



# Vietnam Veterans' Memorial Bridge Replacement

## *Valley Opportunity Council Stakeholder Briefing*

Chicopee | June 9 | 10:30 AM

Project File Number: 612187





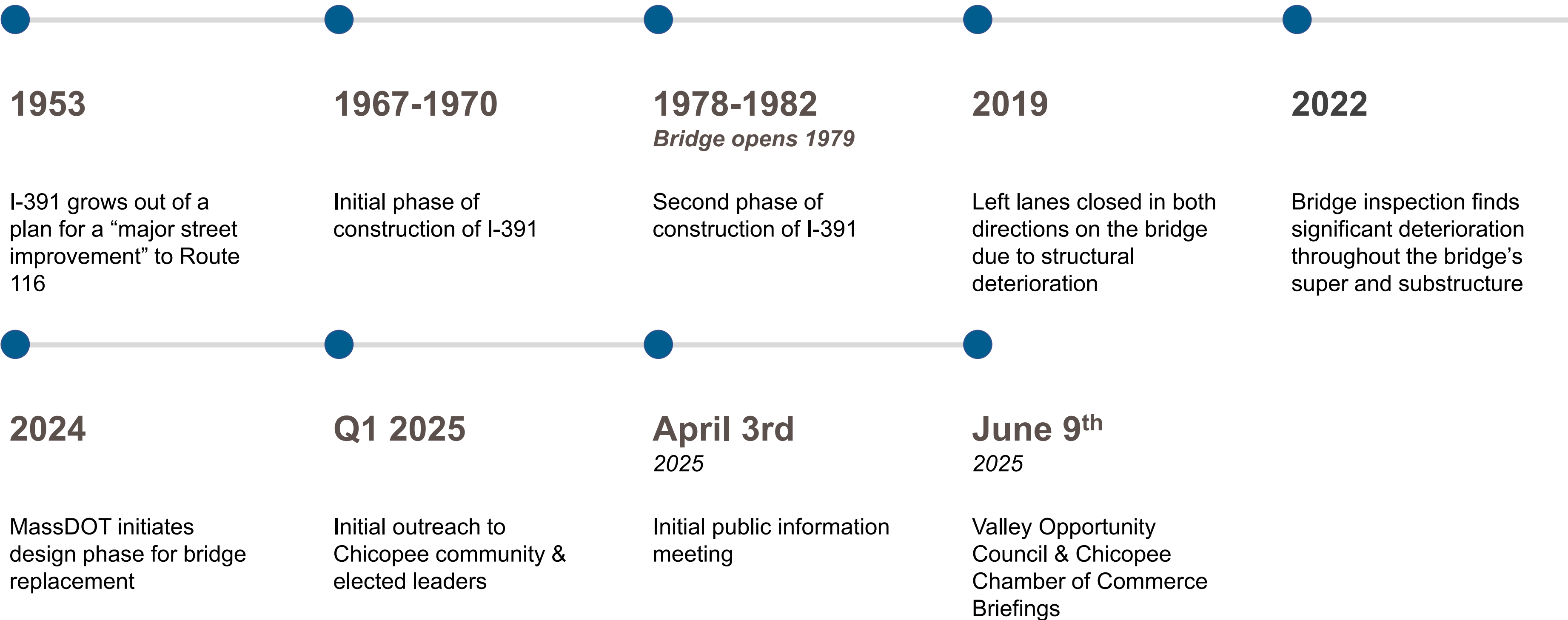
# Agenda

1. Welcome & Overview
2. Why Was This Project Initiated
3. Project Status
4. Maintenance of VOC Operations
5. What is our Construction Approach
6. How will we keep you informed?
7. Questions and discussion





# How did we get here?



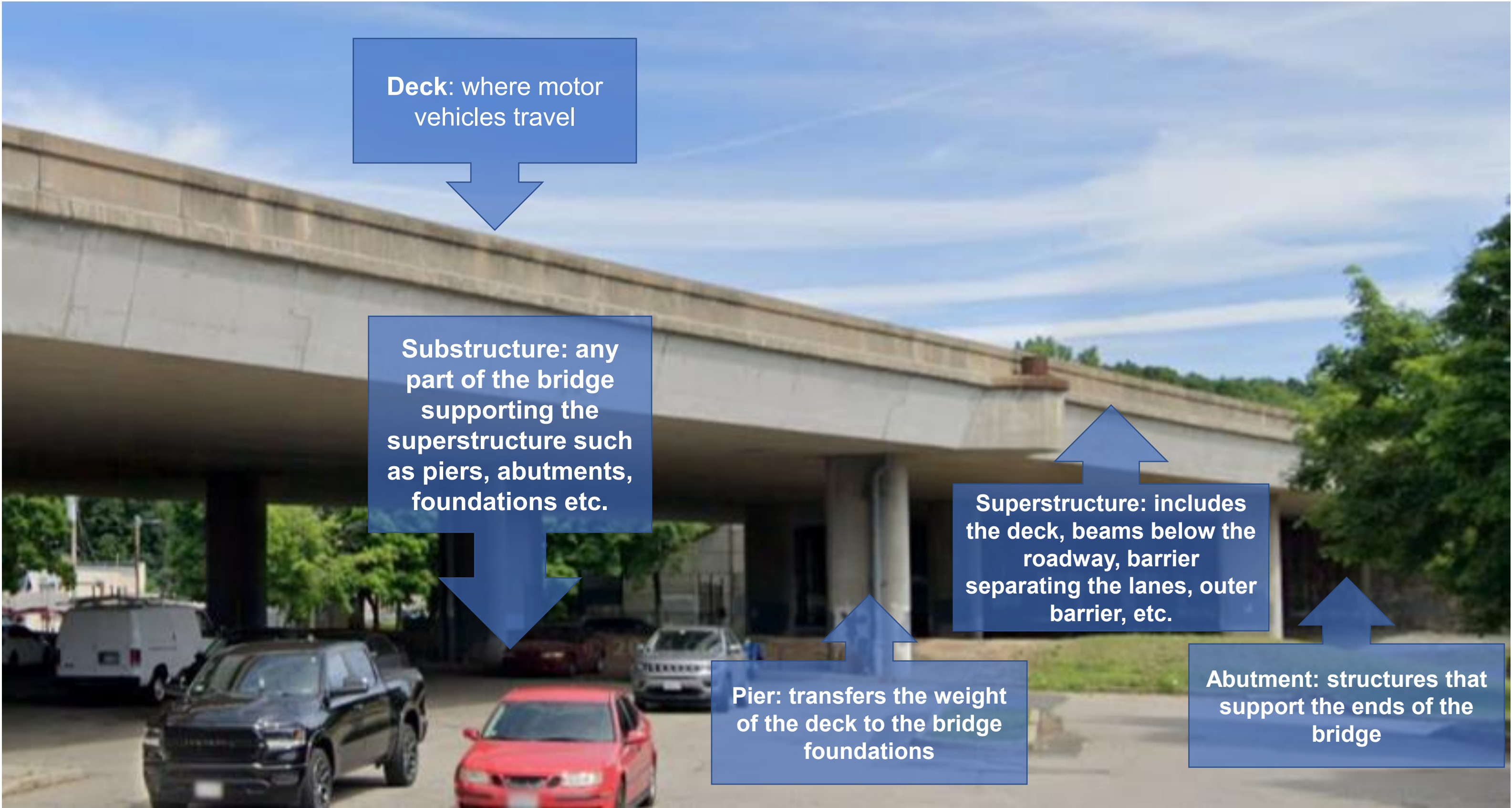


# Project Limits and Context





# Key Terms







**Why was this  
project  
initiated?**

10/16/20



## 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

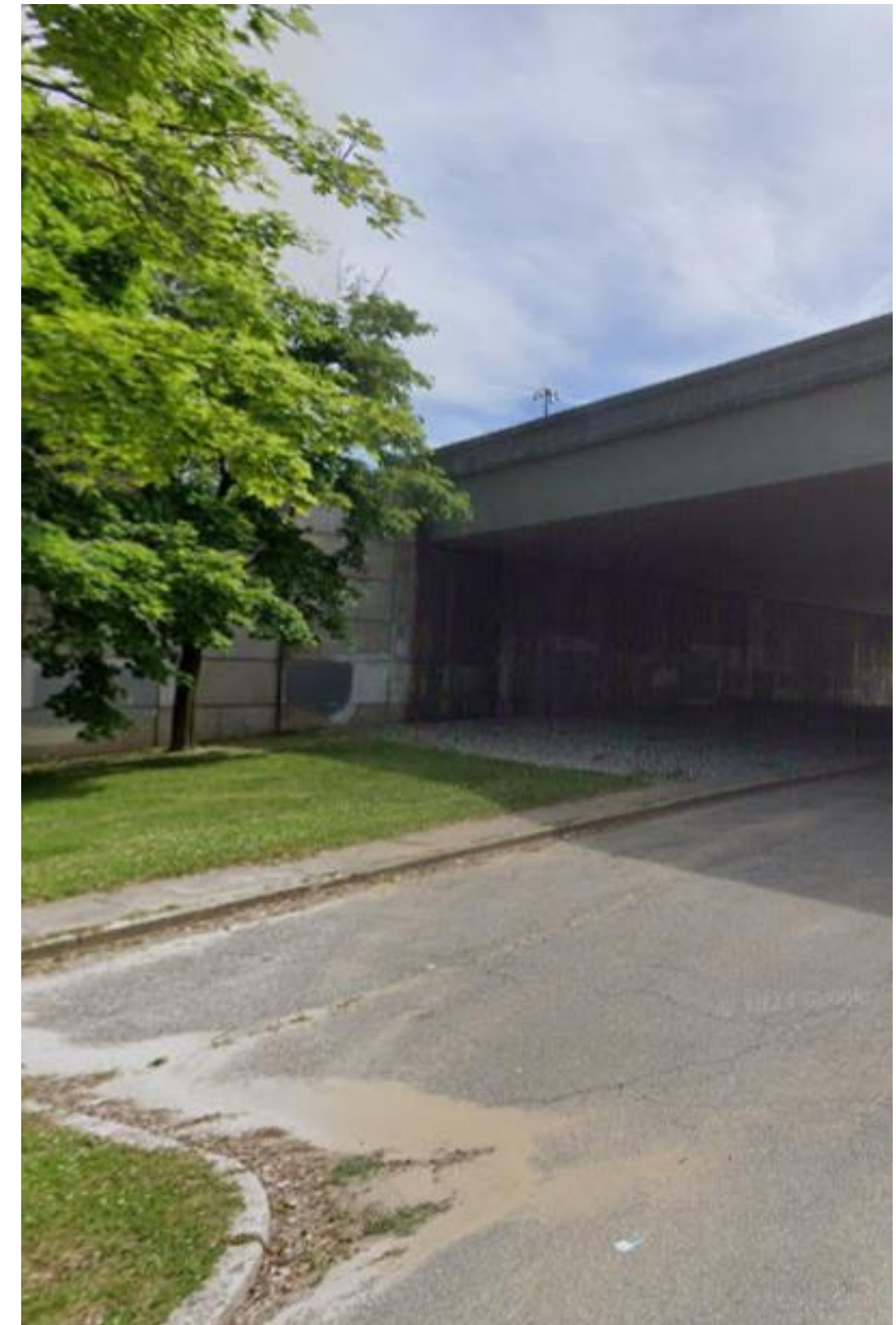
- Super- and Substructure are in poor condition:
  - Spalled/delaminated concrete
  - Exposed reinforcing steel
  - Damaged expansion joints
- *Remains safe for all users*
- Has reached the end of its useful lifespan and must be replaced





## 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







# Project Status



## Status of Design Work

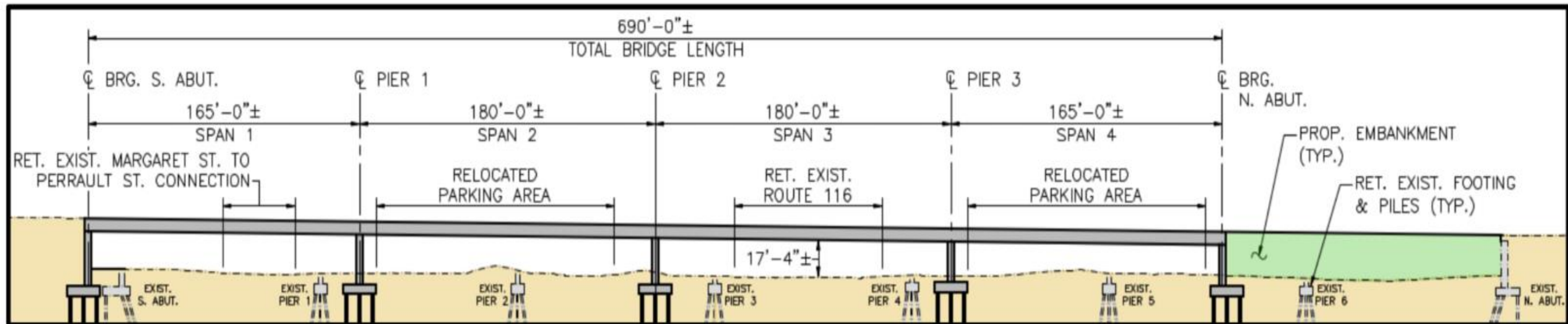
- Completed:
  - Bridge Type Selection Worksheet
  - Initial Traffic Data Collection
  - Preliminary Structures Report
  - Survey
- In progress:
  - Supplemental traffic data collection
  - Test borings
  - 25% design elements





## Anticipated 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



## 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*

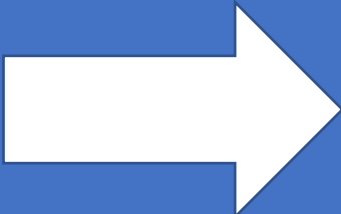




# Maintenance of Valley Opportunity Council Operations



# Your Concerns & Our Approach

Concern		Approach
Length of construction		<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Once Notice to Proceed (NTP) is given to the design/builder:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>1<sup>st</sup> step is shop-drawings, procurement etc. - ~6 months</li><li>2<sup>nd</sup> step is construction - ~3.5 years</li></ul></li><li>More detail will be available at the 25% design public hearing this fall</li></ul>
Impacts to Chicopee Street		<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Chicopee Street and sidewalks only closed during demolition/construction directly above the road<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Not during peak, weekday commuting periods</li><li>Nights</li><li>Weekends</li></ul></li><li>Avoid closing Margaret/Perrault Connector &amp; Chicopee Street at once unless absolutely necessary</li></ul>
Bus Route Impacts 21/21E		<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>21 runs 5AM-9PM</li><li>21E runs 6AM-8PM</li><li>Road closures typically allowed between 10PM and 4AM</li></ul>
Construction period communication		<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Public outreach does not end with design</li><li>MassDOT will adhere to outreach standards for major construction</li></ul>



# Keeping You Moving During Construction - I

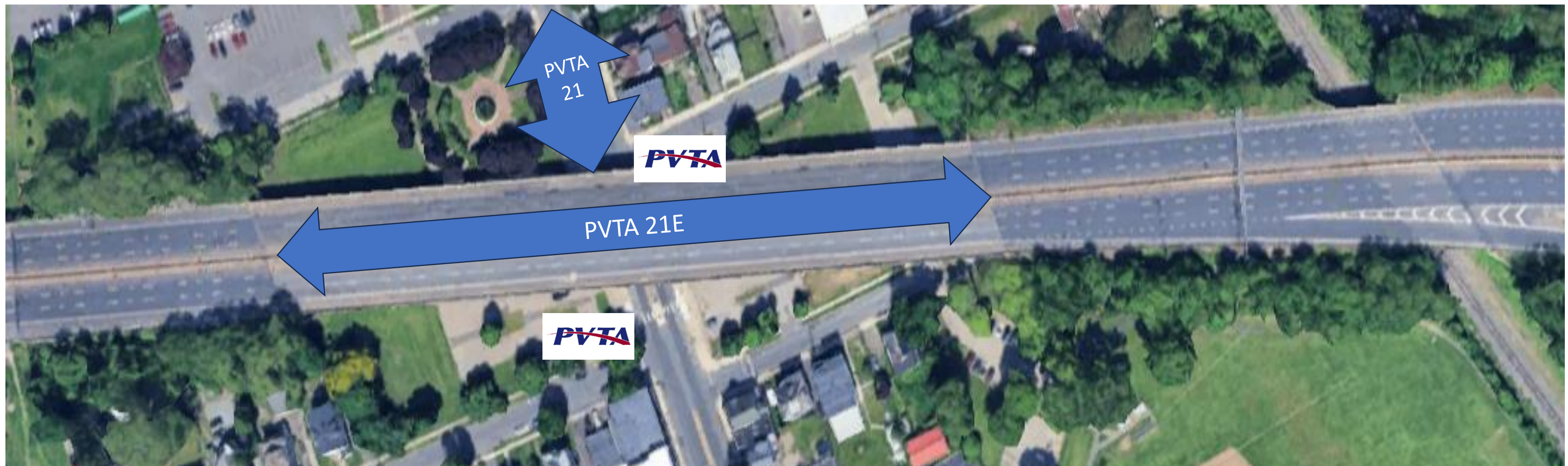
- Presented on April 3<sup>rd</sup>:
  - One northbound lane and two southbound lanes
- Investigating design refinement:
  - Two northbound lanes and two southbound lanes
- Existing structure demolished/new structure built one half at a time to provide a consistent two lanes in both directions during peak periods





## 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
  - Rolling roadblocks on I-391
  - Route 21 stops could need to move away from the bridge for safety, but would remain nearby within walking distance of 35 Mt. Carmel Avenue
  - Coordination with PVTA has been initiated and is ongoing





## Potential Detours – More to Follow at 25% DPH This Fall



Local traffic, cars only

- For trucks or regional traffic:
  - Grattan Street to I-391
  - I-391 towards Holyoke to Exit 5 (Main Street)
  - Right off the exit ramp onto Main Street
  - Right off Main Street onto Cabot Street
  - Cabot Street to Willimansett Bridge
  - Willimansett Bridge to Chicopee Street



## 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
    - Detailed detour maps







**What is the  
construction  
approach?**

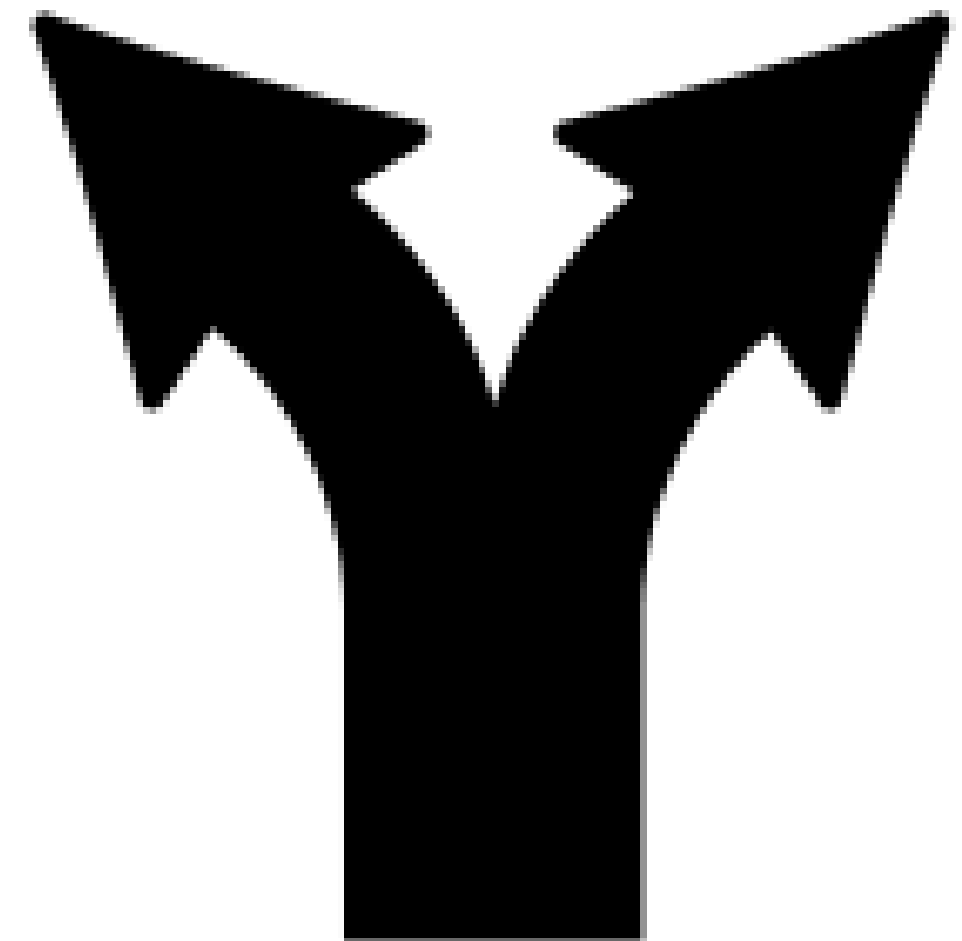
## Proposed construction approach: Design-Build

- 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





# Our next steps

Anticipated start of construction: 2027



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



2<sup>nd</sup> 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

- June 2025:
  - Stakeholder briefings
- Summer: 2<sup>nd</sup> 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



## 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](mailto: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](http://www.mass.gov/i-391-bridge-replacement-chicopee)





## Questions & Discussion





# ***Thank You*** **Vietnam Veterans' Memorial** **Bridge Replacement**

*Valley Opportunity Council*  
*Stakeholder Briefing*

Chicopee | June 9 | 10:30 AM

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