

New Bedford I-195/Route 18 Interchange Rehabilitation Project

Project File No. 606527

Public Information Meeting

January 31, 2019 at 6:30pm

New Bedford Public Library



Agenda

- Welcome & Introductions
- Project Overview
- Project Scope
- Construction Phasing and Impacts
- Timeline and Next Steps
- Discussion

Project Team

MassDOT Highway Division

Project Proponent

Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)

Responsible for oversight and NEPA compliance

CDR Maguire Inc

Project Designer and lead for consultant team including HNTB and Howard Stein Hudson

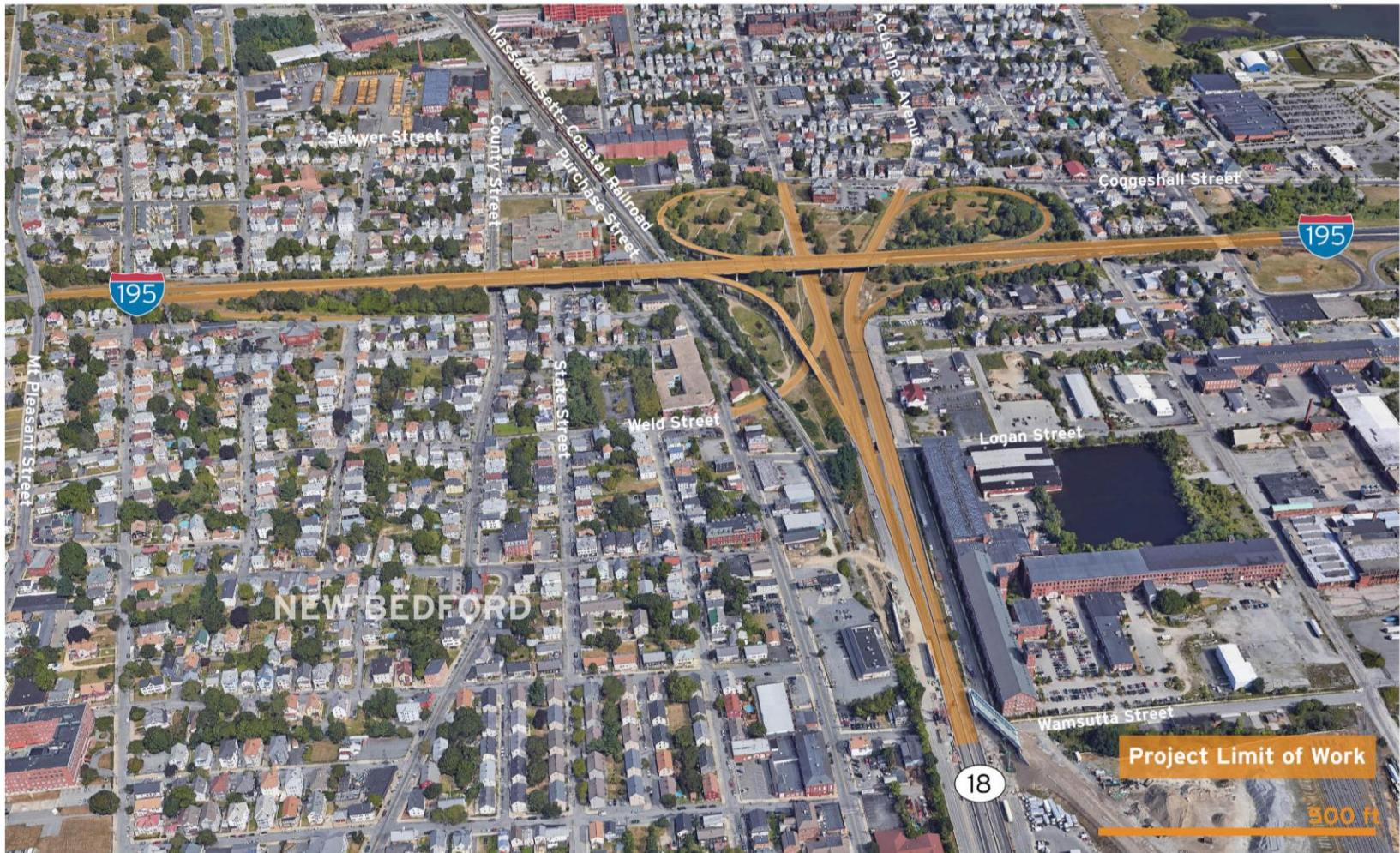
City of New Bedford

Project Goals



- **Address poor conditions on aged structure and improve safety** throughout the I-195/Route 18 interchange
- Design a construction plan that will **minimize and mitigate temporary construction impacts**
- Works towards the federal goal to **reduce structurally deficient deck area** in Massachusetts
- Estimated project budget: \$120 million

Project Area

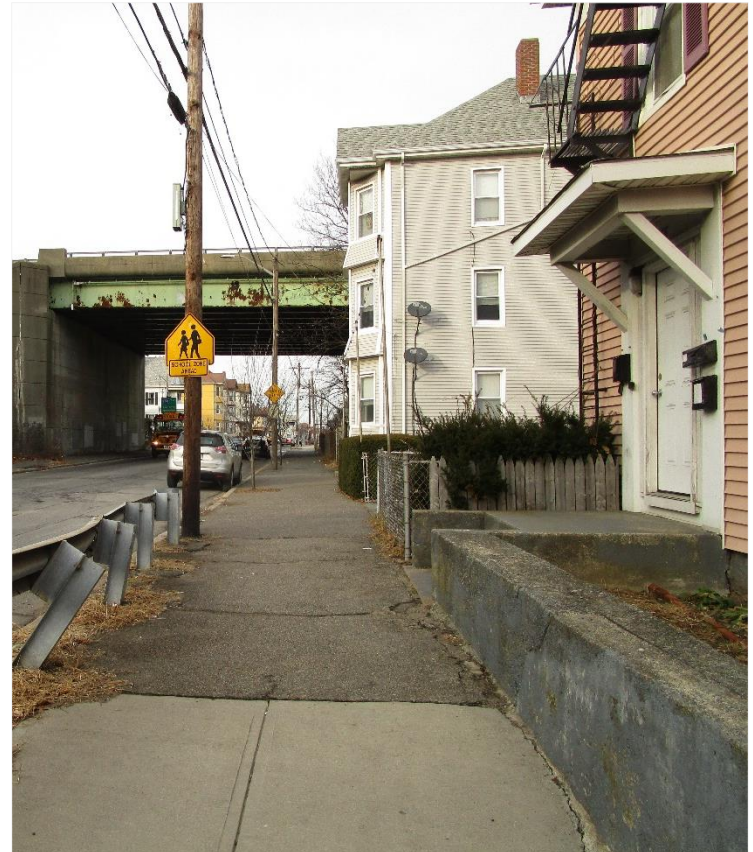


New Bedford Route I-95 to Route 18
Interchange Rehabilitation Project



Project Area Considerations

- One of New Bedford's most densely populated neighborhoods
- Adjacent land uses:
 - Homes
 - Businesses
 - Places of Worship
 - Hayden-McFadden Elementary
 - Parking lots used by New Bedford Public Schools
 - Skate park
 - Agnes Braz/Hope Bean Memorial Building
- 1/4 mile from Acushnet River



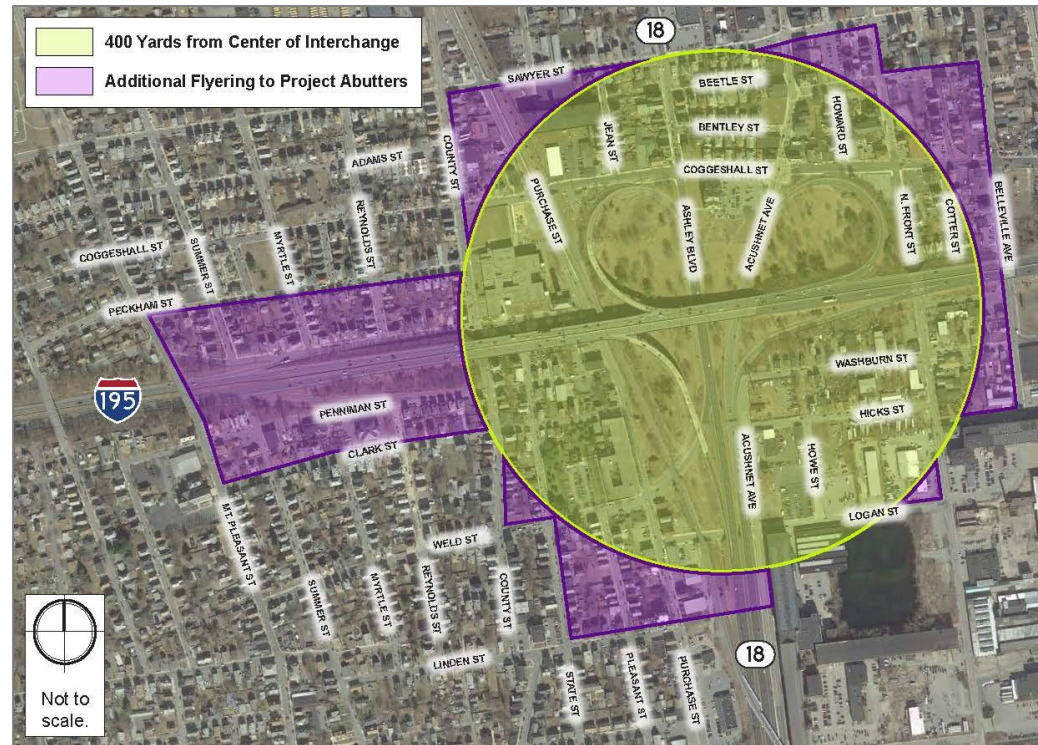
I-195/Route 18 Interchange

- **I-195**, a designated state evacuation route, travels through New Bedford, linking Providence, RI and the Cape
- **Route 18** carries traffic beneath I-195, connecting downtown New Bedford and points north
- **The interchange** was constructed in 1965 and is in serious need of rehabilitation and reconstruction

| Vehicles passing through the interchange per day | |
|--|---------------|
| I-195 | Over 75,000 |
| Route 18 | Over 36,000 |
| Interchange Ramps | Almost 50,000 |

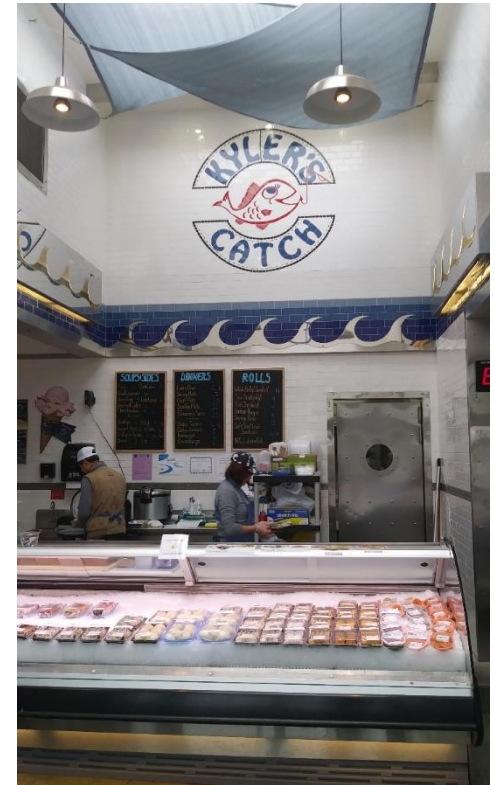
Public Outreach to Date

- Dedicated project website
- Flyer distribution
 - Door-to-door (600)
 - Hayden-McFadden Elementary and Keith Middle schools during pick-up (168)
 - Available at New Bedford Public Library
 - Posted on SRTA Route 4 buses
- Letters mailed to 113 stakeholders with follow-up phone calls
- Meeting notices emailed to 180+ stakeholders



Public Outreach to Date (cont.)

- Pop-up tables in the community (562 people engaged)
 - New Bedford Public Library
 - Kyler's Catch Seafood Market
 - Market Basket
- Community and business briefings
 - New Bedford City Hall
 - New Bedford Age Friendly Coalition
 - Sid Wainer & Sons
- Radio advertisements
 - WKKB Latina 100.3FM (in Spanish)
- Newspaper and print media
 - The New Bedford Standard Times (in English)
 - The Portuguese Times (in Portuguese)
 - O Jornal (in Portuguese)



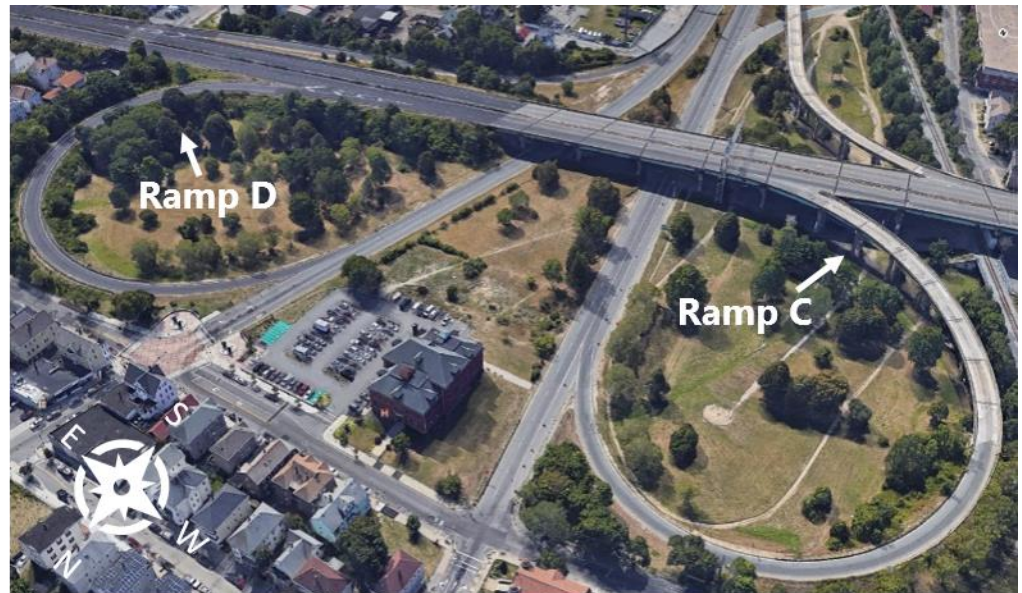
Existing Structural Conditions

- **Deteriorated steel, spalling concrete, and exposed reinforcing** can be seen throughout the interchange
- Ramp F and sections of the bridge have been classified as **functionally obsolete**
- Ramp C and elevated portions of I-195 from Mt. Pleasant Street to Route 18 are in **poor condition**



Existing Safety Conditions

- I-195 westbound from the on-ramp (D) to the off-ramp (C) is a **high crash location** due to a limited weaving area
- **41 crashes** were reported in the project area from 2012 to 2014, mostly due to narrow lanes on the exit ramps
- Elevated crash rate compared to nearby sections of I-195
- Heavy rains cause **flooding** near the interchange on Route 18

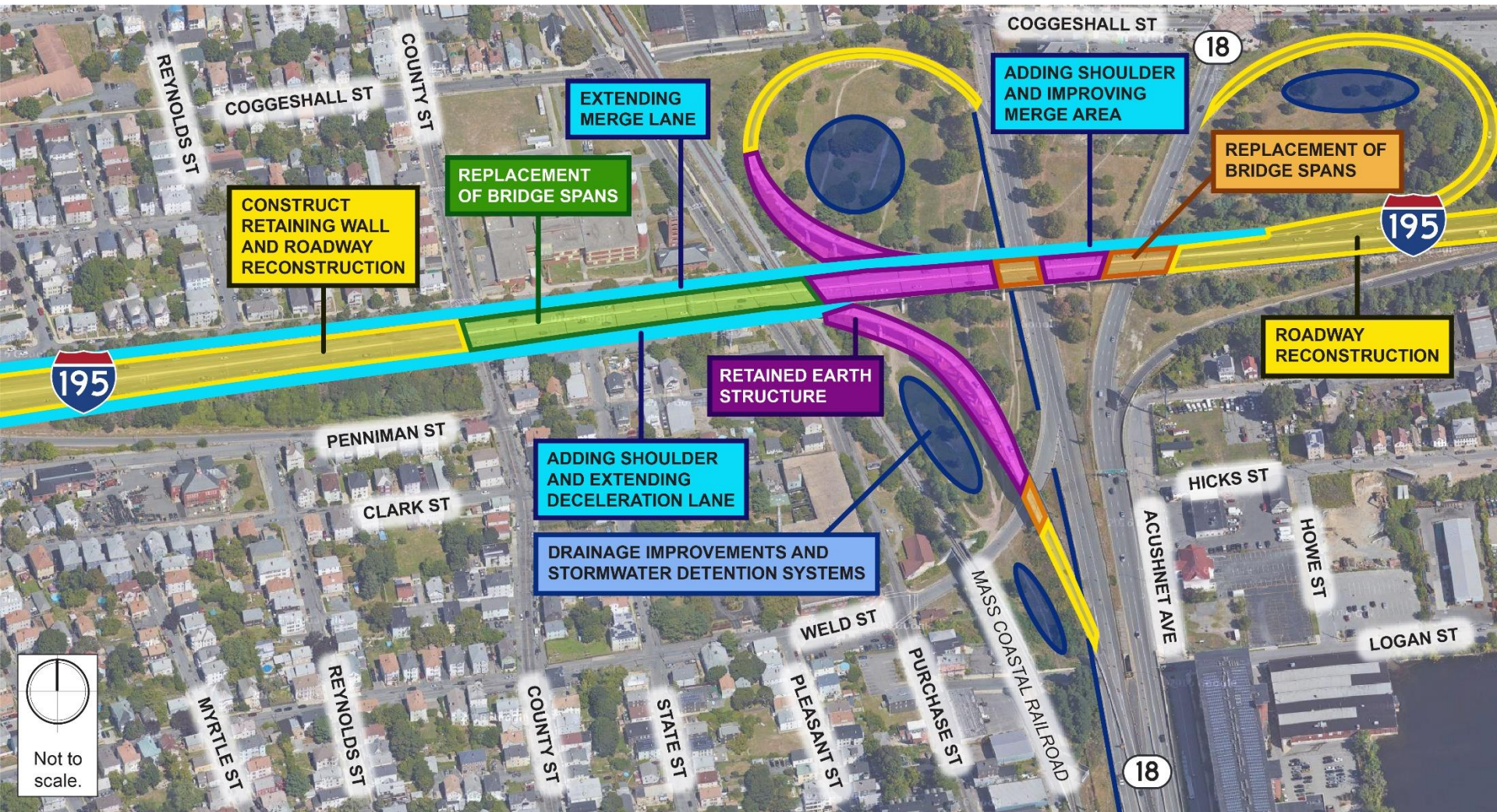


Project Scope

- Replace existing 1,350 feet long viaduct bridge structure
- Repair/replace deficient bridge piers and abutments
- Replace ramp bridges with embankment retained ramps
- Widen merge lanes and lengthen on- and off-ramps
- Construct new stormwater drainage system



Project Work Preview



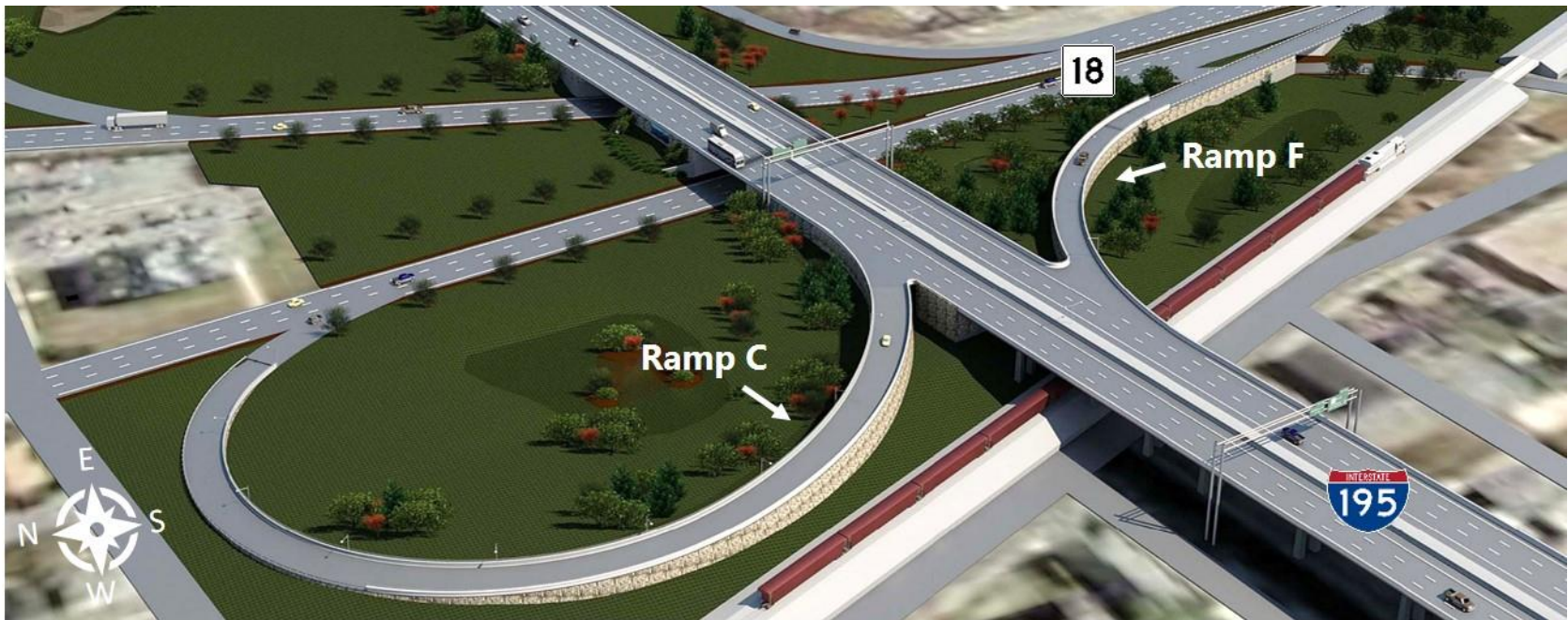
Project Work: I-195 Mainline

- Replace the fifteen-span viaduct bridge
 - One eight-span steel girder bridge (over existing parking lots and skate park)
 - Two steel stringer bridges (over Route 18 north/south)
 - Remaining five spans replaced with highway embankment retained by Pre-cast Modular Gravity walls
- Repair and upgrade existing piers and abutments supplemented with new piers and abutments
- Widen breakdown lanes on both sides of I-195



Project Scope: Ramps

- Replace **Ramp C** (I-195 W. to Route 18 S.) and **Ramp F** (I-195 E. to Route 18 S.) with highway embankment and more gradual curves



Existing and Proposed Ramps

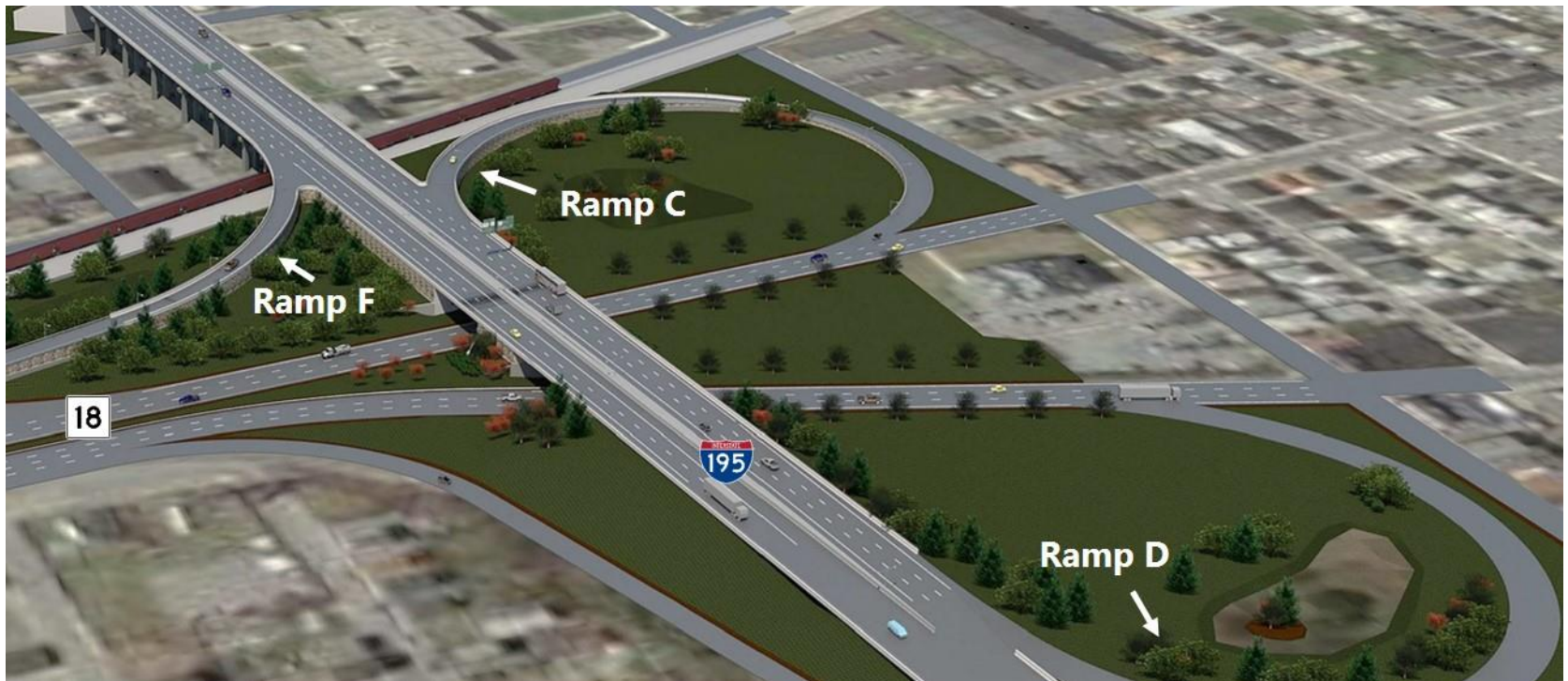


Existing and Proposed Ramps (cont.)



Project Scope: Merge Lanes

- Widen weaving area between Ramps C and D
- Add right-hand lane on I-195 westbound from Ramp D to Cedar Grove Street on-ramp
- Lengthen deceleration lane approaching Ramp F to 600ft



Existing and Proposed Merge Lanes

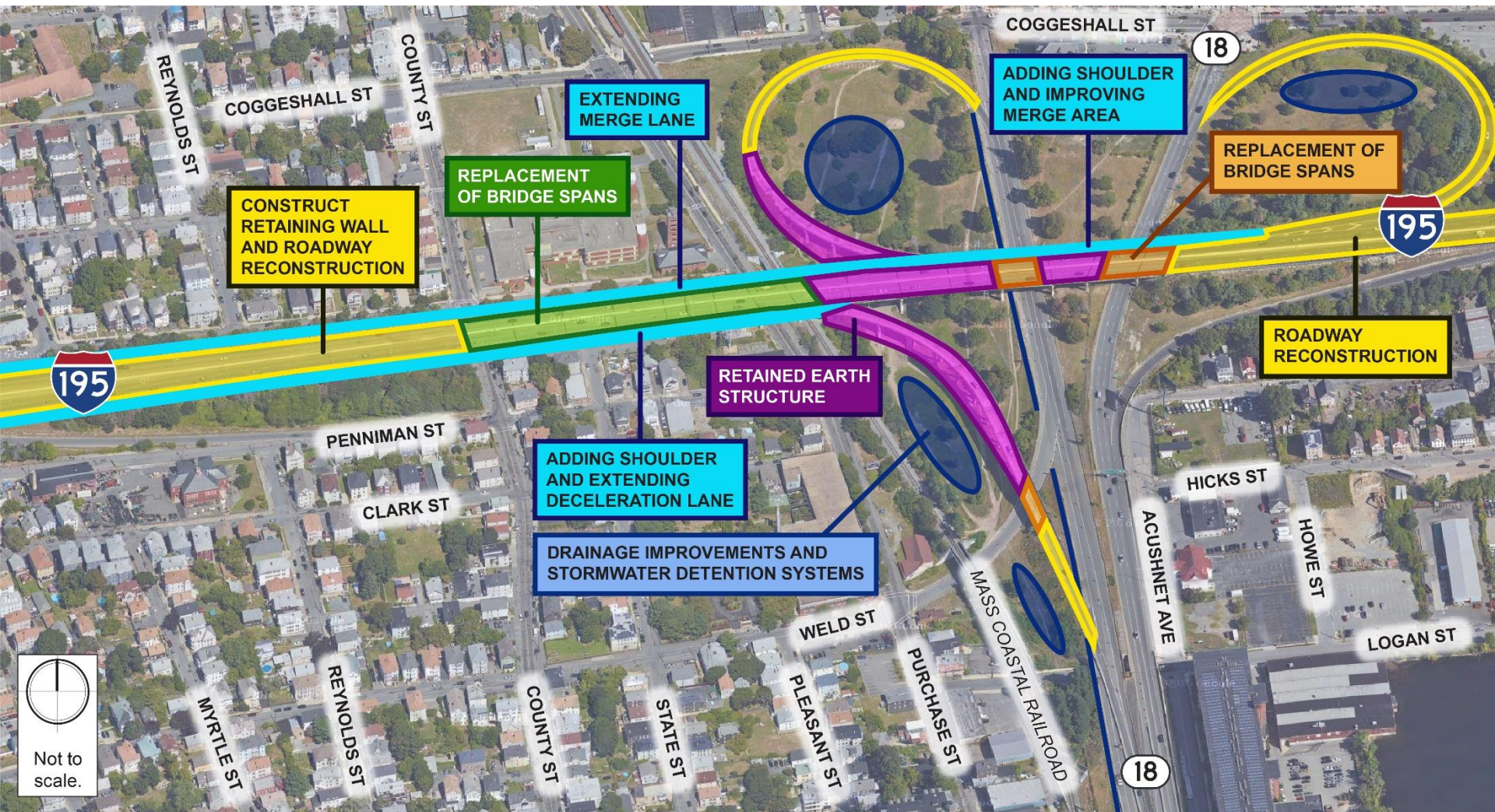


Project Scope: Stormwater System

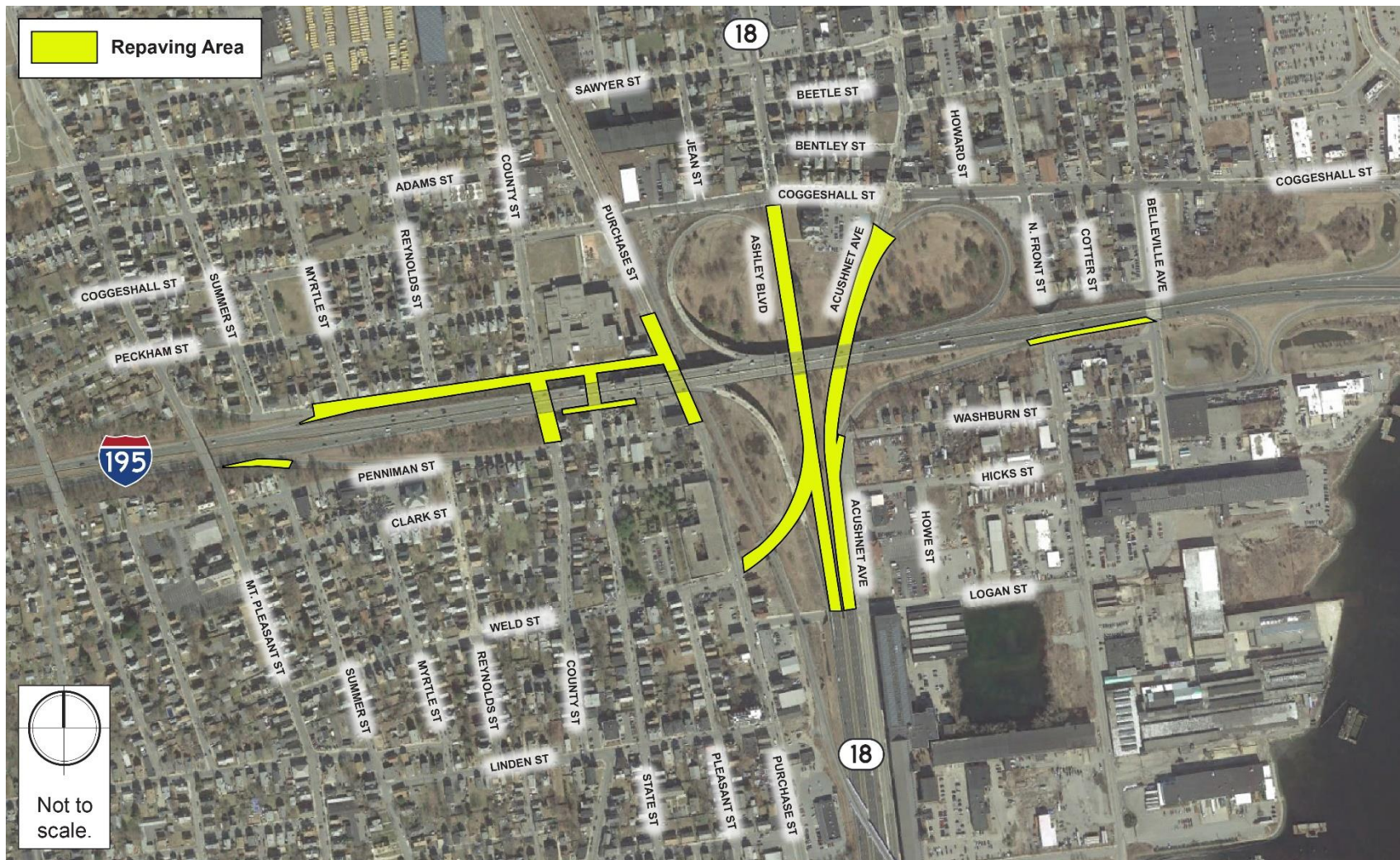
- Construct new stormwater system with open detention ponds in the infield areas
 - Collect storm water runoff from the highway and bridges
 - Allow for ground water recharge
 - Reduce the impacts of stormwater and sewer overflows into the Acushnet River
- Relocate underground Copper Brook Culvert



Project Work Summary



Street Repaving



Improvements and Benefits

| Proposed Improvements | Benefits |
|--|--|
| Replace superstructure and rehabilitate substructure | Meet state and federal regulatory weight and safety requirements |
| Rebuild ramps with highway embankment and improved geometry | Reduce crash rates and improve traffic flow Decrease maintenance costs |
| Widen auxiliary lanes and extend length of on- and off-ramps | Increase weaving and merging area Reduce crash rates and improve traffic flow |
| Widen breakdown lanes on I-195 eastbound and westbound | Increase safety for stopped vehicles Enhance travel lane drainage Provide snow storage |
| Install new stormwater drainage system | Improve drainage and reduce flooding |
| Replace aged and damaged guardrails | Increase safety of roadside barriers |
| Install new road signage | Enhance daytime and nighttime visibility |

Opportunities for Visual Enhancements



Proposed Design



I-95 existing support columns



Public art at Belleville Ave under I-195



Chelsea Viaduct proposed support columns

Construction Phasing

- **Phase 1**
 - All four lanes of I-195 will be moved away from the median to allow for traffic shifts in Phases 2 and 3
- **Phase 2**
 - I-195 westbound traffic will be relocated across the median to occupy part of the eastbound structure
 - Ramps C and D will be closed and reconstructed
- **Phase 3**
 - All I-195 traffic will be relocated to the westbound structure
 - Ramp F will be closed and reconstructed
 - The Weld Street off-ramp will be closed and reconstructed while the Ramp F overpass is under construction
 - An improved median will be constructed

Construction Impacts

- Will not require taking any permanent right-of-way on private property
- No permanent impacts to city streets or intersections are anticipated at this time
- Temporary occupation of city streets and intersections for construction operations is anticipated



Construction Impacts: Traffic

- Two lanes of traffic will be maintained in each direction
- Signage and median barriers will be installed for vehicular and worker safety
- Crews may work nights and weekends as needed to shorten construction
- No detour routes will be designated for I-195 through traffic
- Ramps will be closed to traffic for extended construction periods
- Signed detours will be in place during ramp closures
- Alternative routes and ramps will be available in the project area to guide traffic around the temporarily closed ramps and accommodate voluntary diversions of traffic
- Police details and flaggers will be utilized as appropriate, such as during temporary lane closures

Construction Impacts: Abutters

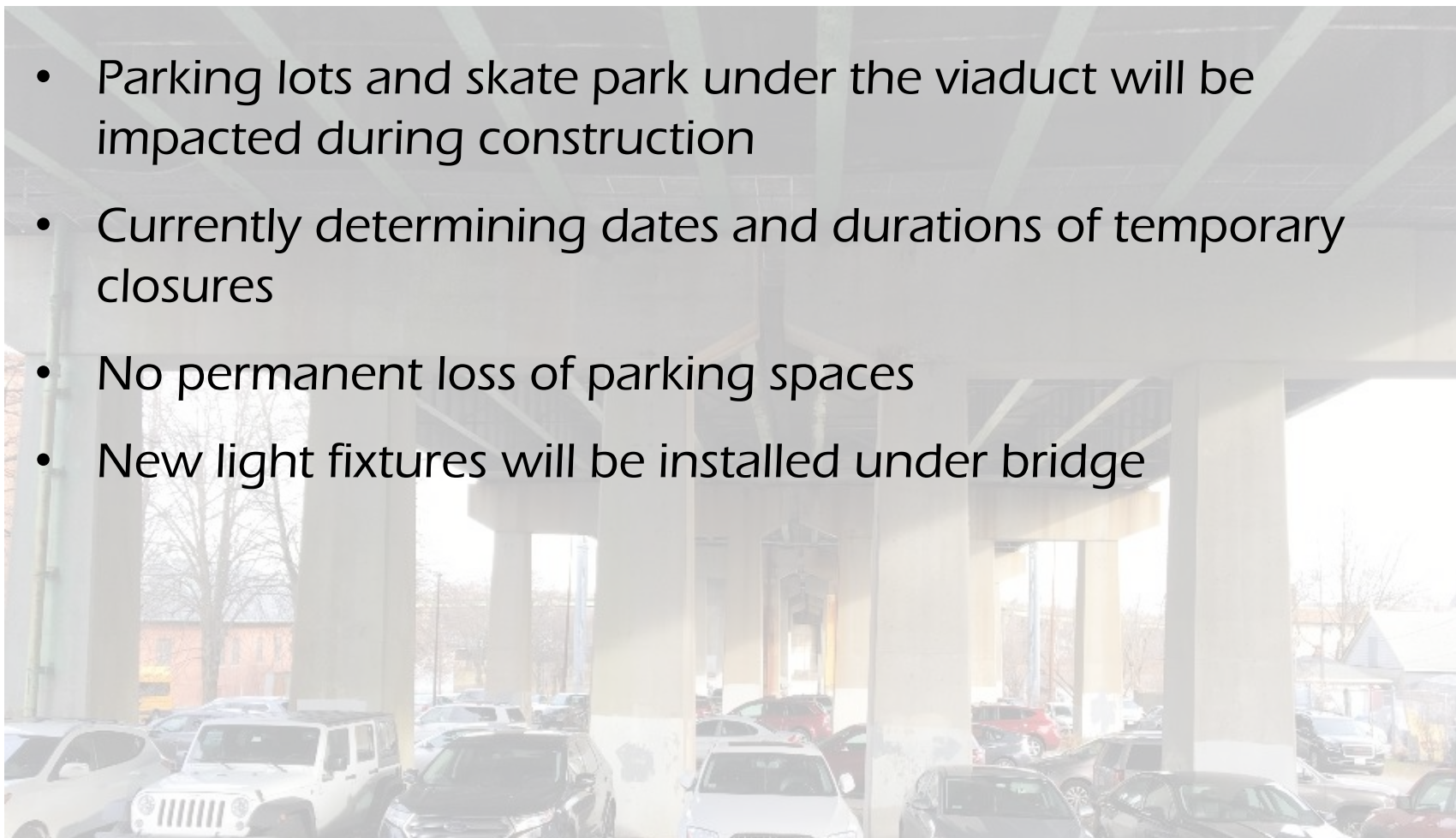
- Currently evaluating the most appropriate measures to minimize construction impacts
- Dust and pollutant containment system
- Lead Paint Abatement Plan
- Provide temporary drainage
- Keep abutters and users informed through public outreach



Tobin Bridge dust and pollutant containment system in Chelsea, MA

Construction Impacts: Parking and Skate Park

- Parking lots and skate park under the viaduct will be impacted during construction
- Currently determining dates and durations of temporary closures
- No permanent loss of parking spaces
- New light fixtures will be installed under bridge



Environmental Review

- Project requires National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) review and approval by Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)
- Community engagement is integral to the NEPA Process
- Community input in this design process will be documented
- FHWA is a participant in project development and will determine adequacy of the public process
- Other environmental approvals:
 - Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act

Project Milestones and Next Steps

Public Information Meeting
January 31, 2019

75% Design Public Information Meeting
Fall 2019

Construction
2023 – 2025

25% Design Public Hearing
March 2019

Advertisement
Spring 2023

Completion
2025

Public Involvement

Thank You!

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Visit the project website for more information on the project, impacts, and how to get involved and stay informed:

www.mass.gov/route-i-195-to-route-18-interchange-rehabilitation-in-new-bedford