



Reconstruction of the New Bedford – Fairhaven Swing Bridge


In-Person and Virtual Public
Information Meeting

Greater New Bedford Vocational Technical High School
October 6, 2022 | 6:30-8:00 PM

Project File No. 612557




How to Participate Online: Using the Zoom Toolbar

 Call into meeting: 1-301-715-8592, Meeting ID: 844 0938 8540

 Raise your hand to speak

- Attendee webcams are disabled for this meeting
- Microphones will be muted unless called on
- *9 for users dialing in (Alt + Y to raise your hand)

 Use Q + A toolbar button to write question

 Interpretation: Spanish, and Portuguese

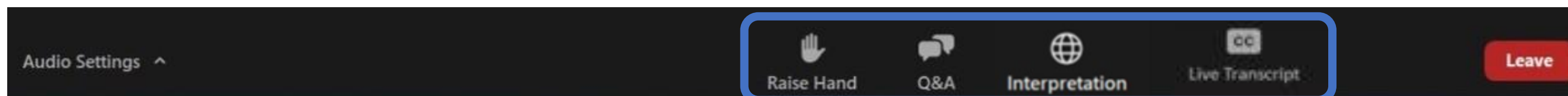
 Closed captions automatically generated by Zoom

 ***TIP: Check toolbar menu to check microphone and speakers on your device***



If you have trouble with online access during presentation, please call:

1-888-799-9666



General Public Information Meeting Notes and Procedures

- MassDOT may retain and distribute transcripts / written record of this meeting
- All recordings and transcripts are considered public records
- Please respond to our short survey at the end of the meeting

How to Participate In-Person

- 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

Welcome & Meeting Overview

- In-person and online via Zoom
- 30-minute presentation
 - Joseph Breen, PE, Project Manager, Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT)
- Q&A period
 - Joseph Breen, PE, Project Manager, Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT)
 - Michael O'Dowd, PE, Director of Major Projects (online)
 - Alex Duggan, PE, District 5 Senior Project Designer
 - Thomas Cole, PE, Project Manager, Modjeski and Masters, Inc.
 - Kevin Johns, PE, Principal, Modjeski and Masters, Inc.
 - Marcy Miller, AICP, FHI Studio
- Both in-person and virtual attendees can participate in question and comment period



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Meeting Coordinators

■ MassDOT, Project Coordinator & Manager

- Joseph Breen, P.E., Project Manager
- Michael O'Dowd, P.E., Director of Major Projects
- Alex Duggan, P.E., District 5 Senior Project Designer
- Leah Grodstein, Online Facilitator
- Joseph Yoo, Online Facilitator

■ Modjeski and Masters, Inc. – Design Consultant

- Kevin Johns, P.E. – Project Principal
- Thomas Cole, P.E. – Project Manager

■ FHI Studio – Community Engagement

- Marcy Miller, AICP – Community Engagement Manager
- Laura Parete – Project Manager
- Kevin Rivera – Community Engagement Specialist

Language Translation Speakers

- **Español**
 - Kevin Rivera – En Persona
 - Camila
 - Marta
- **Português**
 - Alisa
 - Rafael

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 <https://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.

Presentation Agenda

1. Background
2. Goals
3. Alternatives
4. Potential Impacts
5. Next Steps
6. Staying Involved





Project Background

Bridge History



Stakeholder and Public Outreach

1. Newspaper Advertisement

- New Bedford Standard Times
- Fairhaven Neighborhood News
- Fall River Herald News



The Standard-Times

The Herald News

2. Social Media

- MassDOT Facebook
- MassDOT Twitter



3. MPO

- Southeastern Regional Planning & Economic Development District

4. Other Outreach

- Fairhaven Council on Aging
- Southeast Center for Independent Living



Bridge History

- 1899: A&P Roberts and Company began construction
 - 1903 completion
 - Called New Bedford-Fairhaven Swing Bridge
- Rehabilitated:
 - 1920: 1st significant repairs
 - 1931: 1st rehabilitation
 - 1932-1983: interim repairs
 - 1984: 2nd rehabilitation
 - 1989: Bridge closed for repairs
 - 1995: Bridge closed for 1 year for repairs
 - 2012: critical, electrical and mechanical repairs
 - 2014: 3rd rehabilitation of fixed bridge spans but not to swing span



Stakeholders

- Navigation channel users
 - Commercial fishing
 - Freight
 - Recreational boating
 - Maritime construction / maintenance
- Bridge users
 - Vehicular
 - Pedestrians and bicyclists
- Emergency services and local government
- U.S. Coast Guard and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
- MassDOT



Previous Studies

- 1965: 1st Replacement Study authorized
- Additional studies prepared in 1967, 1969, 1977, 1978, 1979, 1985, and 1987
- 2002: New Bedford / Fairhaven Harbor Plan
 - Studied relocating US Route 6 corridor to North

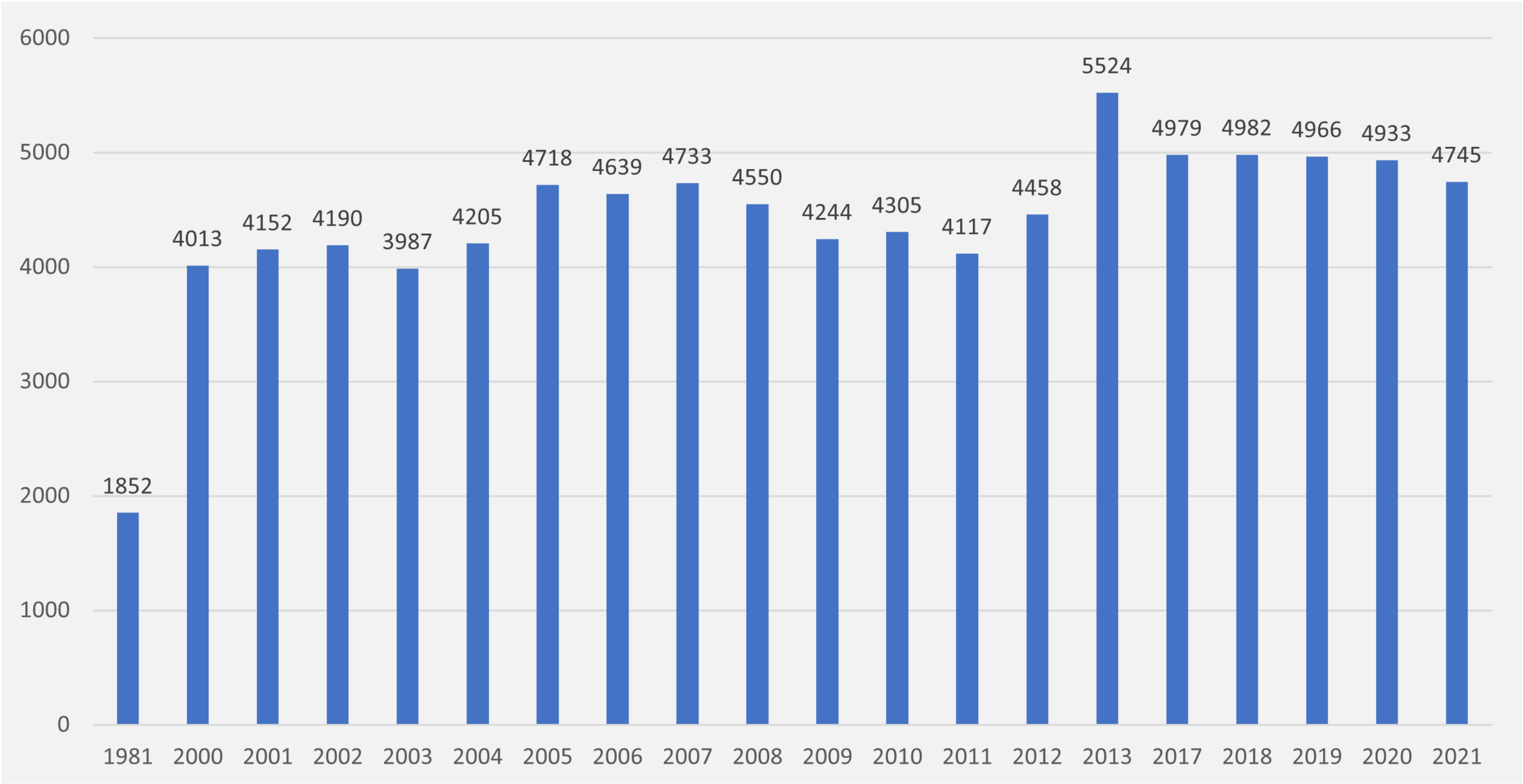


Previous Studies (Cont.)

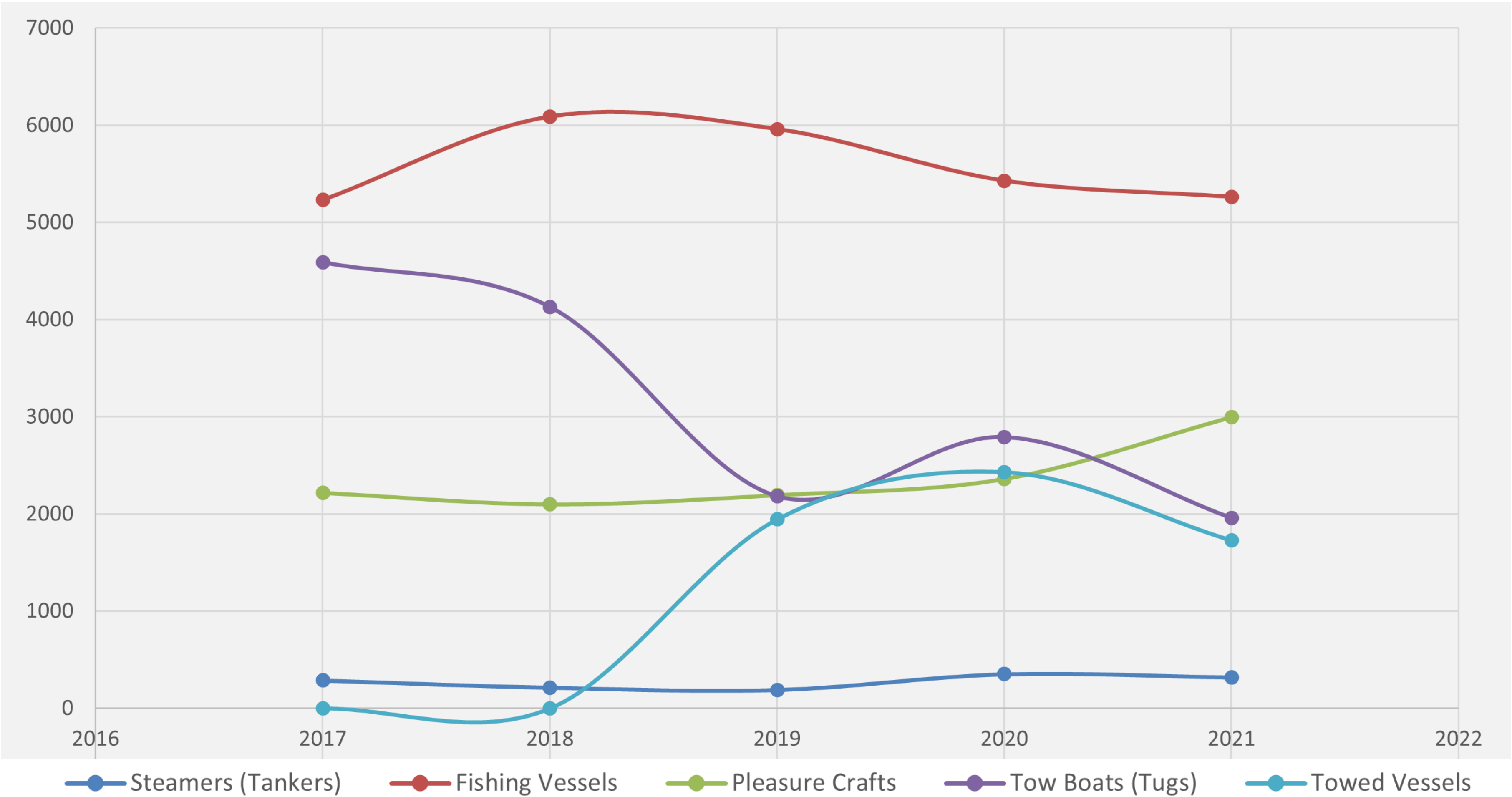
- 2004: Draft Conceptual Alternative Study for the Relocation of Route 6 Bridge over New Bedford Harbor
 - Follow-up study based on 2002 Harbor Plan
- 2010: New Bedford / Fairhaven Municipal Harbor Plan
 - Update to 2002 Harbor Plan
- 2014: New Bedford - Fairhaven Bridge Corridor Study



Bridge Openings: Select Years (1981 2021)



Bridge Passages: By Vessel Type



Existing Conditions

- Bridge is inspected by MassDOT personnel or consultants every two years
- Given age and design of bridge, some aspects are inspected annually under “Fracture Critical” designation
- Bridge operation is always controlled and observed by two on-site operators



Existing Conditions

Inspection
Current
Condition
Factors



Bridge Deck,
Good Condition

Center Pier,
Satisfactory
Condition

Superstructure,
Fair Condition

Rest Pier,
Satisfactory
Condition

Existing Conditions

Deck Deterioration



Guard Rail Impact Damage



Existing Conditions

Floor System Corrosion



Floor System Corrosion



Existing Conditions

Truss Member Corrosion



Truss Member Corrosion



Existing Conditions

Deteriorated Bolts



Failing Paint System



Existing Conditions

Unreliable Drive System



Unreliable Drive System

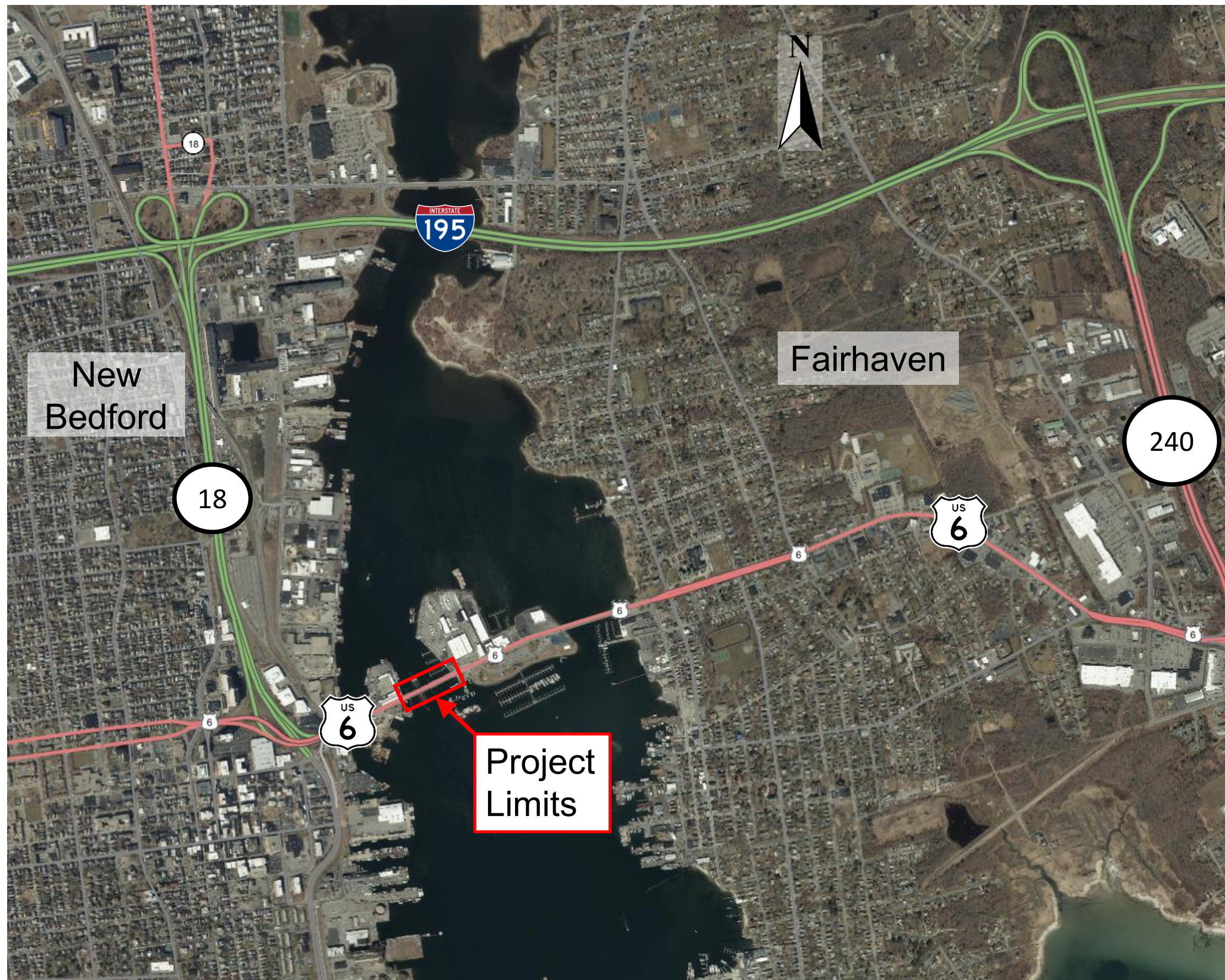




Project Goals

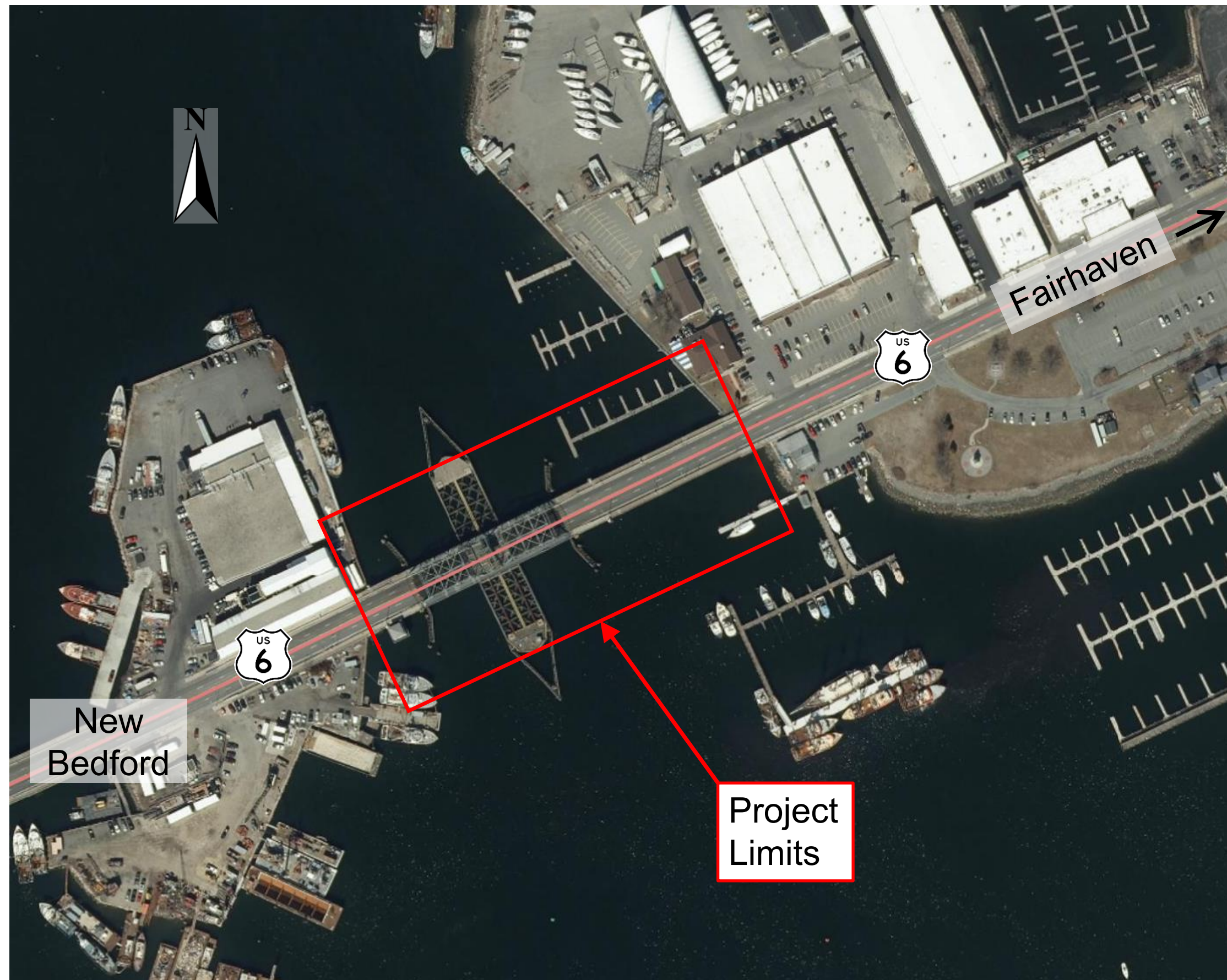
Project Goals

- Reconstruct the bridge to ensure 75-year design life
- Minimize disruptions to bridge users during construction
- Eliminate functional deficiencies
 - Long opening time (time from bridge fully closed to bridge fully open) causes delays for vehicular, pedestrian, and bicyclists
 - Minimal under-bridge clearance requires bridge to open for most vessels
 - Narrow navigational channels (approx. 95 feet each) and center pier location
 - Larger vessels cannot enter upper harbor
 - Center pier increases potential for vessel impacts
 - Existing bridge sidewalks are not wide enough for shared use path



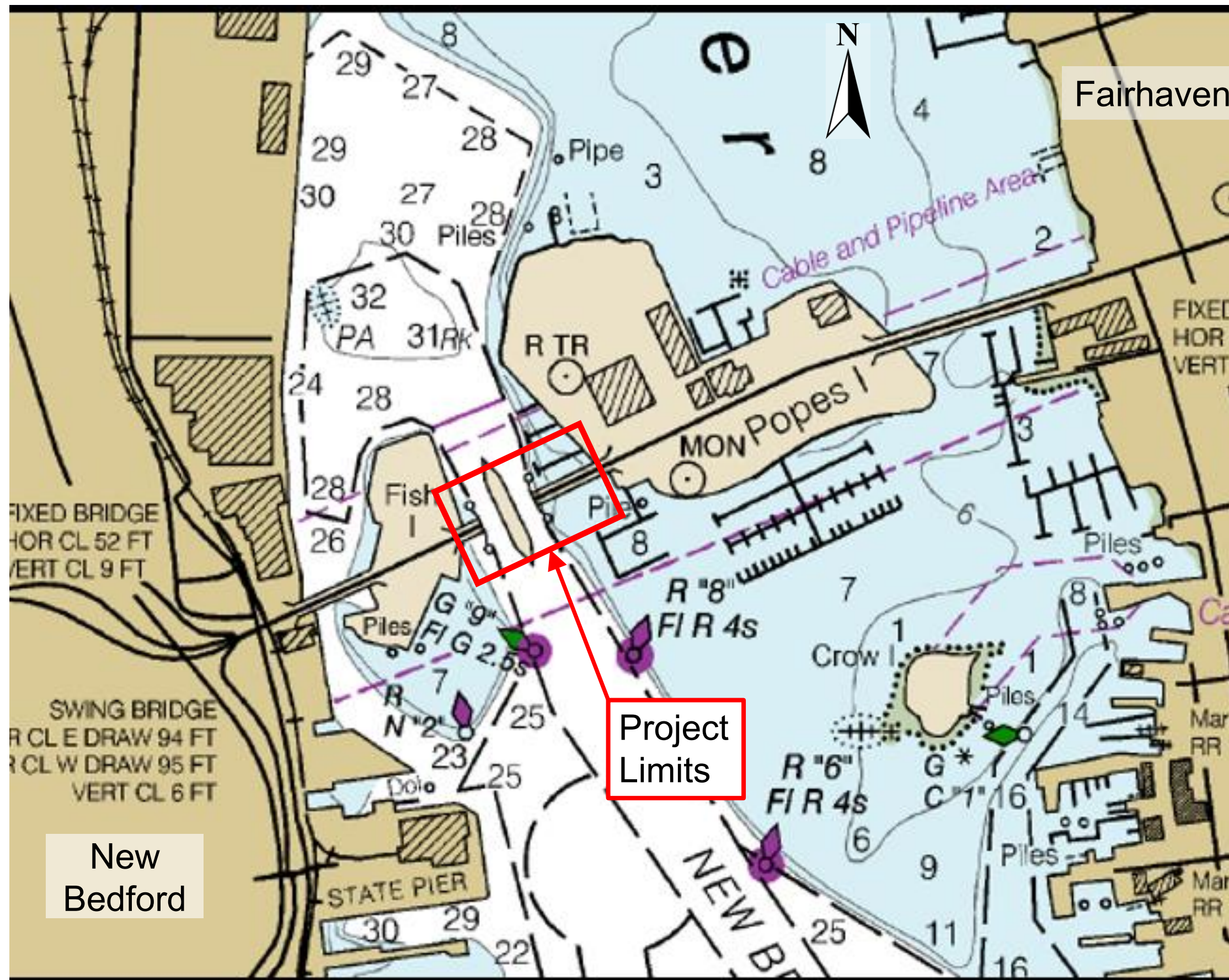
Project Scope

- Moveable span and flanking approach spans will be evaluated
- Existing Route 6 corridor will be maintained
- Provisions for future corridor improvements will be considered



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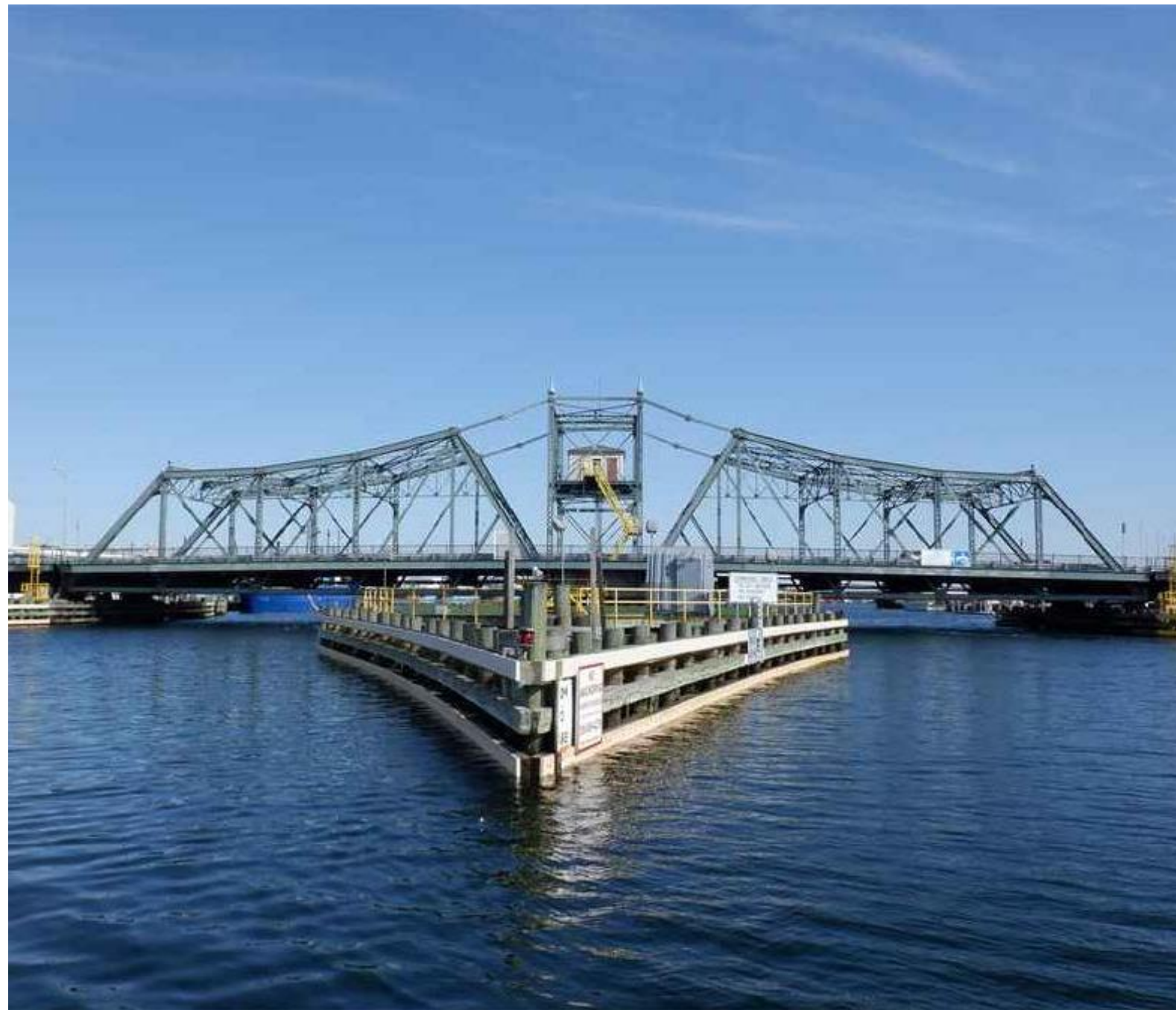
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Project Alternatives

Swing Bridge

New Bedford-Fairhaven Swing Bridge



Little Potato Slough Bridge, Terminous, CA



Bascule Bridge

South Market Street Bridge, Wilmington, DE



Market Street Bridge, Chattanooga, TN



Dutch-Style Bascule

North Coast Harbor Bridge, Cleveland, OH



Cardiff Bay Barrage Lock Bridge, Cardiff, United Kingdom



Vertical Lift

Fore River Bridge, Quincy and Weymouth, MA



Pont de Recouvrance, Brest, France





Potential Impacts

Pedestrian and Bicyclists

- Sidewalk closures will be required at similar times and durations of roadway closures
- Methods to assist pedestrians and bicyclists to travel from across bridge will be explored
- New bridge will be designed with accommodations and improvements for pedestrian and bicyclist safety





Potential Environmental, Cultural Resource, and Community Impacts

Moveable Bridge Replacement Challenges

- Maintain existing movable bridge and navigational channels during construction
- Construction staging
 - Balance channel closures and roadway closures
- Constraints of the existing structure and waterway
 - Roadway and driveway entrances
 - Docks and piers
 - Limits of channel maintenance





Other User Impacts

Project Impacts

- Full roadway closure and detour will be necessary during portions of project
- Duration of roadway detour will vary depending on chosen alternative and will be an evaluation factor when assessing alternatives
- Navigation channel will be maintained throughout project
 - Short-term closures to navigation will be required and coordinated with USCG





Next Steps

Current Engagement

- New Bedford/Fairhaven Bridge Corridor Study (2014)
 - Study Advisory Group
 - Public Informational Meetings
 - Project website
 - Newsletters
 - Accessibility accommodations for Non-English languages
- Initial informational meeting for Local Officials (August 2022)
- Public Information Meetings
 - Fairhaven High School, 10/3/22
 - Greater New Bedford Regional Vocational Technical High School, 10/6/22



Study Schedule



Early Public Engagement

October 2022



Public Agency Coordination
Initial Investigations
Navigation Study & Report

Fall 2022 – Spring 2023



Alternatives Development and Analysis
Preliminary Roadway and Detour Analysis

Winter 2022 – Summer 2023



Pre-25% Design Level Submission and Approval

Late 2023



25% Design Level Public Information Meetings

2024

Next Steps



25% Design Level
Submission and
Approval

2024



75% Design Level
Submission and
Approval



100% Design Level
Submission and
Approval



Construction
Project
Advertisement

2027



Construction

Stay Involved!

- Email: MassDOTMajorProjects@dot.state.ma.us
- Visit project website (under development)
- Visit MassDOT for information on hearings
<https://www.mass.gov/massdot-highway-design-public-hearings> or used QR Code
- Participate in project survey at end of meeting
- Write to Carrie Lavalley, P.E. Chief Engineer
MassDOT
10 Park Plaza
Boston, MA 02116
Attention: Major Projects, PROJECT FILE NO. 612557





**Question and
Comment
Period**

Open Communication Process

- Alternate hearing from in-person attendees and online attendees
 - Begin with in-person commenters
- Allow three in-person commenters, then three online commenters, then three in-person commenters, etc.
- Speakers, in-person and online, have two minutes to state comment or ask question
- All questions will be answered by Joseph Breen, Michael O'Dowd, Alex Duggan, Thomas Cole, and / or Kevin Johns

**All questions and comments are subject to disclosure for public records.
Please use these functions for project related business only.**

Share Your Questions and Comments: In - Person



- Use microphone provided and please line up three (3) at a time to allow for virtual audience to participate



- Please state your name before your question or comment



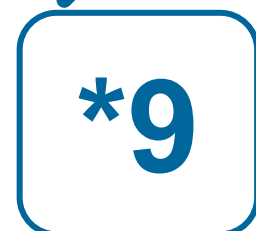
- Please share only **1** question or comment at a time, limited to **2** minutes, to allow others to participate. We will get to all questions



- Please take a moment to complete our survey at end of meeting

Please be advised that all Q&A and comments are subject to disclosure for public records

Share Your Questions and Comments: Virtual



- Submit your questions and comments using the Q&A button
- “Raise your hand” to be unmuted for verbal questions, (Alt + Y to 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.
- To ask a question via phone, dial *9 and the moderator will call out the last 4-digits of your phone number and unmute your audio when it is your turn.
- Please take a moment to complete our survey at the end of the meeting

Please be advised that all Q&A and comments are subject to disclosure for public records, therefore use these functions for project-related business only.



Thank You

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