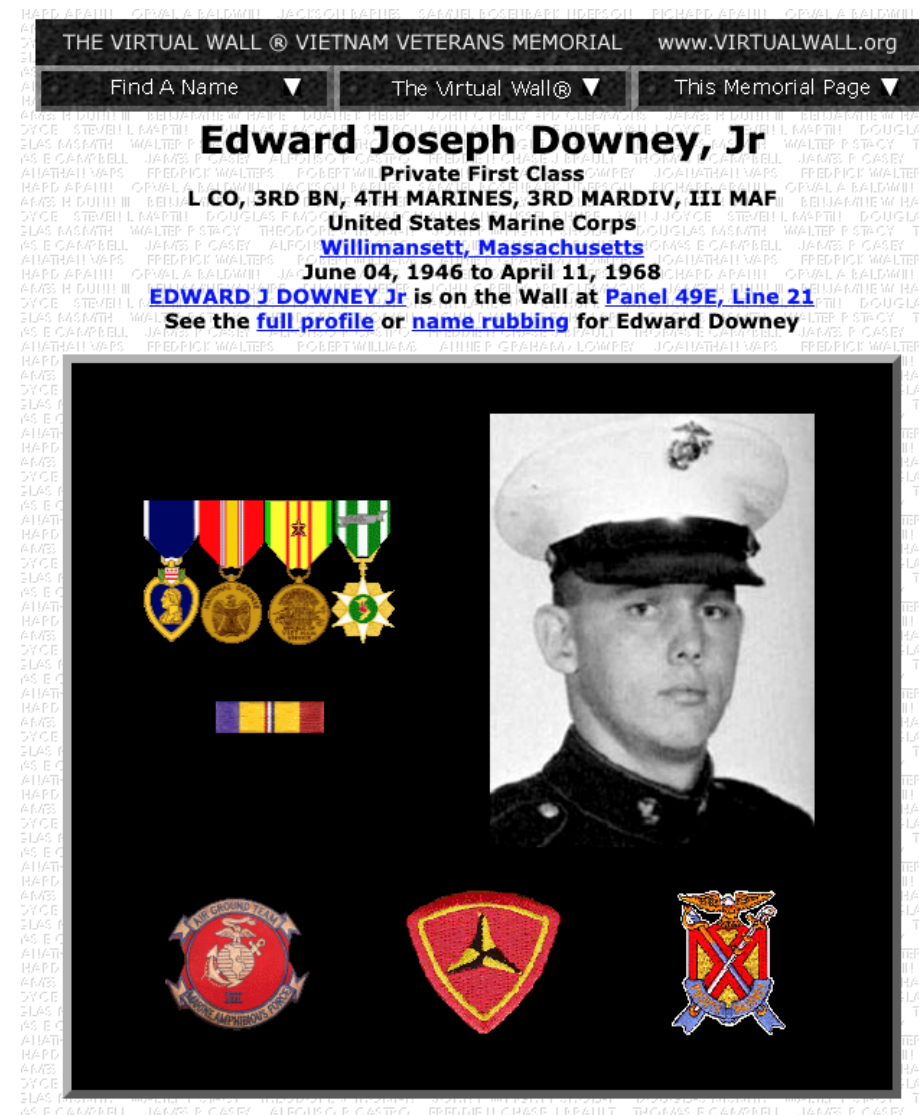


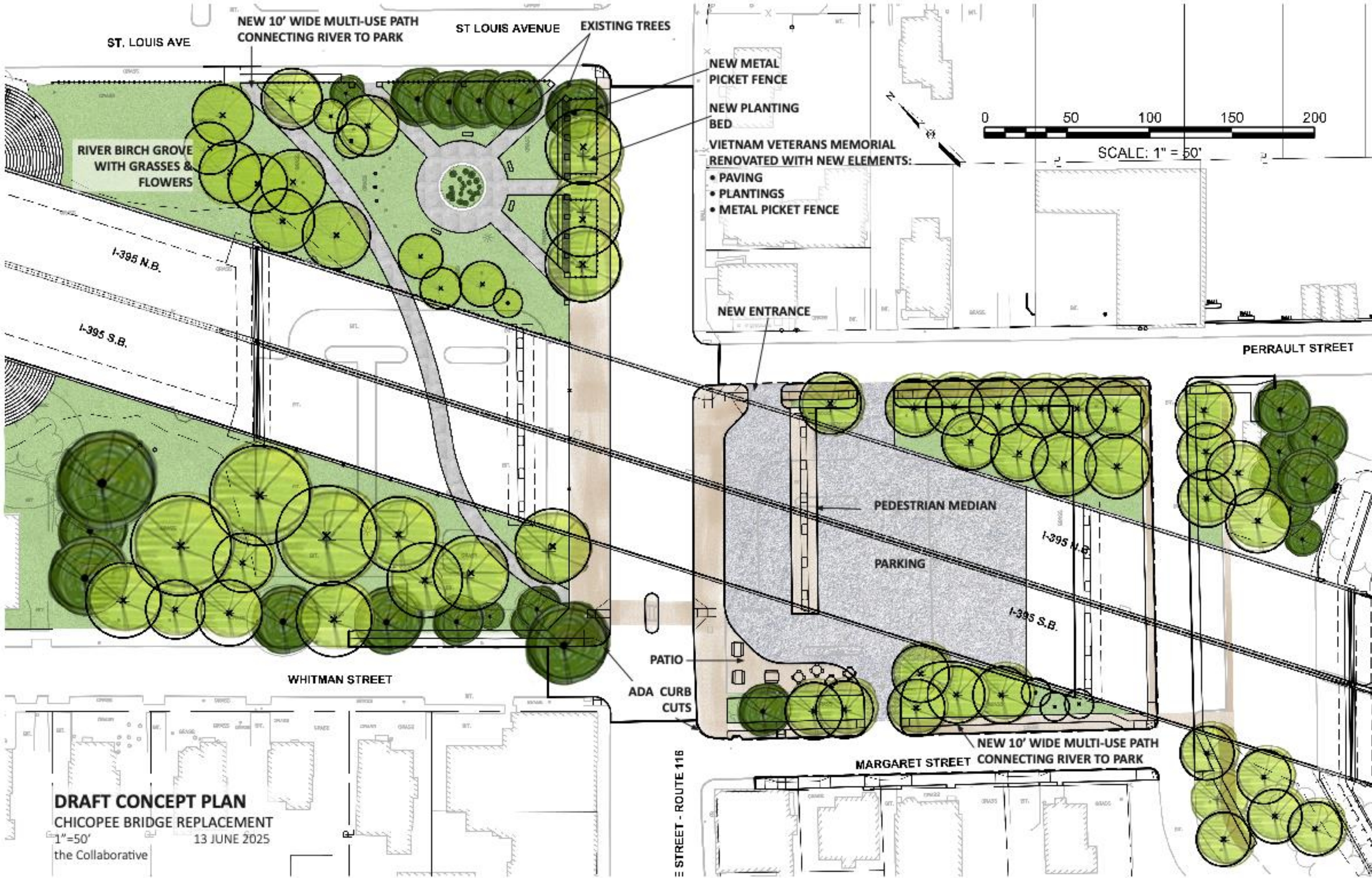




Though his name was Edward, I only knew him as Butch, my namesake. I never got to meet him, he died before I was born, but I know he was a great man. He was my father's best friend. They grew up together, got in trouble together, both are Devil Dogs, and now they are in heaven together. He got his nickname 'Butch' because of his size. He was a short guy, but as my Dad described him, "Build like a brick outhouse". My father would bring me to visit his beloved sister from time to time when I was a kid, so she could see his namesake. I've always been proud of this man I never met. Honor, courage, commitment, integrity, he had it all. I still have his dress blues. I used to get into them (when they still fit, I'm a lot taller) and imagine being a Marine like him and my Dad. I'm currently serving my country in the US Navy, with 4 years until retirement.

Though the Wall directory shows him as 49E 021, he was a son, a brother, a best friend and a Marine. I'm proud to carry the same nickname as a hero. Thank you, Butch, we love and miss you!





Our next steps

Anticipated start of construction: 2027
~3.5 years of construction



- June 2025 Briefings
- Valley Opportunity Council
 - Chicopee Chamber of Commerce
 - American Legion Post 452



2nd Awareness campaign
Public Meeting &
June/August 2025



25% design public
hearing - Fall 2025



Advertise for Design
Builders – Summer
2026



Issue winning Design
Builder Notice to
Proceed – Fall 2026



How will we
keep you
informed?


Upcoming public outreach

- Summer: 2nd public information meeting to:
 - Provide an update on concept design
 - Check that we understood community input correctly
- Please reach out:
 - Existing issues the new bridge can address
 - Thoughts about construction



Construction Period Outreach

- Outreach specifications are written into the construction contract
- I-495 Andover-Lawrence Bridge Replacements – a case study:
 - Public meeting ahead of construction
 - Community group briefings
 - Flyer drops ahead of high-impact operations
 - Dedicated email address for questions
 - Construction period hotline
 - Weekly progress reports/lookaheads
 - Project website
 - Project list serve



I-495 Andover-Lawrence Bridge Replacements

ROUTE 28 NORTHBOUND TEMPORARY OVERNIGHT CLOSURES

What is happening?

Between the hours of 10:00 PM on Tuesday, January 7th and 4:00 AM on Wednesday, January 8th, 2025, Route 28 northbound (towards Lawrence) will be closed where it passes below I-495. Extreme weather may delay this operation, but it is anticipated that the closure will be repeated nightly as needed for approximately the next three weeks excluding the nights of Fridays and Saturdays. When Route 28 northbound is shut down, Route 28 southbound (towards Andover) will not be impacted. Community members are encouraged to sign up for email alerts and to check the project website mass.gov/I-495-Andover-Lawrence-Bridge-Replacements during these three weeks for more detailed information.

While Route 28 northbound is shut down, members of the project team for the I-495 Andover-Lawrence Bridge Replacements will demolish portions of bridges which carry the interstate over Route 28. This is a first step towards building the new bridges associated with this job while maintaining traffic on I-495. MassDOT recognizes that nighttime demolition work is disruptive, but a full shut down of Route 28 is required to ensure public safety. As was discussed during our spring 2024 public meetings, this can only be accomplished during the overnight hours when traffic volumes drop substantially.

How will this affect you?

During the closure of Route 28 under I-495, traffic that would normally travel along Route 28 southbound and then reverse direction to access destinations on Binney or Shepley Streets will not be able to do so. To maintain access to these residential areas, the section of Route 28 locally known as South Union Street will operate in a two-way condition under control of police details between 10:00 PM and 4:00 AM each night of the closure. One police detail will be stationed approximately just to the south of Binney Street, the other approximately where Route 28 splits into South Union Street and South Street.


Other Ramp Closures

During these overnight closures, Ramp D (Route 28 northbound to I-495 southbound – towards Lowell) and Ramp E (I-495 northbound – towards Haverhill to Route 28 northbound) will also be closed to ensure public safety. More information about these detours can be found on our project website: www.mass.gov/I-495-Andover-Lawrence-Bridge-Replacements.

How can I find out more?

Please visit the project website below for more details, to sign up for updates and email alerts, and to view the latest resources on the Andover-Lawrence Bridge replacement project:

Project website www.mass.gov/I-495-Andover-Lawrence-Bridge-Replacements
 Project email I495AndoverLawrence@dot.state.ma.us
 Project phone (English, Spanish, Vietnamese): 978-981-8770



MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
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How to reach us?

- Submit written comments to:
Carrie Lavalley, P.E., Chief Engineer
MassDOT
10 Park Plaza
Boston, MA 02116
Attention: MAJOR PROJECTS, PROJECT FILE NO. 612187
- Submit email comments to:
i-391bridgechicopee@dot.state.ma.us
- Visit the project website and sign up for project emails at:
www.mass.gov/i-391-bridge-replacement-chicopee



Questions & Discussion



Thank You

*Patriotic & Memorial Committee
American Legion 452*

Chicopee | June 19 | 5:00 PM

Project File Number: 612187

Aleksey Belov- i-391bridgechicopee@dot.state.ma.us

