



### **How to Participate**

- Listen and view the 30-minute presentation
- Ask questions to project team during question-and-answer period
- Submit comments into the comment box at the sign-in table
- Representatives of the media can direct media inquiries to Jacquelyn.Goddard@dot.state.ma.us



### **General Public Information Meeting Notes and Procedures**

- MassDOT may retain and distribute transcripts / written records of this meeting
- All parts of this meeting are considered public record.
- Information from this meeting will be posted on the Mass.gov website.
- This meeting will be open to questions and answers at the end of the presentation
- bublic record. ted on the Mass.gov



### 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: <a href="http://www.mass.gov/nondiscrimination-in-transportation-program/www.mbta.com/titlevi">www.mass.gov/nondiscrimination-in-transportation-program / www.mbta.com/titlevi</a> to reach the Office of Diversity and Civil Rights.

All questions and comments are welcome and appreciated.

Please refrain from any disrespectful comments.



#### Agenda

- 1. Welcome & Overview
- 2. Why was this project initiated?
- 3. What do we want to accomplish?
- 4. How has our design progressed?
- 5. How will roadway users be impacted?
- 6. What are the environmental, cultural resource, and community impacts?
- 7. What is our construction approach?
- 8. How will we keep you informed?
- 9. Questions and discussion





### Welcome and Meeting Overview:

- 30-minute presentation
  - Aleksey Belov, Project Manager, Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT)
  - Andy Benkert, Project Management/Bridge Engineering, WSP
  - Brenda Codella, MassDOT, Right-of-Way (ROW)
  - Nathaniel Cabral-Curtis, Communications and Public Involvement, WSP
- Q&A Period
  - Aleksey Belov, Project Manager, Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT)
  - Andy Benkert, Project Management/Bridge Engineering, WSP
  - Ashna Jaiswal, Landscape Architecture, The Collaborative
  - Brenda Codella, MassDOT, Right-of-Way (ROW)
  - Dan Racicot, MassDOT Government Affairs
  - David Chia, Landscape Architecture, The Collaborative
  - Laura Hanson, MassDOT, District 2 Projects Engineer
  - Paula Simmons, MassDOT, District 2 Project Development Engineer
  - Nathaniel Cabral-Curtis, Communications and Public Involvement, WSP



#### Language Translation **Speakers**

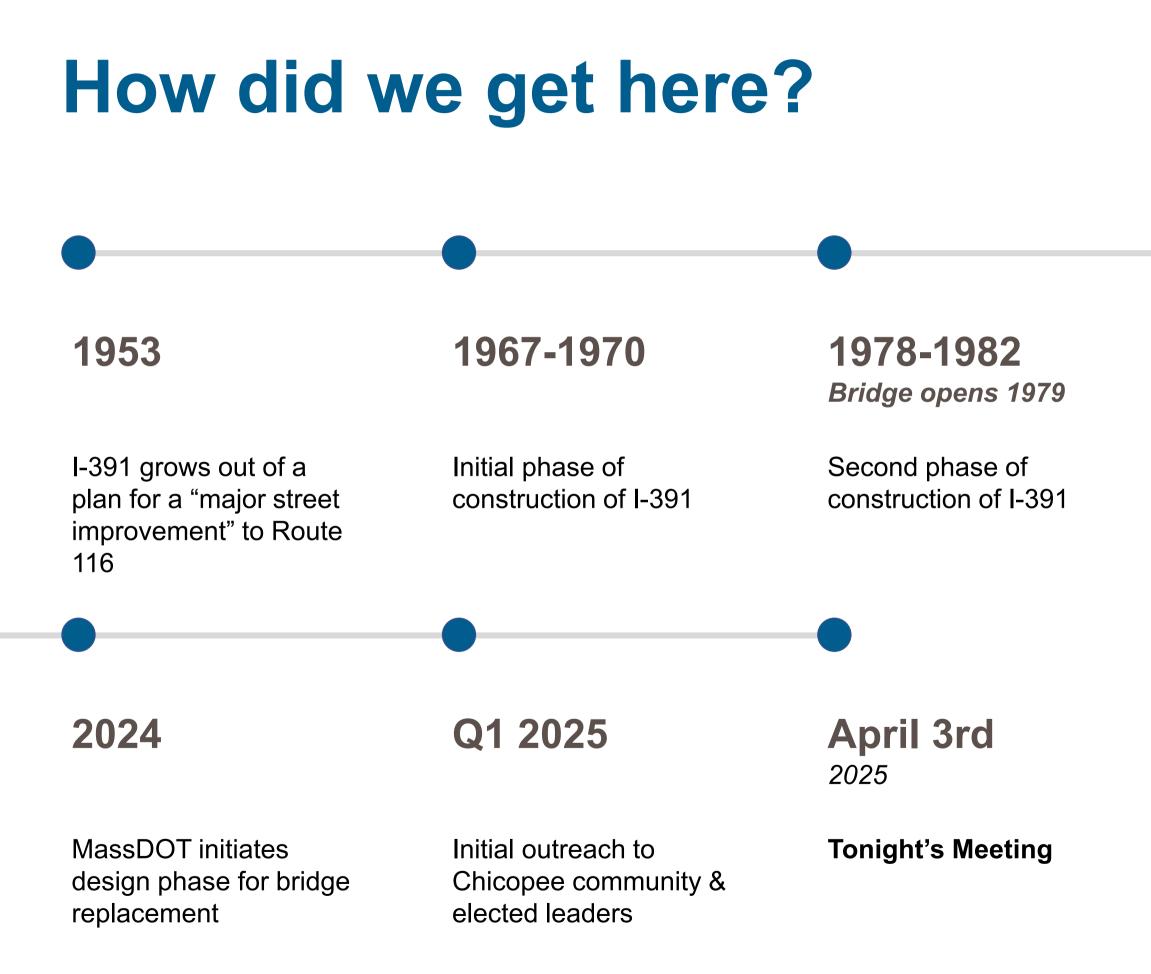
#### Russian

Ekaterina Komovkina

#### Spanish

Marwel Mercado





#### 2019

Left lanes closed in both directions on the bridge due to structural deterioration

#### 2022

Bridge inspection finds significant deterioration throughout the bridge's super and substructure



### **Public Information Meeting - Advertisement**

- MassDOT email burst: 3/19, 3/26, 4/2, 4/3
- Newsprint:
  - The Chicopee Register: 3/21 and 3/28
  - The Holyoke Sun: 3/21 and 3/28
  - The Reminder: 3/27 and 4/3
  - The Springfield Republican: 3/20 and 3/27
  - Vocero Hispano: 3/21 and 3/28
- Radio:
  - Neuva 98.1 FM Weeks of 3/24 and 3/31
  - WNEPM 88.5 FM Weeks of 3/24 and 3/31
- Public Access Cable TV
  - Chicopee: 3/20-4/3
  - Holyoke: 3/20-4/3
  - Springfield: 3/20-4/3

### HOLYOKE

### new england public media





TUESDAY, MARCH 11, 2025

#### AN ORBITING TRAFFIC JAM

'All of this is now in question'

MIT researchers have calculated as global warming continues, it might reduce the space for satellites in Earth's lower orbit by 33% to 82% by the end of the century. Page A9

#### TODAY'S MUST-READS

#### Former Clarion shelter closing

The former Clacion Rotel and Actua Lagoon in West Springfield is set to close by June 30, as Mannachusetts phases out the use of hotels as enregency shelters. This decision is part of a

manage the costainability of its Emergency Assistance program, which has seen a significant increase in demand in recent years.

#### NORTHAMPTON

#### MassGeneral mum on local job losses

Coordy Dictation Hospital's porent organization, Bostor-based Mass General Brigham, announced a second runnd of hyorfts Monday. The curhacts are aimed at closing a \$250 million hudget gap within the next two years at Mass General Brigham, according to a statement from the health system. A first round of job cuts was

announced last month. Full story on Page A3

#### SPRINGFIELD

City spends \$7M settlement on recovery programs

#### Secret evidence weighed

West Springheld man fights his presence in terrorism database, as judge ponders secrecy measures

#### BY DANIEL JACESON

A lawnuit in Springfield's federal court describes life for a West Springfield man who claims his name appeared on a federal termin

varentest. Ahmad Mirnay's inclusion is the database sented him from obtaining a gan carry licen

ented fain from obtaining a gain carry to ave delayed his efforts to become a rati ours when he traveled to Afghanistan to attend bi nother's wedding, according to the complaint. "Defindants placed Mr. Mirzay on the federal revorist watchilist, at least is part, because Mr. Grany's beother is on the list," the complaint on "Defined on some this life outlines."

ays. "Defendants named his life upside down." Mirray joined 15 people across the country to strug the lawnit first filed in 2023, saying their bened inclusion in the database, which was

Beged inclusion in the database, which was tarted in the aftermath of %71, violated their fase process rights and their right against sourch and semare. They want a court to first the watchint uncountingtional and for a judge to order changes in how it is nun and how they are treated when they travel.

Over the last few months, however, attorneys is the case how argand over how to bandle evidence the government filed in the case that it wants here secure.

STE SECRET, PAGE AD

#### PVPA students stage walkout

Protesters cite 'unheard' concerns of teacher aide's harassment

#### BY STEPHANIE BARRY

As school bells chimnel in the distance Manslay at the Pioneer Valley Performing Arts Charter Public School, students took to the computation with bulkborn Docress of real-file and high school students surfaced out in





### Public Information Meeting – Flyer Drops and Staffed Tables

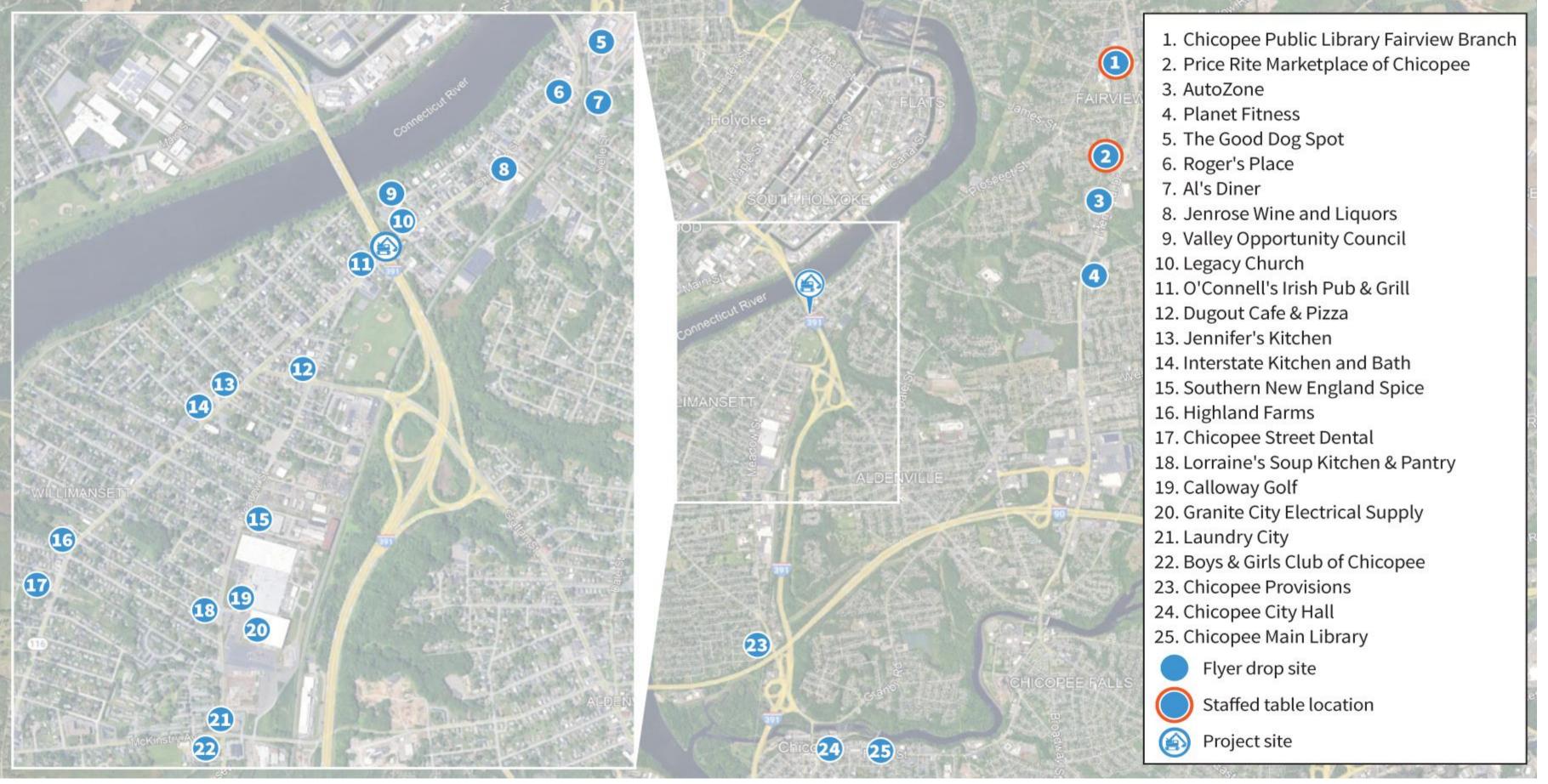
Staffed Tables:

- Price Rite Marketplace
- Chicopee Public Library
- Flyer Drops at 25 locations in Chicopee, focused on Willimansett





### Flyer Drop and Staffed Table Locations







massDO7

### Thank You To Those Who Shared Our Flyers

State and Municipal:

- State Delegation for Chicopee
- Municipal governments for Chicopee, Holyoke, and Springfield
- Chicopee municipal departments:
  - Disability
  - Housing
  - Seniors
  - Veterans

Local community organizations, medical providers, schools, and social service providers

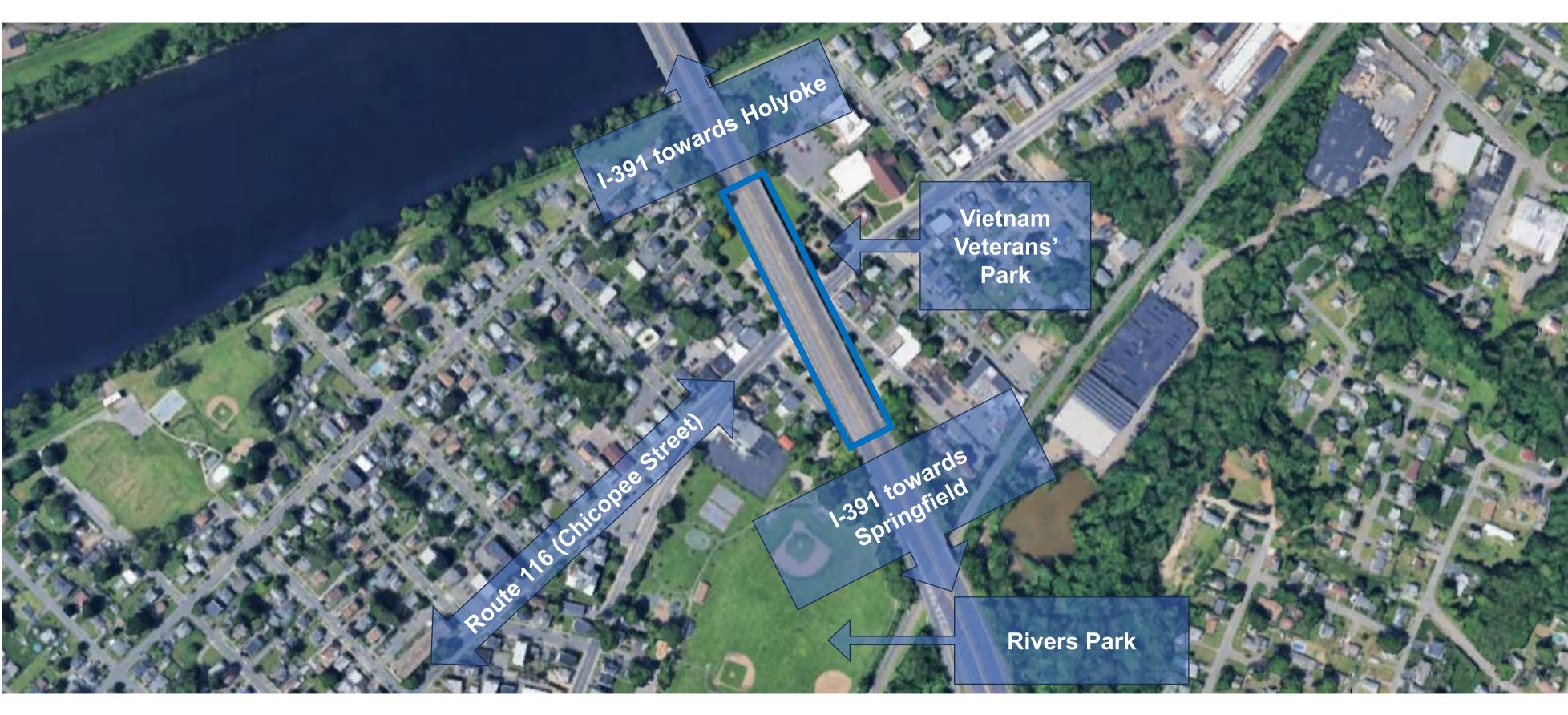
Thank you to Chicopee city staff for suggesting our meeting site





# Why was this project initiated?

#### **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.

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

LEXXXXX ....

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

> Abutment: structures that support the ends of the bridge



### Vietnam Veterans' Memorial Bridge: Key Facts

- Opened to traffic in 1979
- 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**

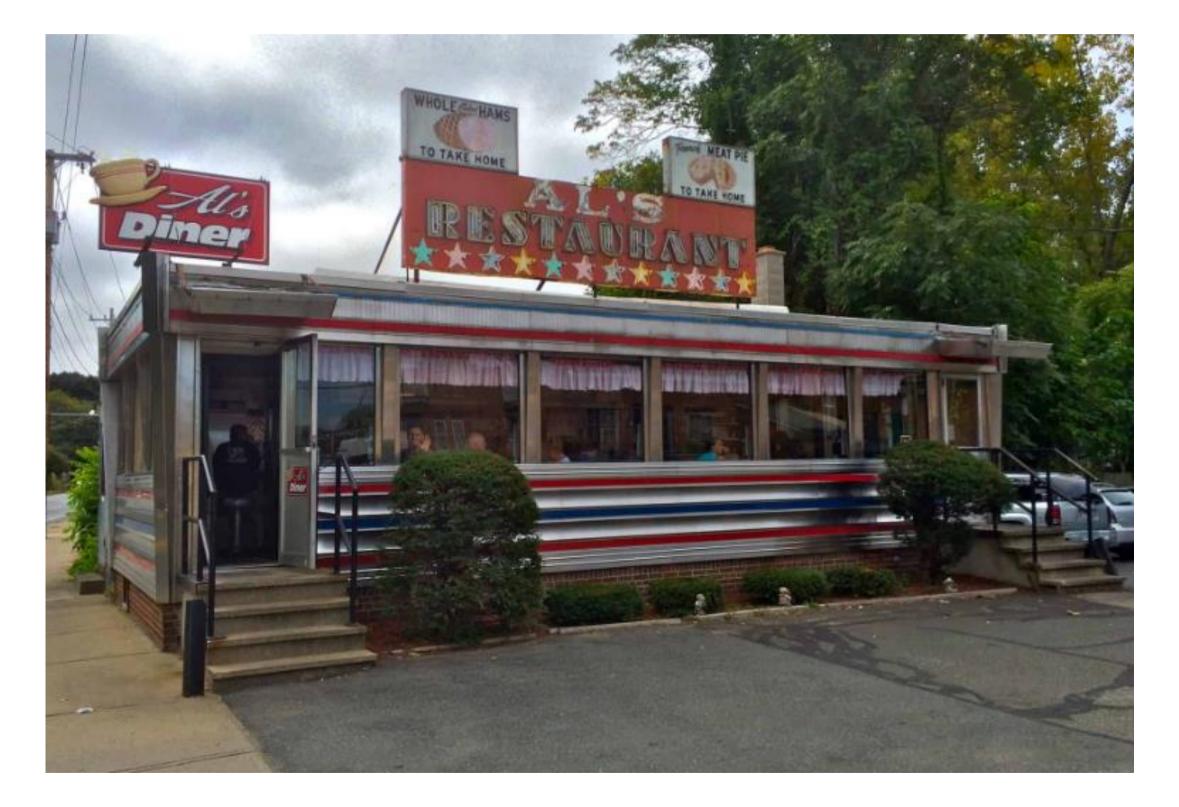
- Super- and Substructure are in poor condition:
  - Spalled/delaminated concrete
  - Exposed reinforcing steel
  - Damaged expansion joints
- Remains safe for all users
- Has reached the end of its useful lifespan and must be replaced





### Work Completed to Date

- Bridge Type Selection
  Worksheet
- Initial Traffic Data Collection
- Preliminary Structures
  Report
- Survey



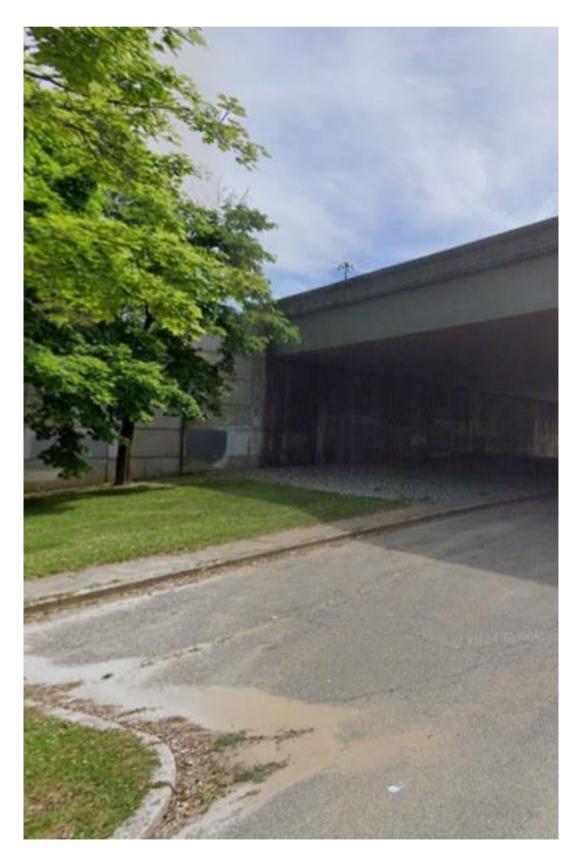




## What do we want to accomplish?

### With Regard to the Roadway User

- 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





### With Regard to our Willimansett Neighbors

- A new bridge should:
  - Avoid permanent property impacts
  - Be a candidate for accelerated construction techniques to reduce abutter impacts
  - Avoid impacts to the abutting sections of I-391 with changes to horizontal or vertical alignment
  - Minimize demolition and construction impacts to local access along Chicopee Street
  - Maintain Margaret/Perrault Street
    Connector
  - Maintain parking for local businesses





### **Other Considerations**

- A new bridge should:
  - Have foundation and pier locations that avoid current bridge foundations
- Offer opportunities to address concerns raised by City officials:
  - Possible reduction of vacant under-bridge space which hosts nuisance activities
  - Possible introduction of lighting to deter nuisance activities



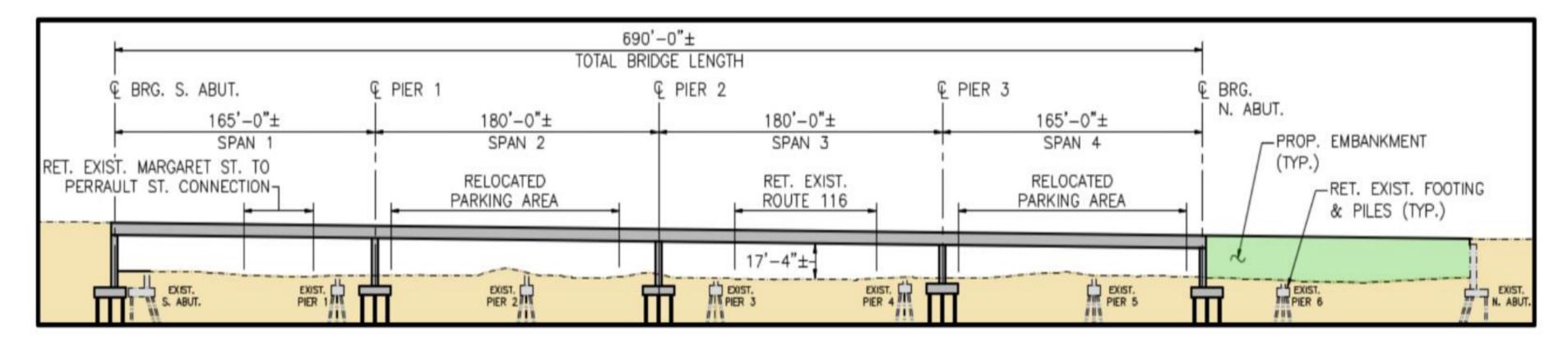




# How has our design progressed?

### **Considerations on Span Arrangement**

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



### 4 Span Arrangement



### **Potential Superstructure Types**

Key Characteristic	Steel Plate Girder	Steel Box Girder	Spliced Concrete Bulb Tee Girder
Lifecycle cost			$\checkmark$
Maintenance cost			$\checkmark$
Ease of construction	$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$	
Size of equipment needed to build the bridge by weight of key elements	$\checkmark$		
Temporary bracing during construction consumes parking	$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$
Ease of procuring key components	$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$	
Slimmest superstructure of considered types	$\checkmark$		$\checkmark$
Similar visual appearance to existing bridge			$\checkmark$

- A pre-stressed Bulb Tee Option appears to confer the most advantages:
  - Similar appearance to existing structure
  - Reduced maintenance means fewer community and traveler impacts
  - Less susceptible to damage from roadway deicing salt  $\bullet$
  - Lowest anticipated construction and lifecycle costs

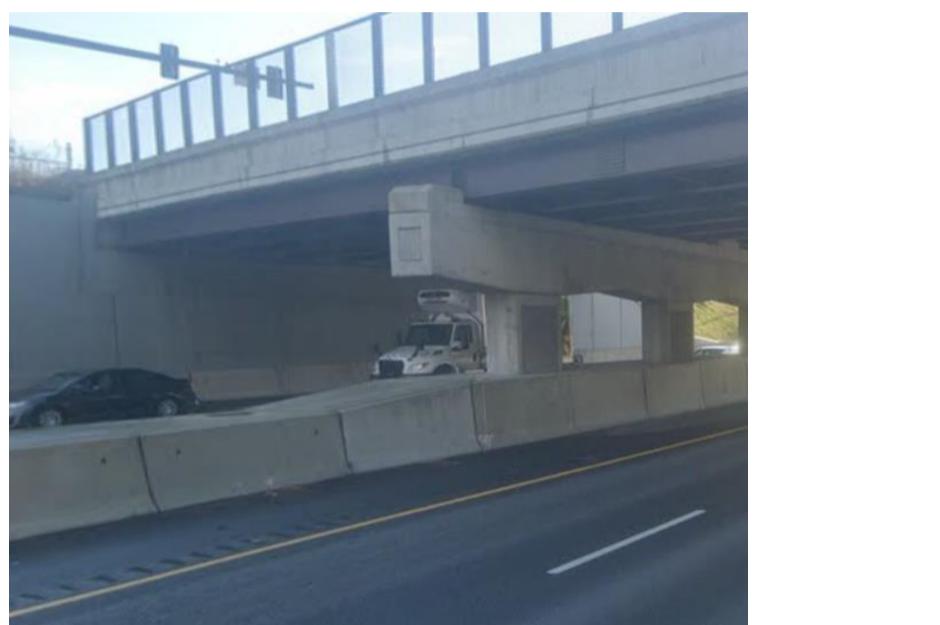


### **Considerations on Structure Types**

- 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

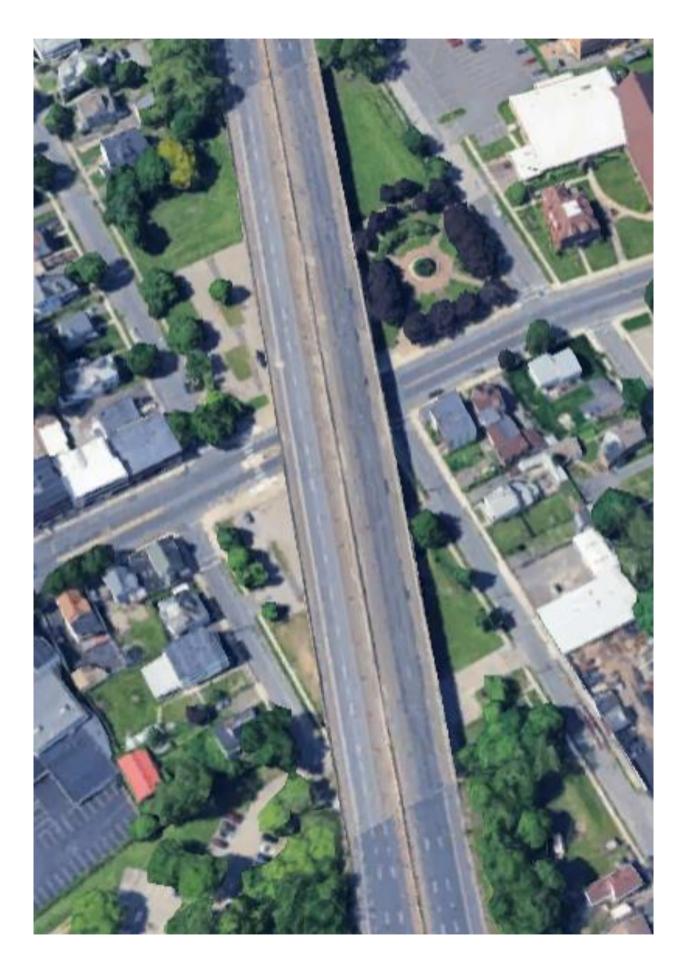




How will roadway users be impacted?

### **Two Different User Groups**

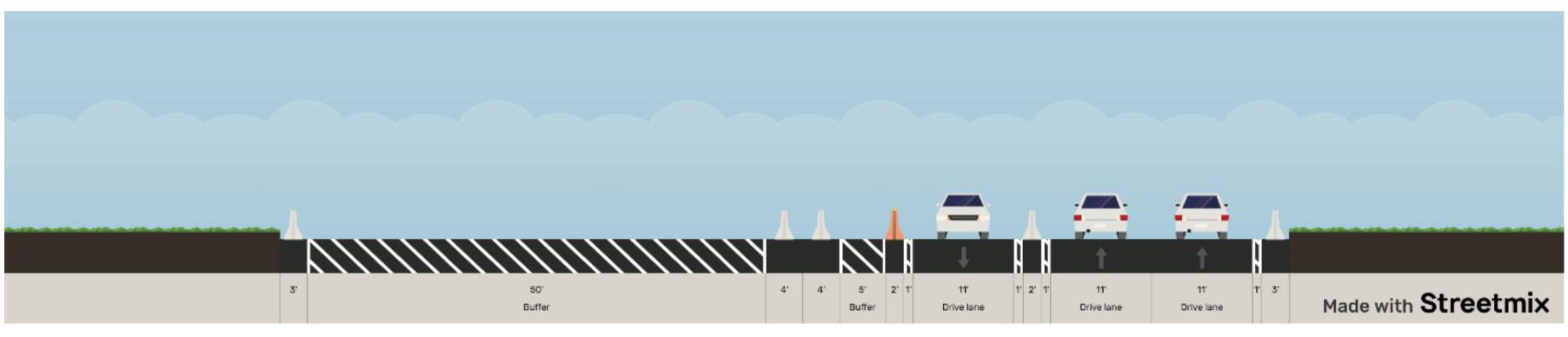
- I-391 is a divided highway:
  - Motor vehicles only
  - •Cars, trucks, PVTA 21-E bus
- Chicopee Street is a local road:
  - •All modes of travel
  - •PVTA 21 bus
    - Transit stops adjacent to the bridge
  - Parking under the bridge





### **Keeping You Moving During Construction - I**

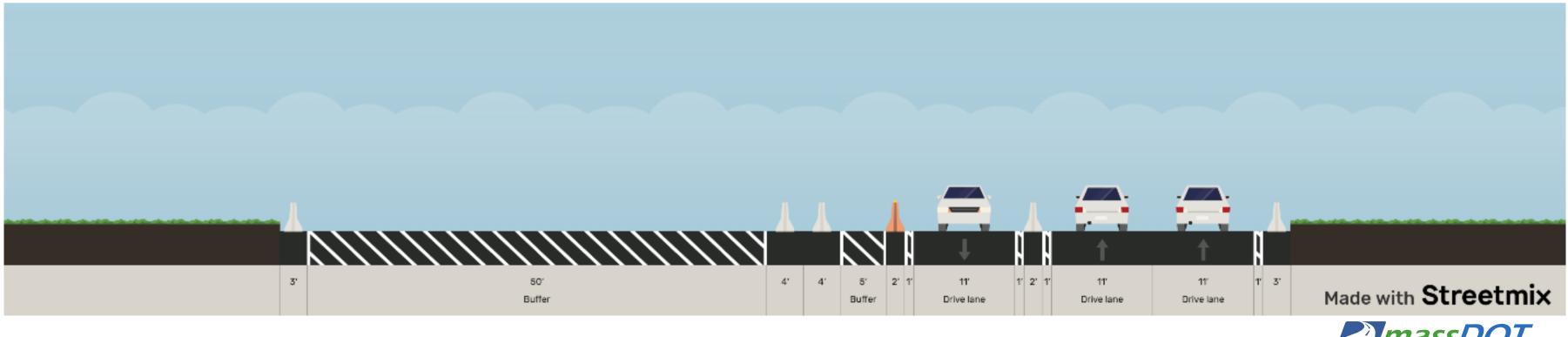
- Our goal is to maintain NB and SB travel on I-391 and Chicopee Street during  $\bullet$ demolition and construction
  - Shift traffic to one barrel of I-391 to facilitate removal of opposite barrel
  - Three possible construction period conditions were analyzed:
    - 1 One northbound lane and two southbound lanes
    - 2- Two northbound lanes and one southbound lane
    - 3 One northbound lane and one southbound lane
- Of these, Option 1 appears to perform the best in terms of:  $\bullet$ 
  - Safely fitting on one barrel of the existing or replacement bridge
  - Traffic operations during the peak hours in the proposed construction year of 2027





### **Keeping You Moving During Construction - II**

- Public safety impacts:
  - Chicopee Street, Margaret/Perrault connector would close for demolition or construction above them
  - Sections of parking would need to periodically close for the same reason
  - Rolling roadblocks on I-391







What are the environmental, cultural resource, and comunity impacts?

### **Project Impacts**

- A "footprint" replacement
- Design is not finalized
- Seeking to minimize impacts:
  - Permanent ROW
  - Vietnam Veterans' Memorial Park
    - Any park impacts would be repaired by the project

- Traffic congestion?
- •Noise?
- •Nighttime operations? Something else?

### Tell us your construction period concerns:



#### **Preliminary Right of Way (ROW) discussion Public Information Meeting**

- MassDOT is responsible for acquiring all necessary rights in public land for design, construction, and  $\bullet$ 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  $\bullet$ public hearing.

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







### **Proposed construction approach: Design-Build**

- Tonight's 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  $\bullet$
- 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 ulletMassDOT's satisfaction



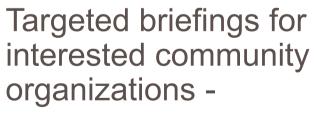




### **Our next steps**







May/June 2025

2<sup>nd</sup> Awareness campaign Public Meeting & June/August 2025



25% design public hearing -September/October 2025

#### Anticipated start of construction: 2027



Advertise for Design Builders – Spring 2026

Issue winning Design **Builder Notice to** Proceed – Fall 2026

5



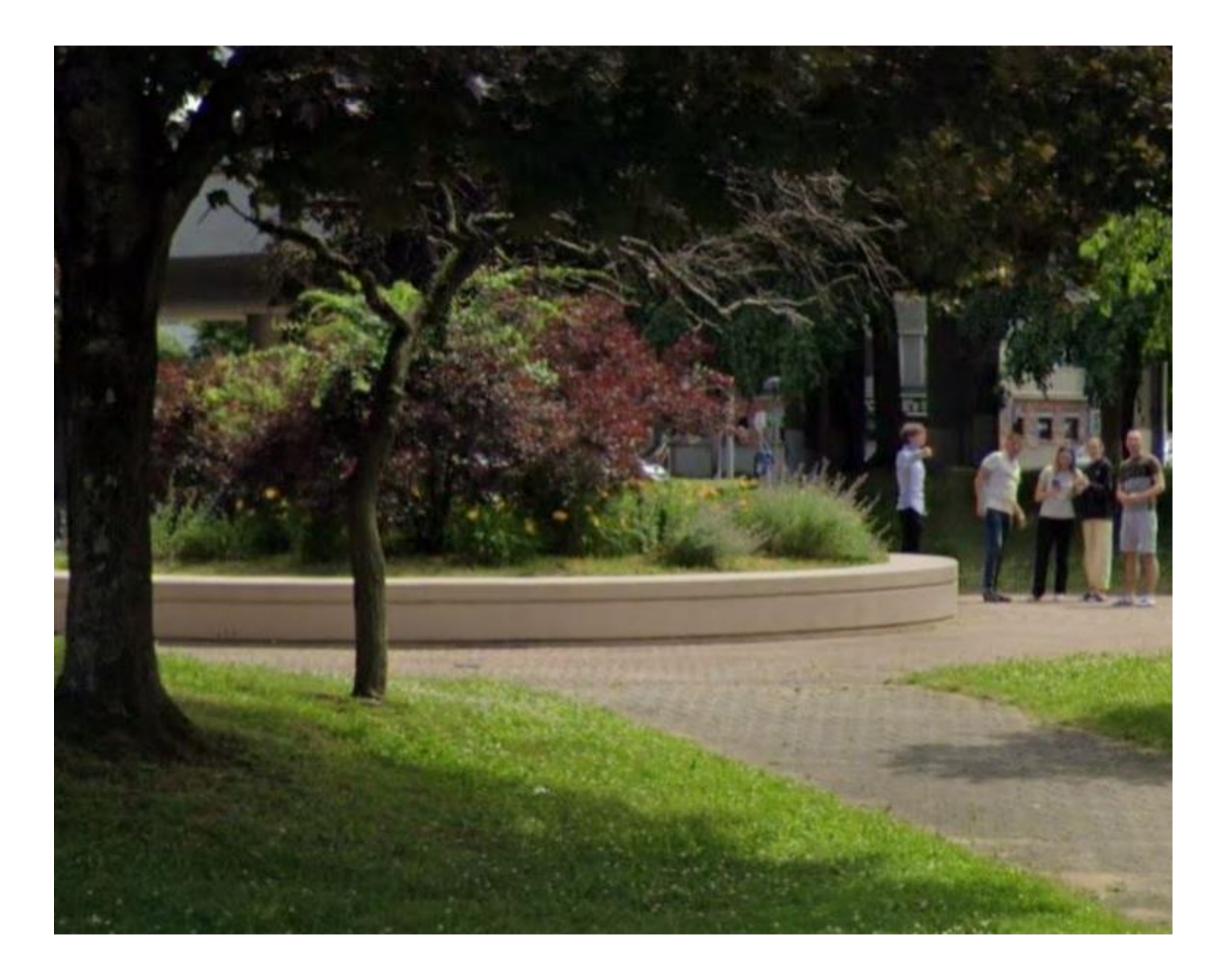




How will we keep you informed?

## Upcoming public outreach

- This spring:
  - Stakeholder briefings
- Summer: 2<sup>nd</sup> public information meeting to:
  - Provide an update on concept design
  - Check that we understood tonight's input correctly
- Please reach out:
  - Existing issues the new bridge can address
  - If your community group wants a briefing
  - Thoughts about construction





#### How to reach us?

• Submit written comments to:

Carrie Lavallee, 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: <u>www.mass.gov/i-391-bridge-replacement-chicopee</u>





## Questions & Discussion



