



Vietnam Veterans' Memorial Bridge Replacement

Public Meeting 1

Chicopee | April 3 2025 | 6:00 PM

Project File Number: 612187



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

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.

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



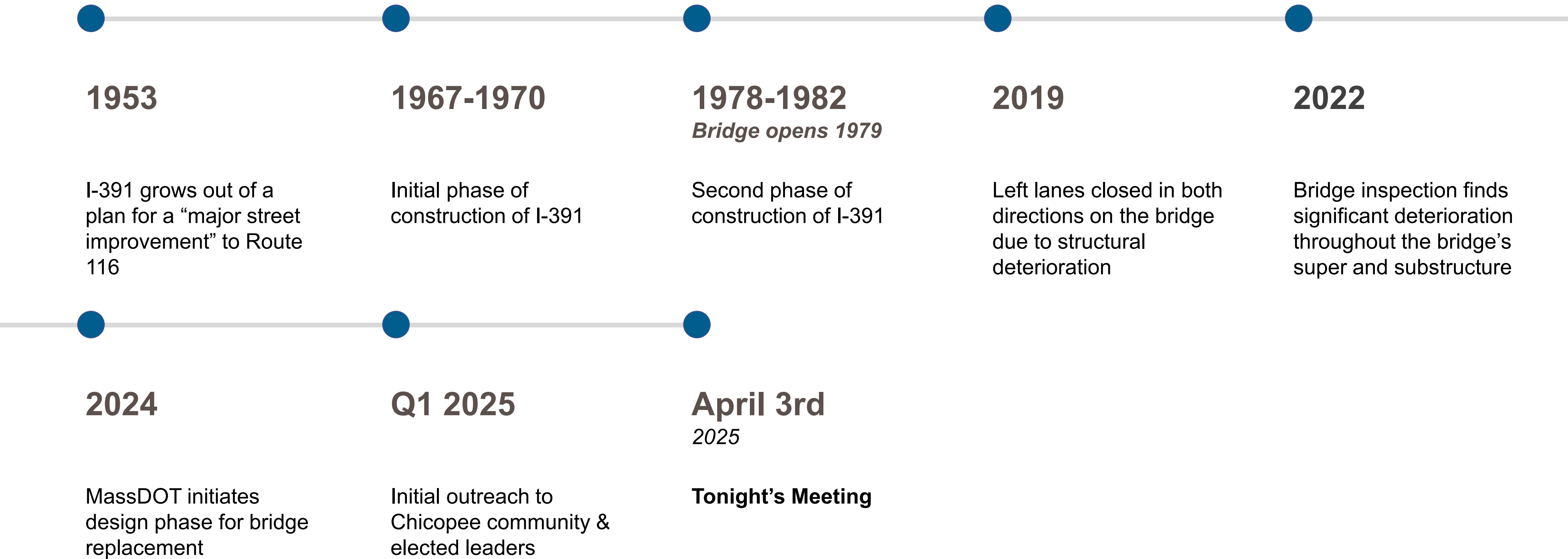
Welcome and Meeting Overview:

- 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

How did we get here?



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



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



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



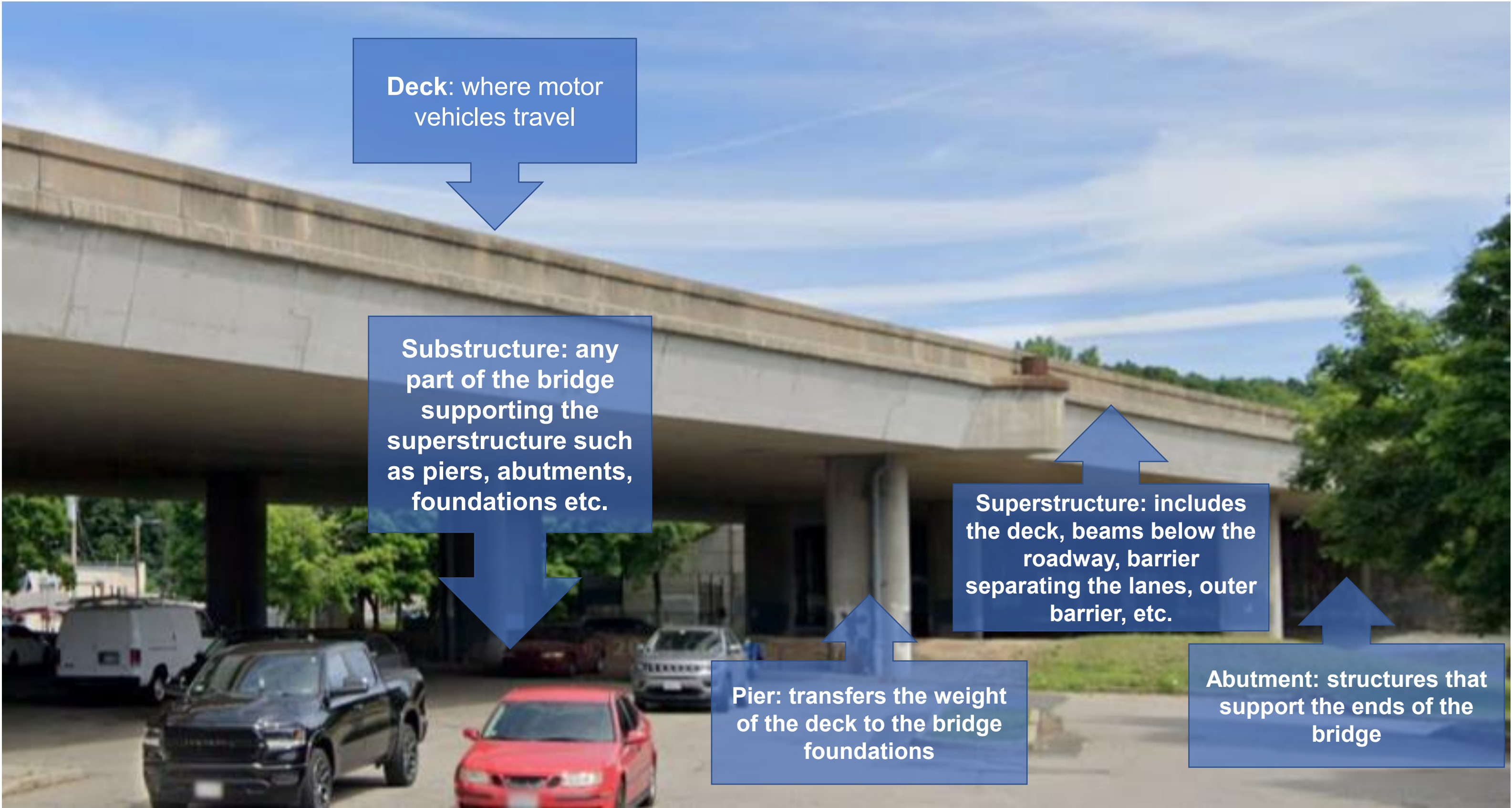
**Why was this
project
initiated?**

10/16/20

Project Limits and Context



Key Terms



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

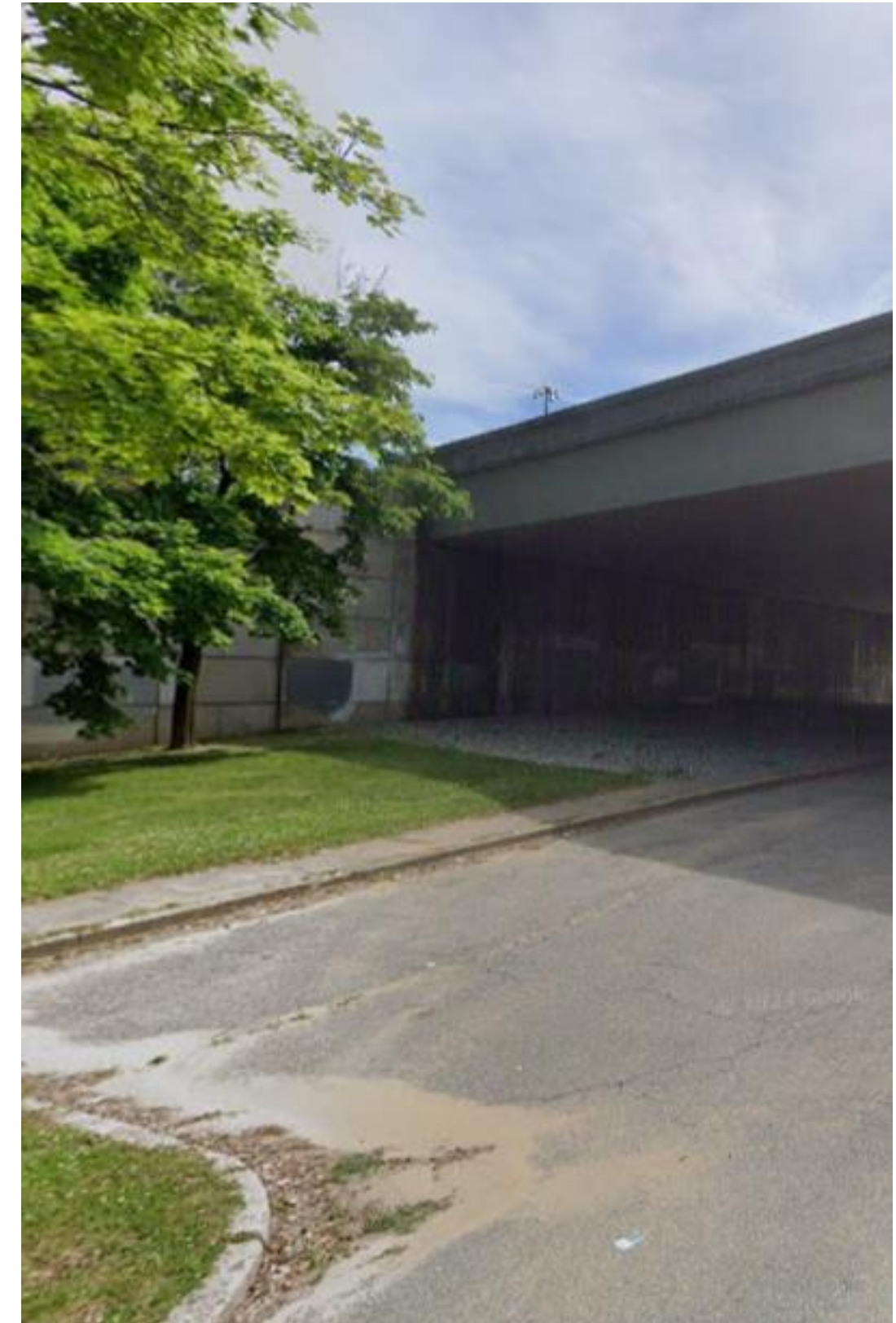




**What do we
want to
accomplish?**

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

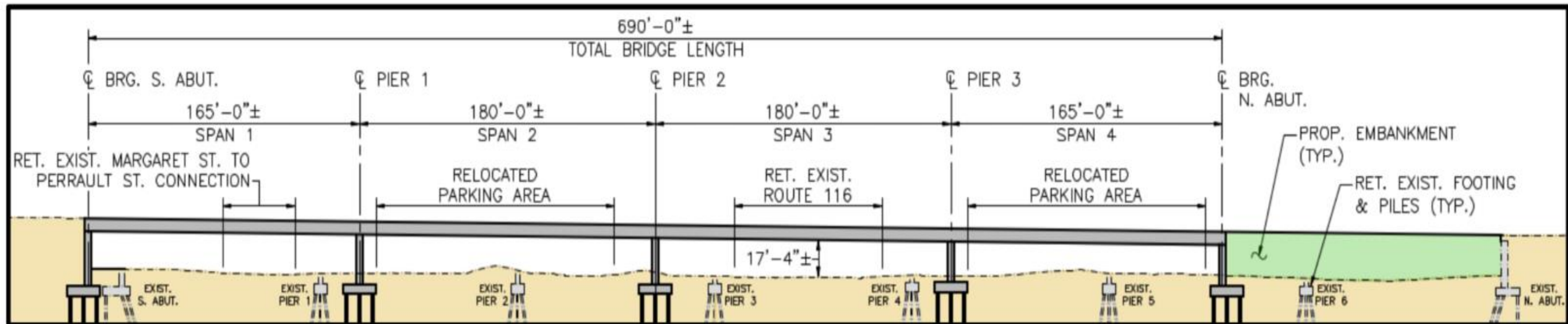




**How has our
design
progressed?**

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			✓
Maintenance cost			✓
Ease of construction	✓	✓	
Size of equipment needed to build the bridge by weight of key elements	✓		
Temporary bracing during construction consumes parking	✓	✓	✓
Ease of procuring key components	✓	✓	
Slimmest superstructure of considered types	✓		✓
Similar visual appearance to existing bridge			✓

- 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
 - 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?**

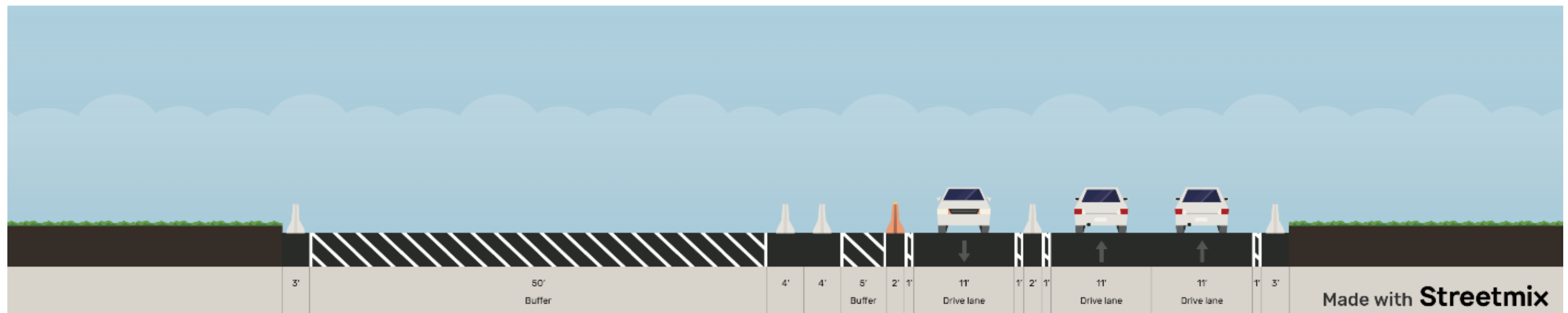
Two Different User Groups

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



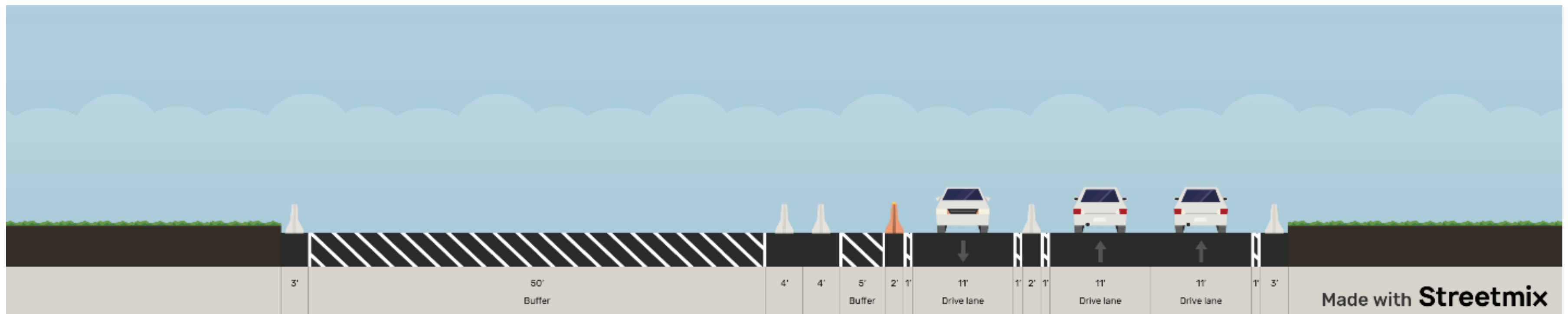
Keeping You Moving During Construction - I

- Our goal is to maintain NB and SB travel on I-391 and Chicopee Street during 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:
 - 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
community
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
- Tell us your construction period concerns:
 - Traffic congestion?
 - Noise?
 - Nighttime operations?
 - Something else?

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



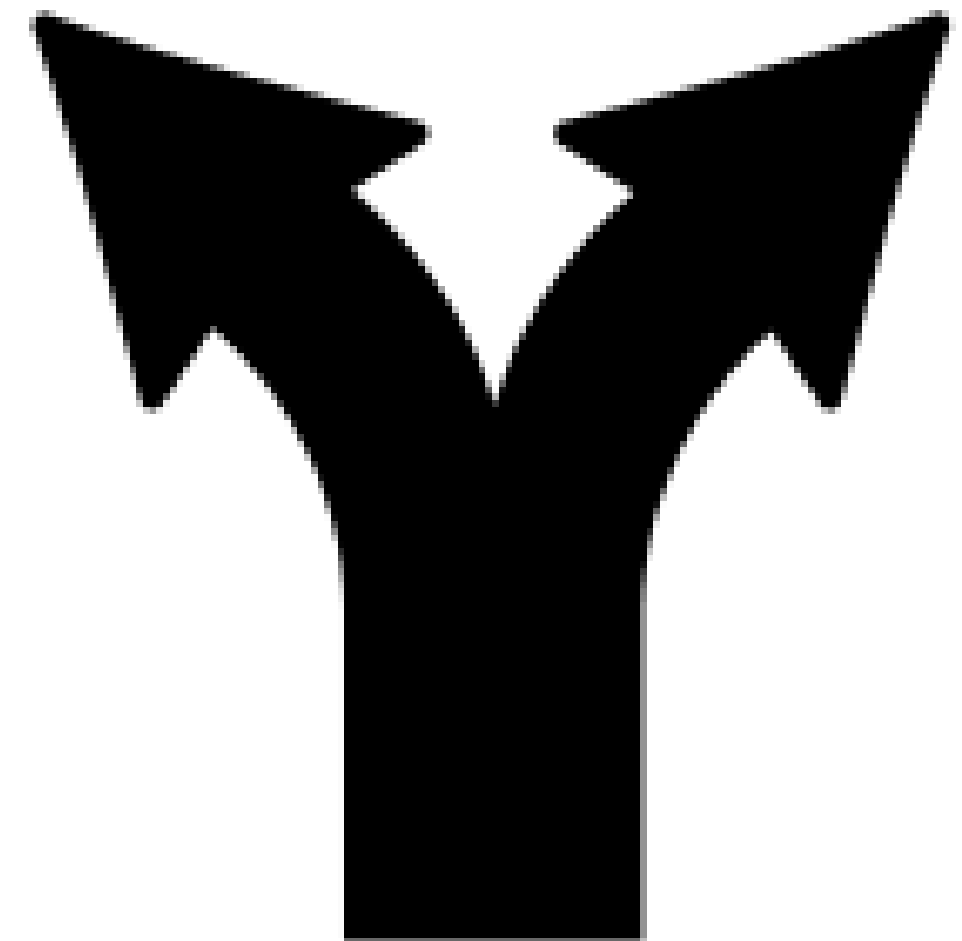
**What is the
construction
approach?**

Proposed construction approach: Design-Build

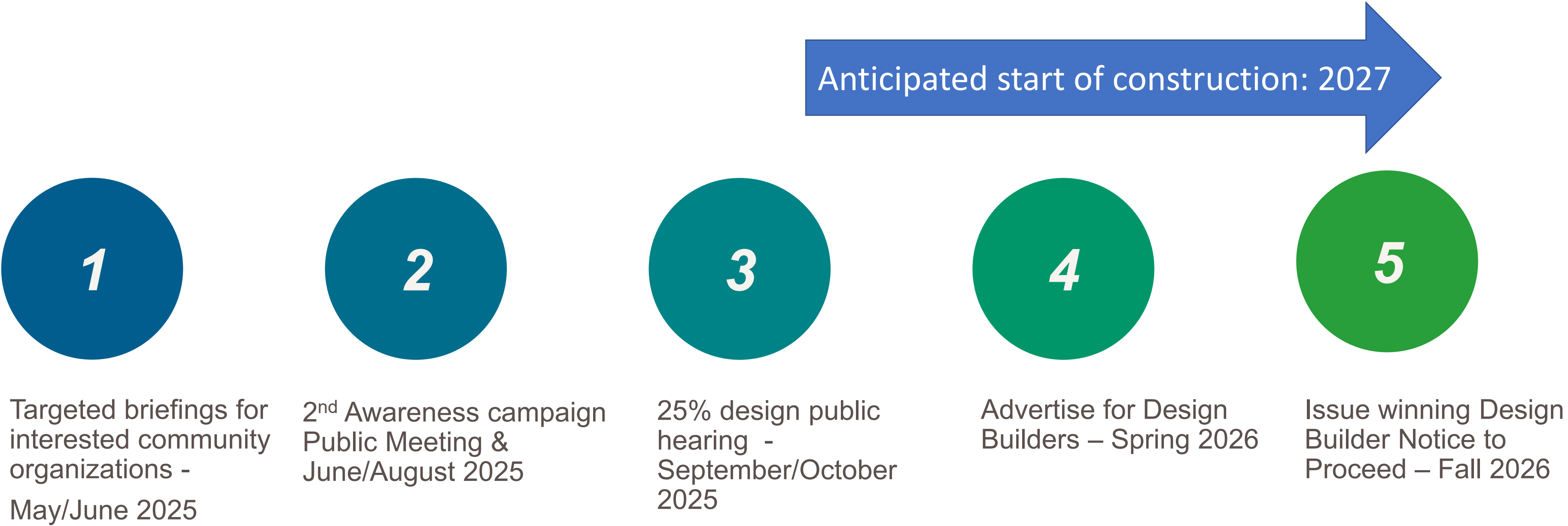
- Tonight's team will develop a 25% design and base technical concept (BTC) for bid by Design-Build (DB) entities
- DB Best Value procurement
 - Short-List Best Qualified Teams
 - Shorten project duration
 - Promote innovation by teaming the engineer and the general contractor
 - Allow for accelerated 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
- 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



Our next steps





How will we
keep you
informed?

Upcoming public outreach

- This spring:
 - Stakeholder briefings
- Summer: 2nd 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 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

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

