



# Public Information Meeting #2







## Rourke Bridge Replacement Project

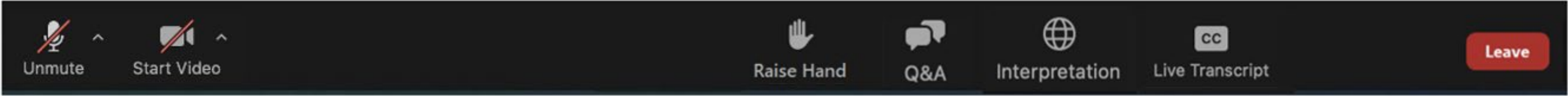
Lowell, MA | February 7, 2023 | 6:00pm

MassDOT #607887



# Zoom meeting controls

-  • Listen in English, Spanish, Khmer
-  • Ask a question and share comments
-  • Drop down menu to check microphone and speakers
-  • Raise your hand - \*9 for users dialing in and Alt + Y to raise your hand
-  • If you are unable to access the internet or are having technical problems, please call into the meeting at +1 (646) 876-9923, Webinar ID: 895 9018 8627
-  • Closed captioning provided  
**Live Transcript**



# Public meeting notes and procedures

## Notification of video Recording

- This virtual public meeting will be recorded. The Massachusetts Department of Transportation may choose to retain and distribute the video, images, audio, and/or chat transcript.
- All parts of this meeting are considered public record.
- By continuing attendance with this virtual public meeting, you are consenting to participate in a recorded event.
- If you are not comfortable being recorded, please turn off your camera and keep your microphone muted, or you may choose to excuse yourself from the meeting.

## Important Notes

- Your microphone and camera are automatically disabled upon entering the meeting.
- The meeting will be open to questions and answers at the end of the formal presentation.
- Please take time to respond to our survey at the end of the meeting. Your feedback is important.

**All questions and comments are welcome and appreciated, however we do request that you refrain from any disrespectful comments.**



## Notice of MassDOT's policy on diversity and civil rights:

- All MassDOT activities, including public meetings, are free of discrimination.
- MassDOT complies with all federal and state civil rights requirements preventing discrimination based on sex, race, color, ancestry, national origin (limited English proficiency), religion, creed, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, or veteran's status.
- 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> to reach the Office of Diversity and Civil Rights.

**Thank you for joining our meeting. We appreciate your participation!**



# Agenda

- Project Recap and Updates (**Steve McLaughlin**) (5min)
- Discussion of On-Going Design Development (22min total)
  - Bicycle and Pedestrian Accommodations (**Dan Barbosa**) (5min)
  - Landscape Design Elements (**Deneen Crosby**) (5min)
  - Bridge Structure (**Shaun St. Hilaire**) (2min)
  - Bridge Aesthetics (**Etty Padmodipoetro**) (5min)
  - Bridge Lighting (**Domingo Gonzalez**) (5min)
- Cost and Schedule Update (**Steve McLaughlin**) (2min)
- Q & A using Raise Hand Feature
- Meeting Adjourn





# Project Update

## Project Purpose - Recap



- Bridge Replacement



- Enhance safety and connectivity for Pedestrians, Bicycles, Emergency Vehicles and Watercraft



- Improve Traffic Operations at the Wood Street intersections with Pawtucket Boulevard, Middlesex Street, and Princeton Boulevard



## Progress To-Date

- Selected Alignment
- Selected Bridge Type and Layout
- Confirmed and selected 4-lane roadway configuration
- Identified Preferred Bike and Pedestrian Path configuration





# Proposed Bicycle and Pedestrian Connections

## What are the important features for crossing the bridge as a bicyclist or pedestrian?

Flexibility in the path use

Separation of bicyclists and pedestrians

Simple wayfinding connections

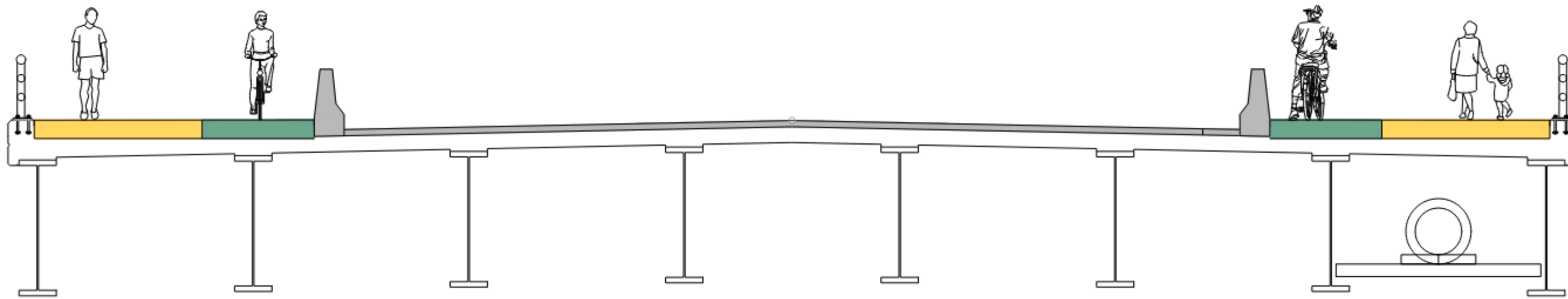
Space for furniture lighting and signing

Equal use for northbound and southbound



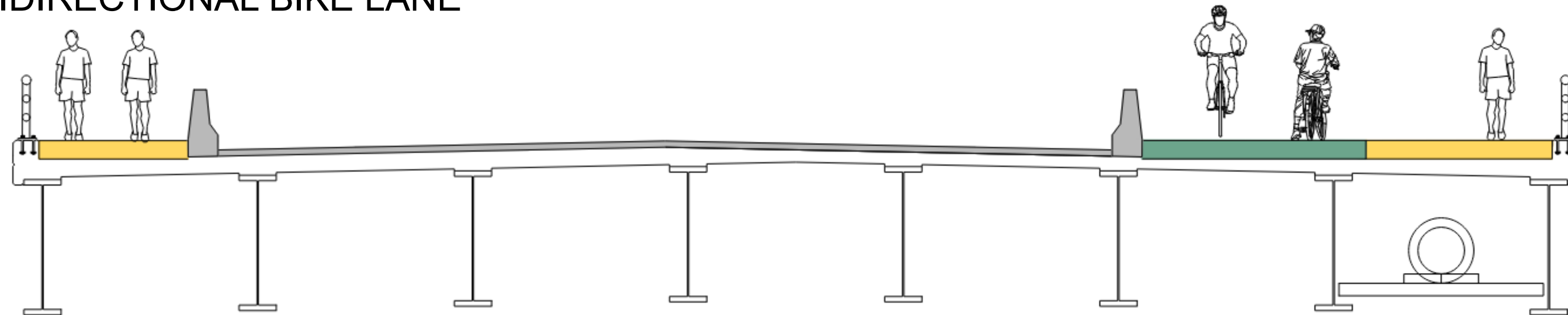
## Previous Rourke Bridge Path Options

### ONE WAY SEPARATED BIKE LANE



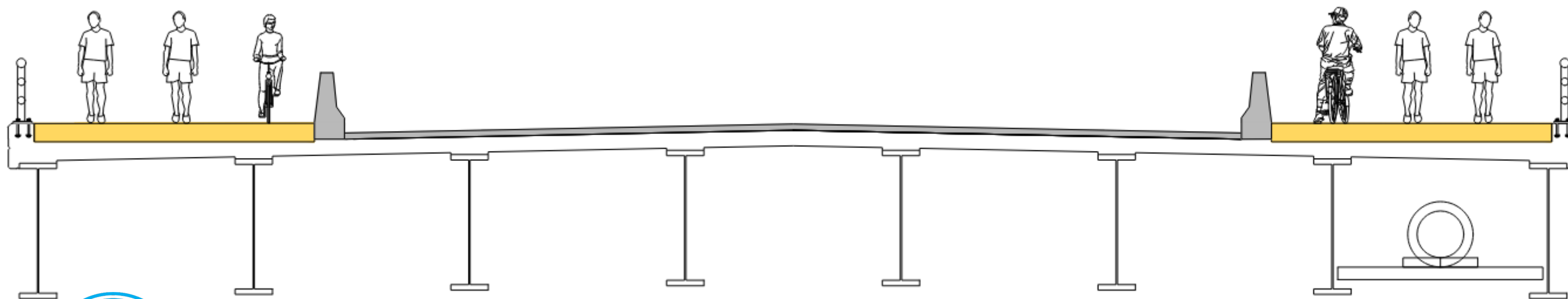
- Narrow sidewalk buffers
- Low flexibility for changes in use
- Could result in wrong way bicycles
- Less bicycle/pedestrian conflict.

### BIDIRECTIONAL BIKE LANE



- Wider sidewalk buffer
- Mild flexibility for changes in use
- Bicycles on Southbound sidewalk would comingle with pedestrians.

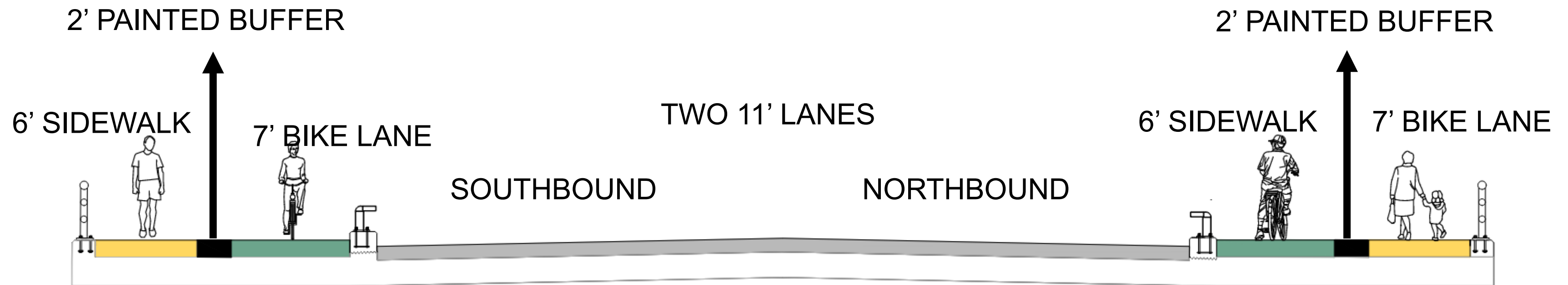
### SHARED USE PATH



- Most flexibility for change in use.
- Equal use and width for Northbound and southbound.
- Bicycles and pedestrians would comingle.



## Proposed Rourke Bridge Roadway and Path Configuration

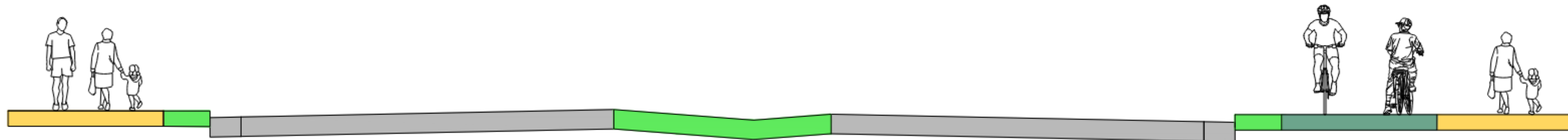


- Provides less bicycle/pedestrian conflict
- More flexibility for changes in use

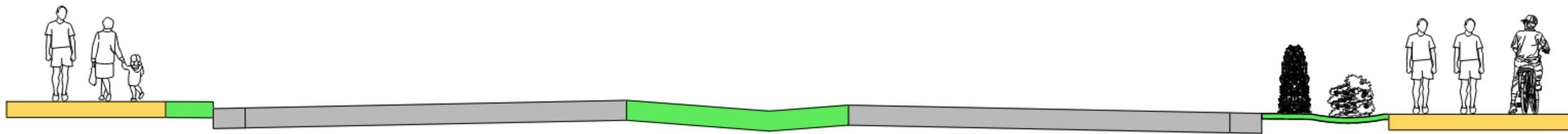


## Pawtucket Boulevard – Previous Approach Roadway Cross-Section Options

### BIDIRECTIONAL SEPARATED BIKE LANE AND SIDEWALKS



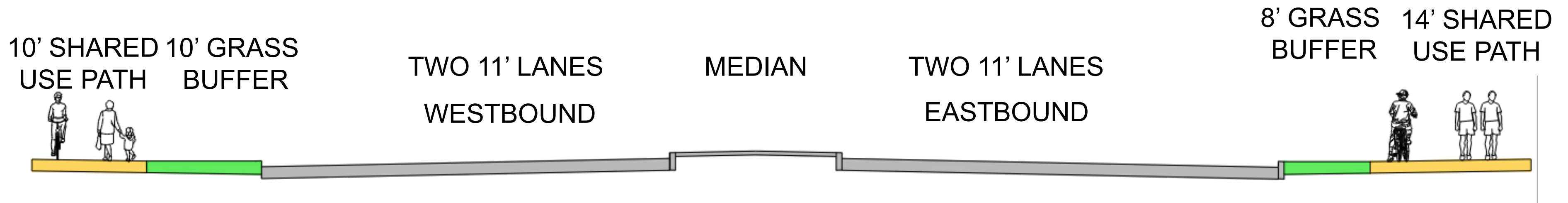
### SHARED USE PATH ON BOTH SIDES



- Both options provide great connectivity to the proposed Rourke Bridge Section
- Shared Use option has less of an impact



## Pawtucket Boulevard – Proposed Approach Roadway Cross-Section



- Provides less impact to Right of Way and Environmental
- Less pavement, more opportunity for landscape features



# Landscape Architectural Elements

## Landscape Architectural Goals

- City and Neighborhood Character and Image: Bridge is set into the landscape – design is to restore riverbanks and maximize recreational use
- Safe and Effective Modes for all Users: Pedestrian and Bicyclist Focus – design to provide connections in all directions
- Open Space: Design to bring improvements and better access to existing open space and to further environmental goals
- City Vitality: Design to encourage improved river use and engagement with the river – better boating, better viewing and more access for residents



## Landscape Character

### North Side:

- River edge and Pawtucket– parkland to the east and wooded to the west of existing bridge
- Riverfront access and recreational use to the east of existing bridge
- Pawtucket north side – developing, street trees at back of sidewalk typical, at curb near new development



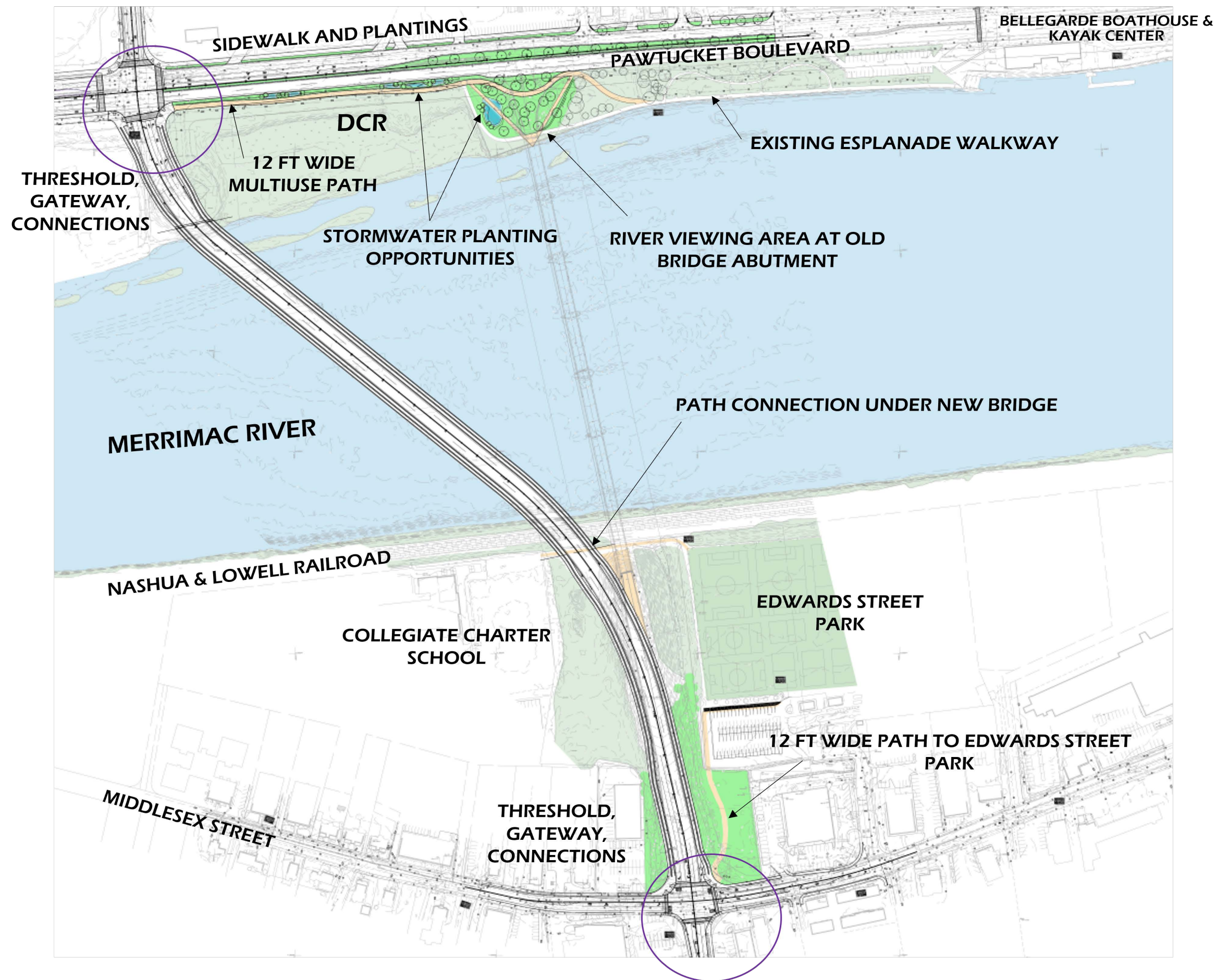
## Landscape Character (cont.)

### South Side:

- Edwards Street Park and Collegiate Charter School – destinations on both sides of bridge landing
- “Strip-like” character of Wood and Middlesex Streets
- Railroad is barrier to river access from adjacent neighborhood



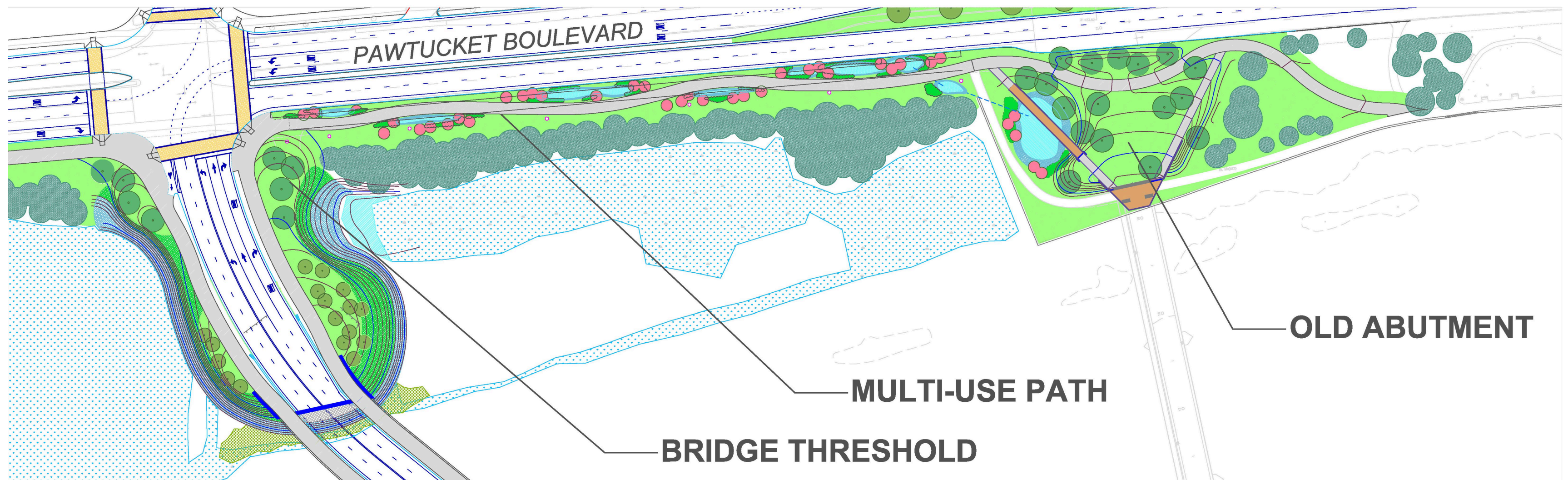
## Opportunities



- Restore riverbanks and maximize recreational use
- Provide bicycle and pedestrian connections in all directions
- Evaluate potential for better access to existing open space and further environmental goals
- Encourage engagement with the river –better viewing and more access for residents

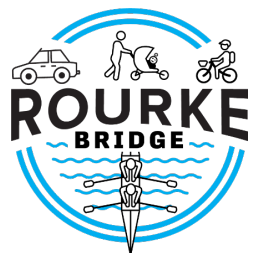
## North Side Opportunities

- Placemaking opportunity at old abutment
- Stormwater opportunities and planting consistent with creating planted buffers at the Merrimack River
- Multi-use Path along Pawtucket and connection to Esplanade Path to east
- Bridge threshold and ped/bike connections



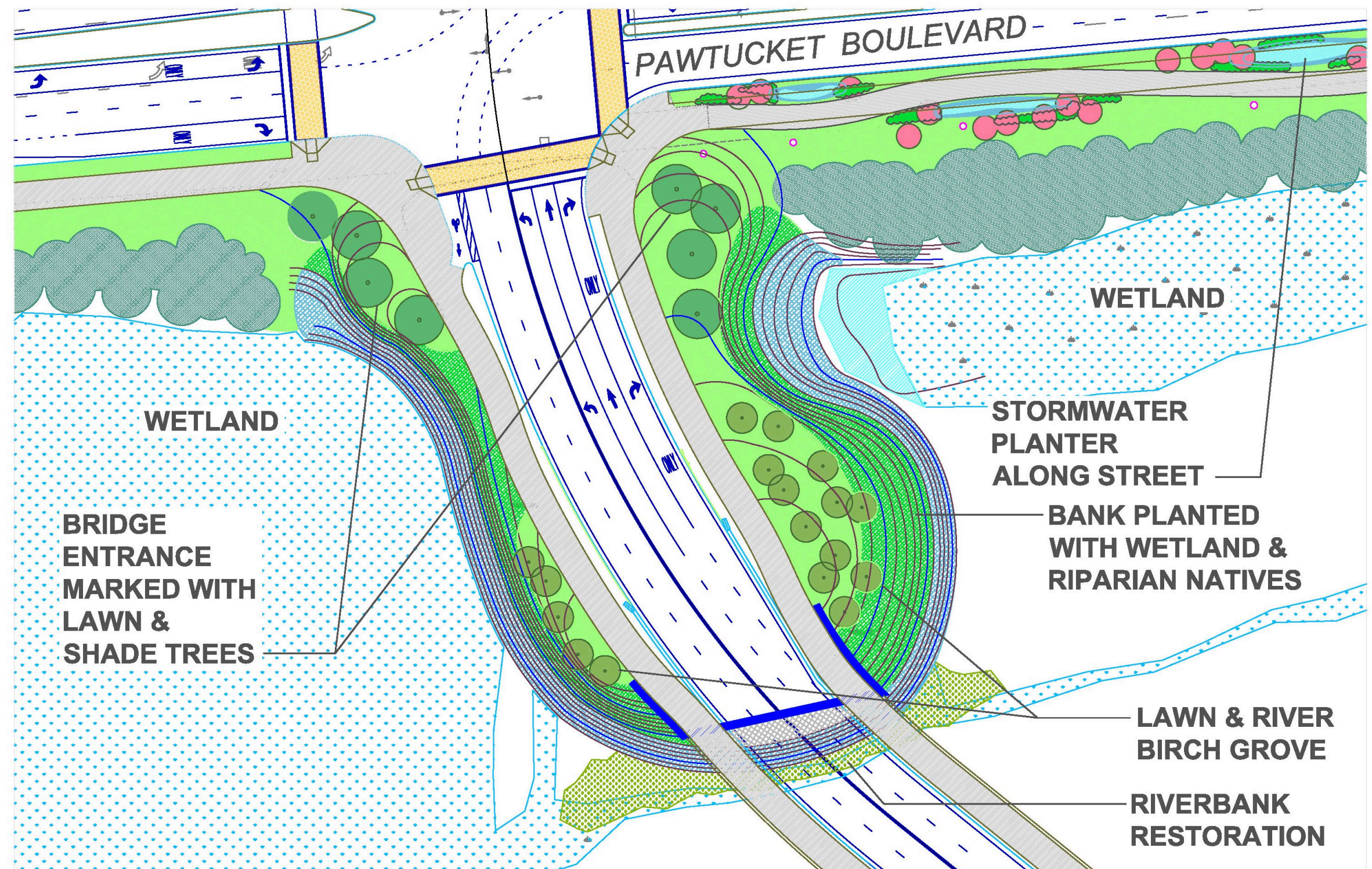
## North Side

4'-19' buffer along Pawtucket Blvd. and a curving 12'-0" wide Multi-Use Path. Path is above Telecom line in places, and meanders under the Overhead Utility Poles in areas.



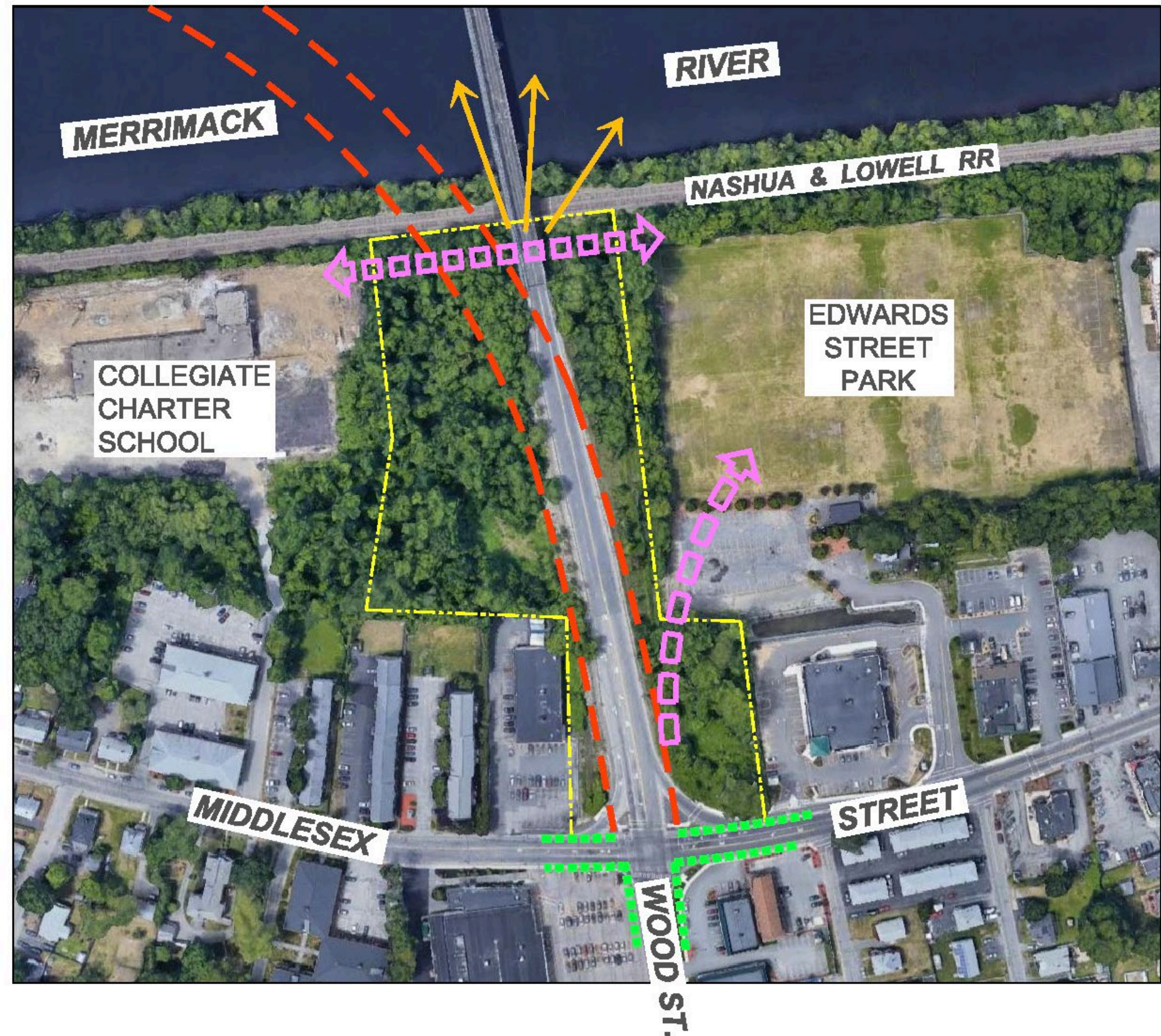
## North Side - Threshold

- Distinct plantings at entrance mark north and south bridge entrances
- Level area adjacent to bridge on east and west sides allows for grove at threshold
- Native plantings – creation and restoration of river and wetland banks



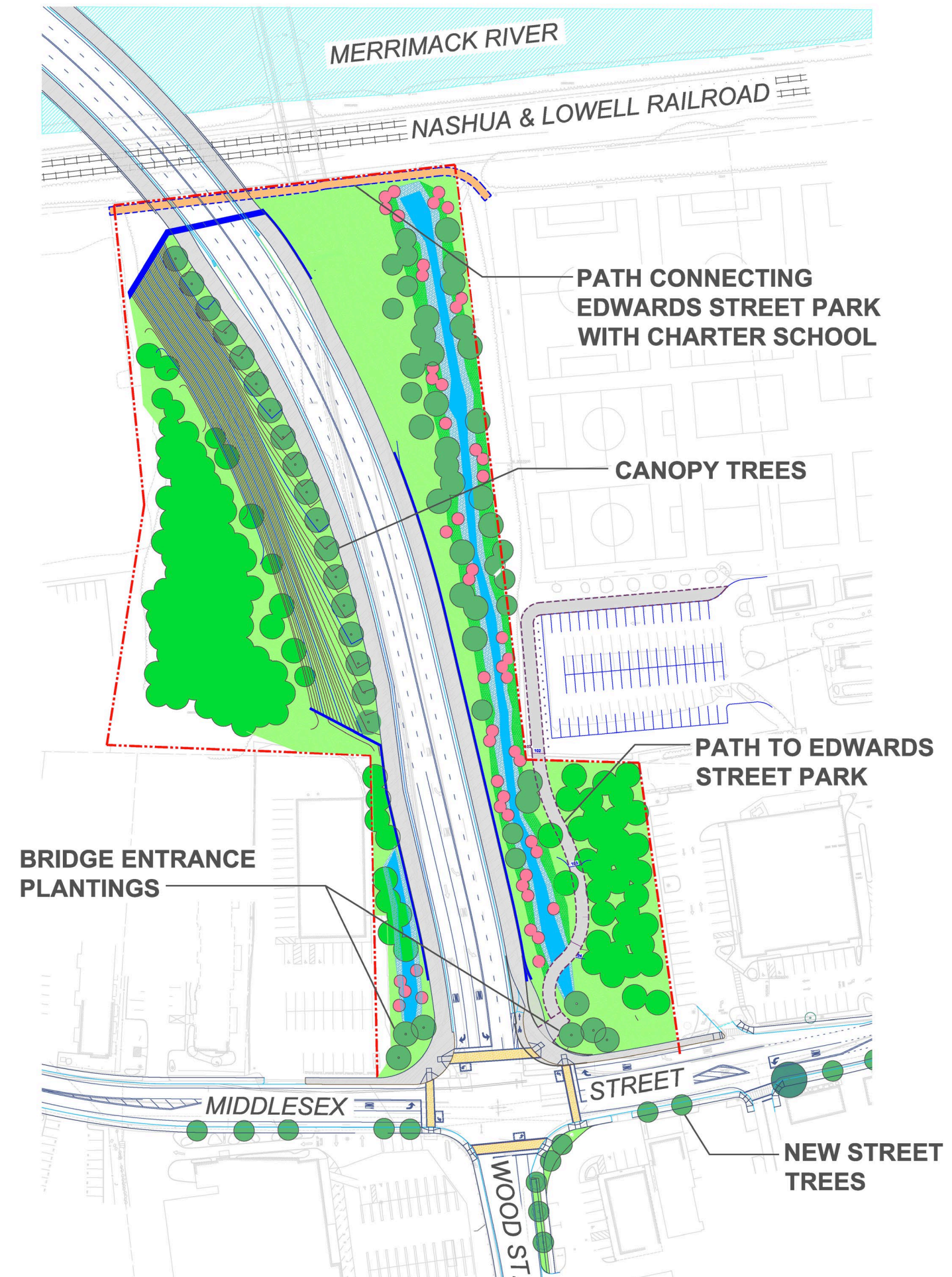
## South Side Opportunities

- Evaluate placemaking opportunity/overlook at old bridge abutment
- Evaluate path connection under new bridge between Collegiate Charter School and Edwards Street Park
- Evaluate connection to Edwards Street Park from the bridge
- Bridge threshold and Bike/Ped connections to existing streets



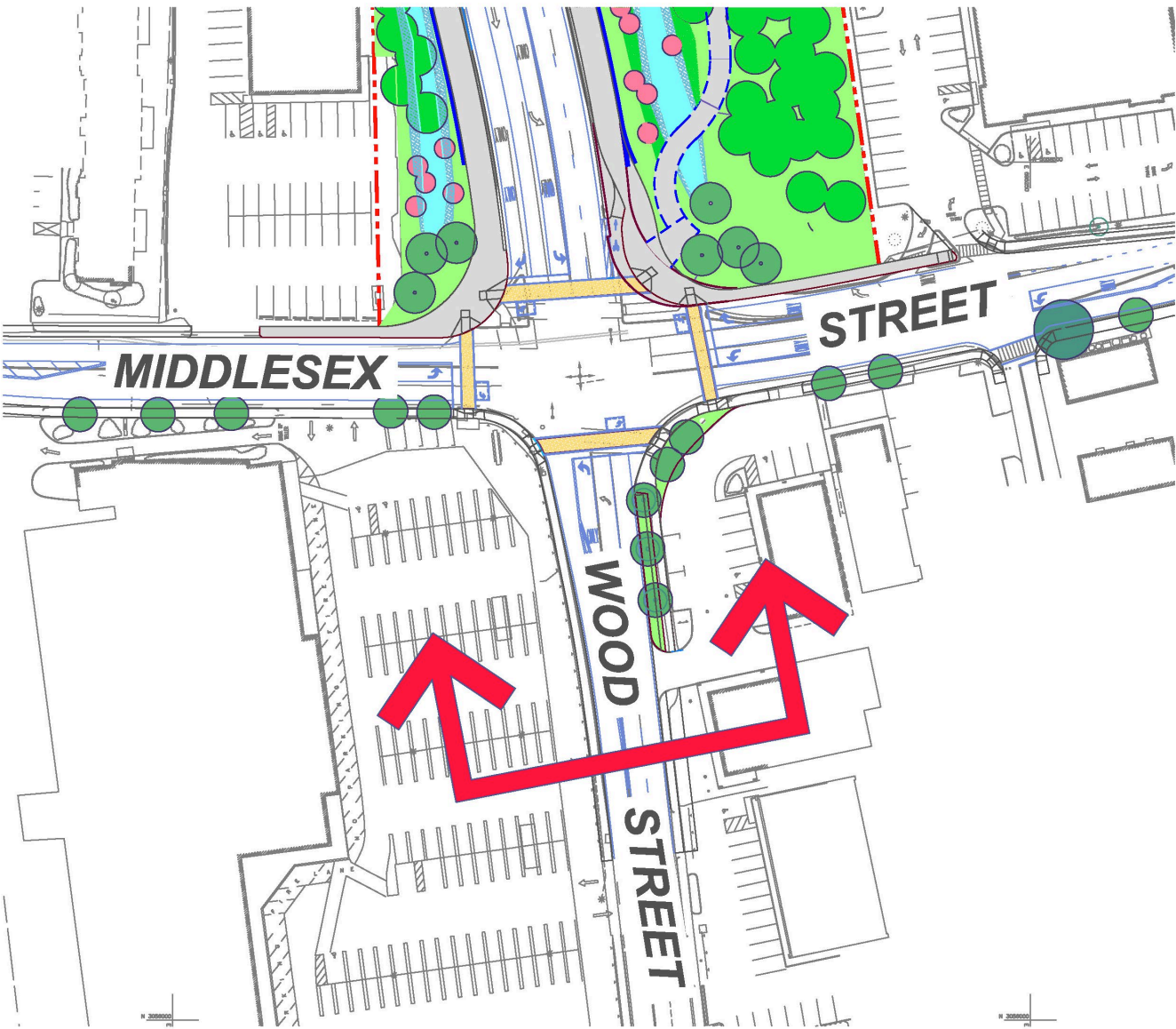
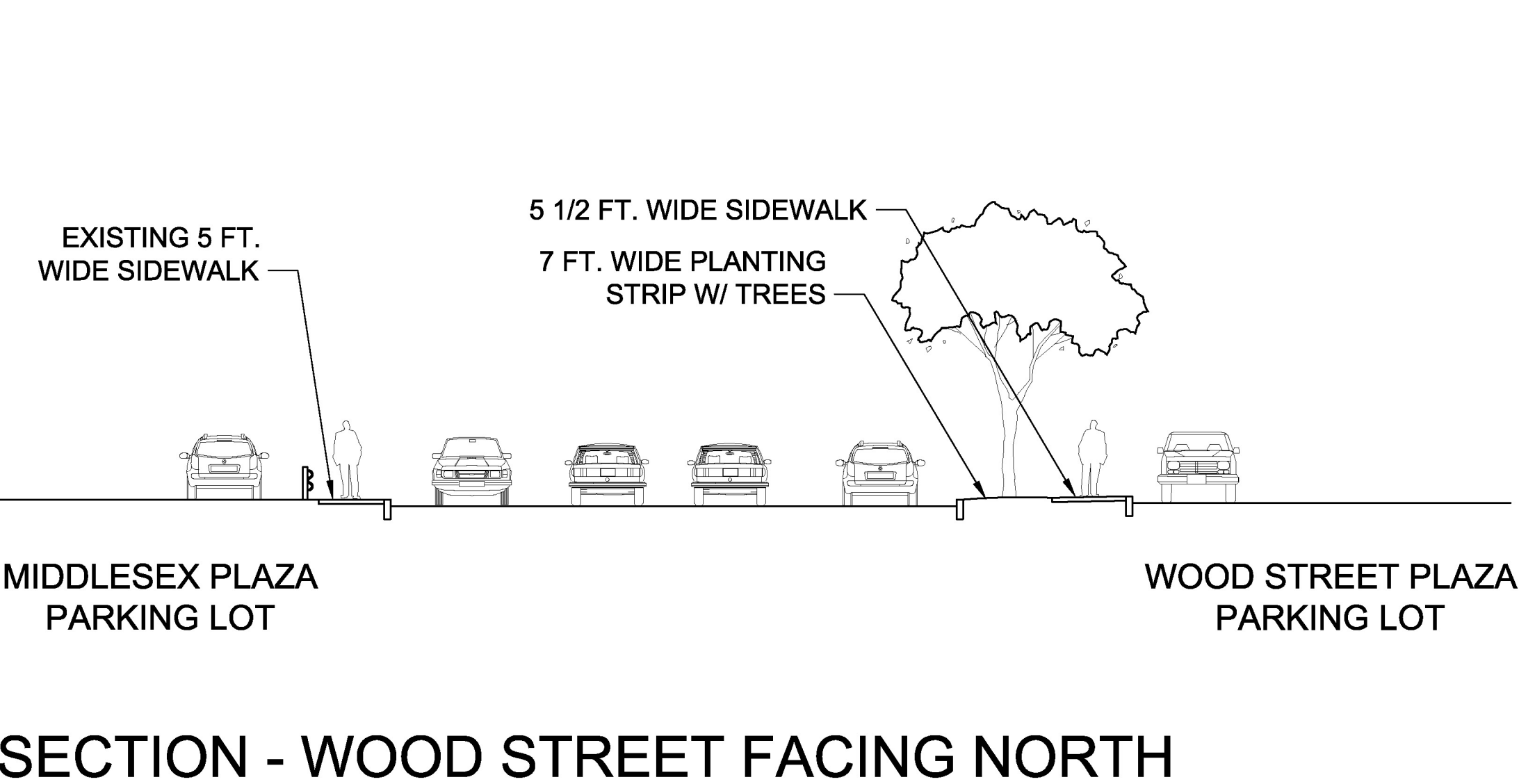
## South Side

- Potential path connecting school and park
- Potential connection to Edwards Street Park from bridge multi-use paths
- Bridge threshold gateway plantings and ped/bike connections
- Potential street tree plantings



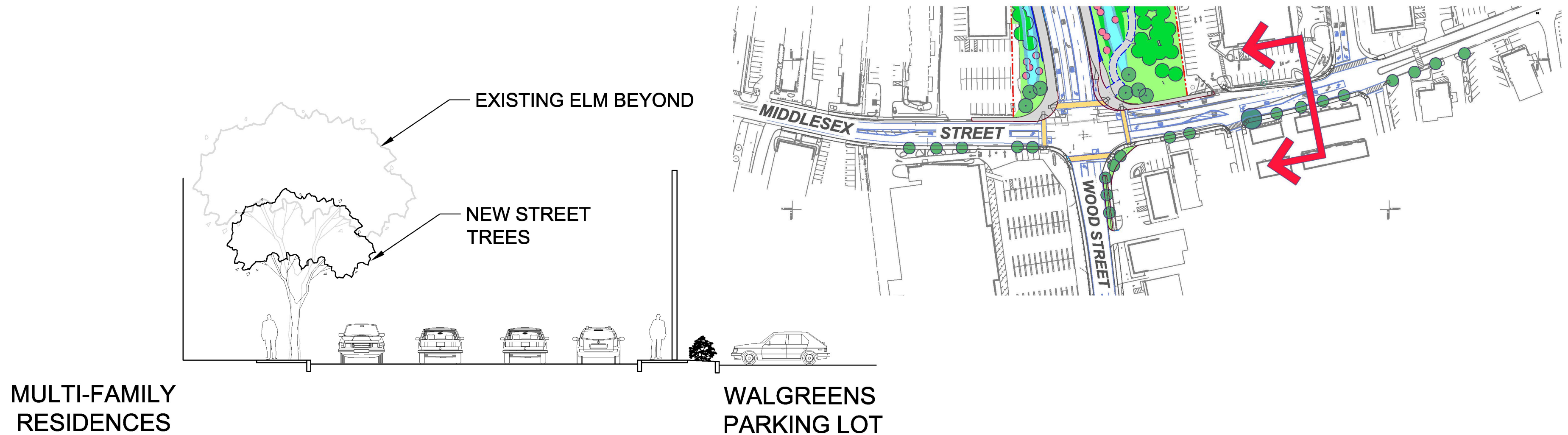
# South Side: Street Connections – Wood

- Develop tree plantings in lawn on east side

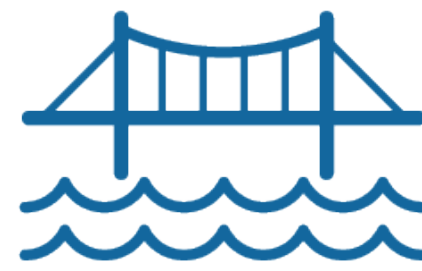
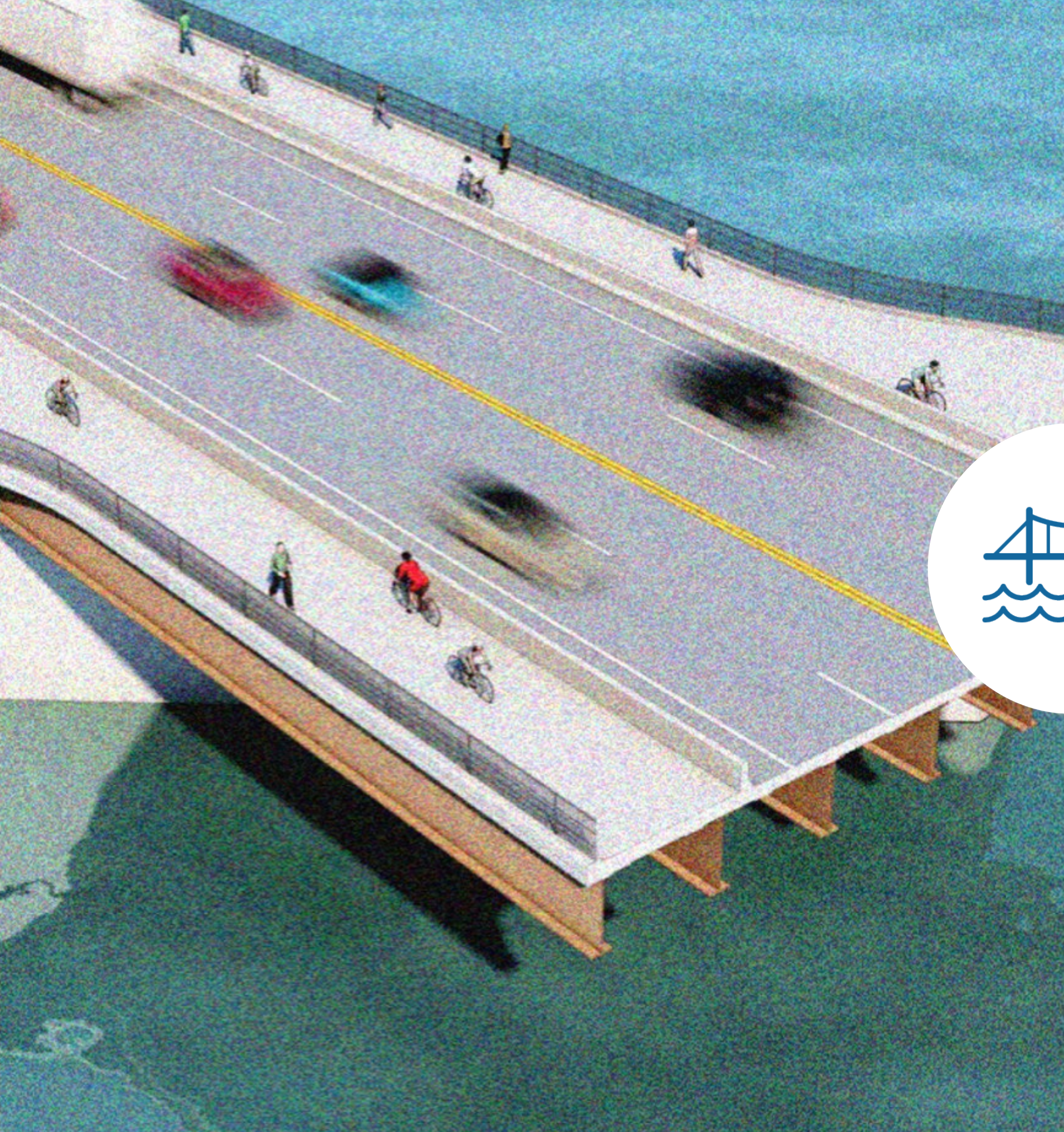


## South Side: Street Connections – Middlesex

- Develop tree plantings particularly on south side
- Opportunity for tree plantings at bridge threshold



## SECTION - MIDDLESEX STREET FACING WEST



# Bridge Architecture and Lighting

## Key Bridge Design Metrics Overview

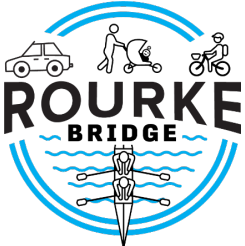
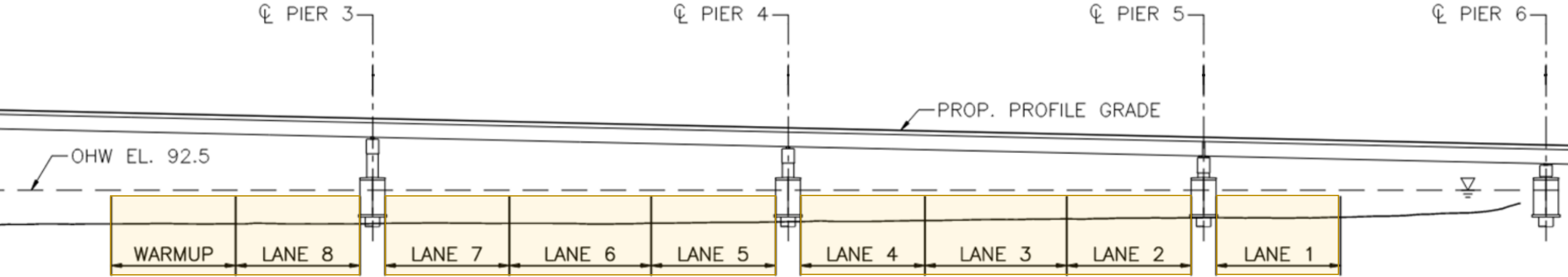
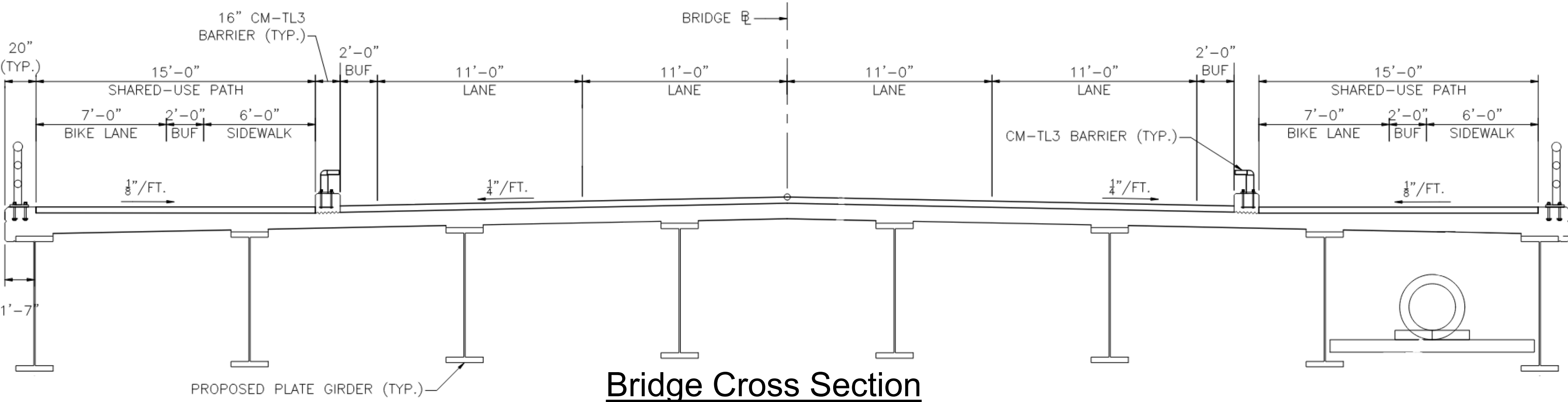
- Pedestrian/Bike Functionality and Recreation
- Water Recreation & Rowing Events
- Views to/from Bridge
- Constructability
  - Staging
  - Construction Duration
  - Time of Bridge Opening
- Vertical clearance
- Optimize Pier Locations:
  - Maximize width of usable riverway

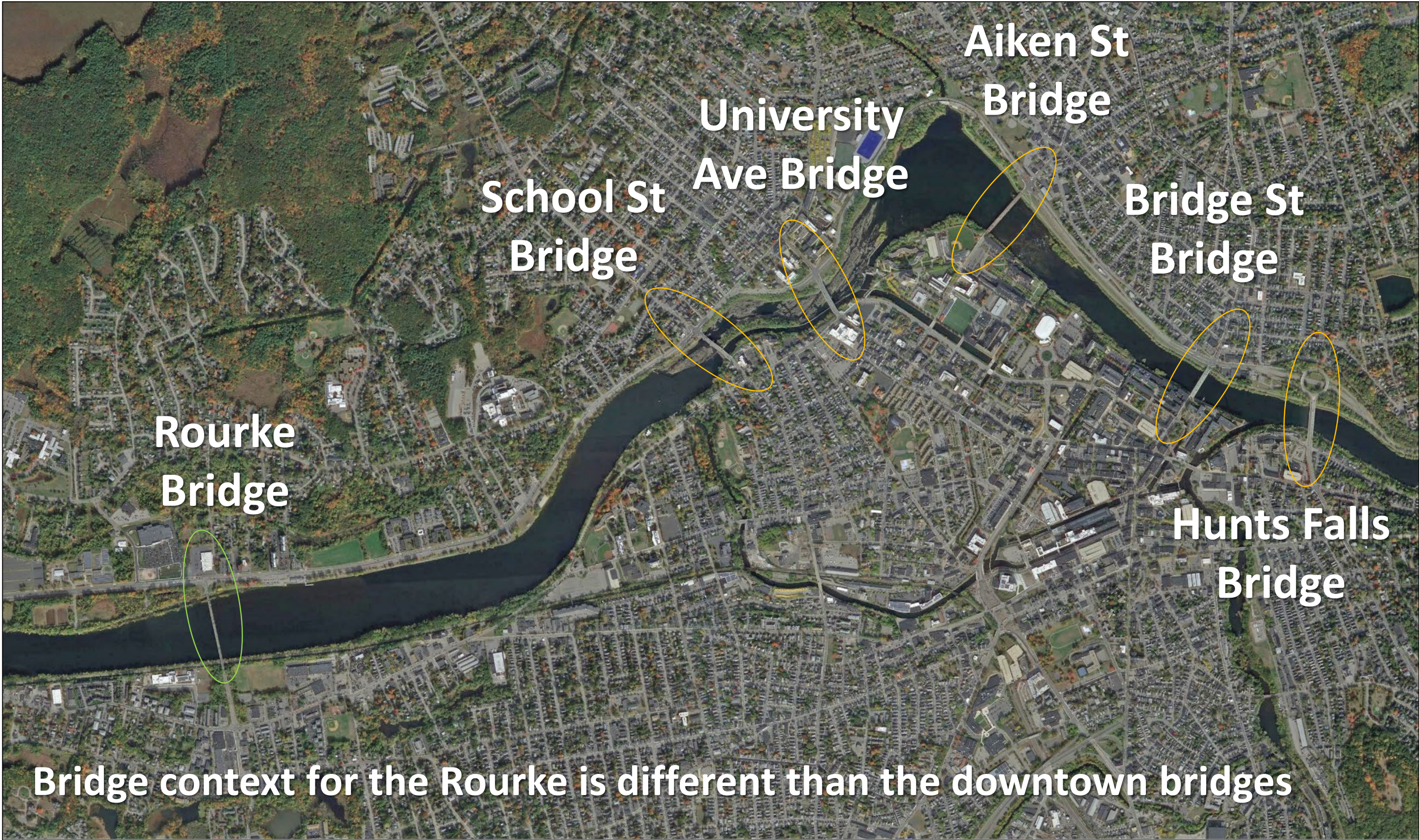


Proposed Old Ferry Rd Roadway Alignment



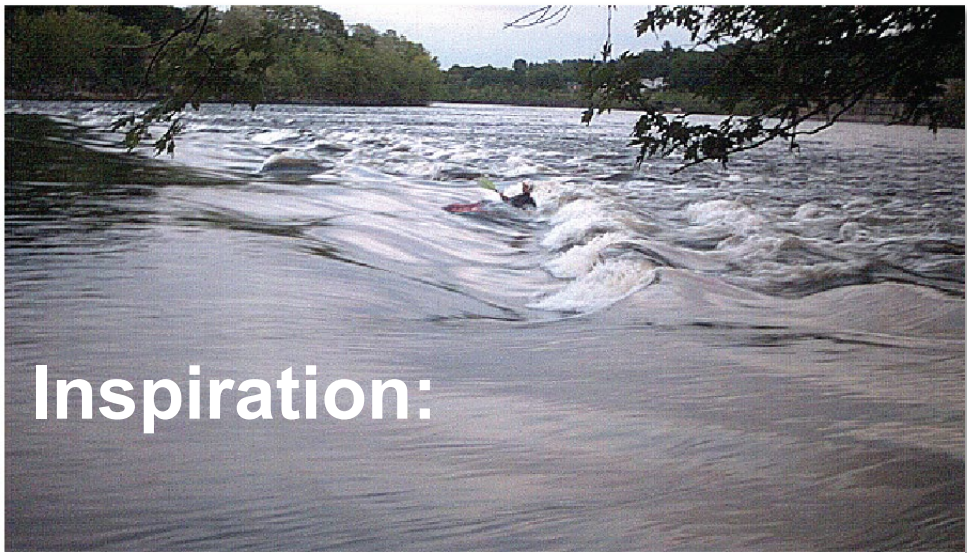
# Proposed Bridge Configuration



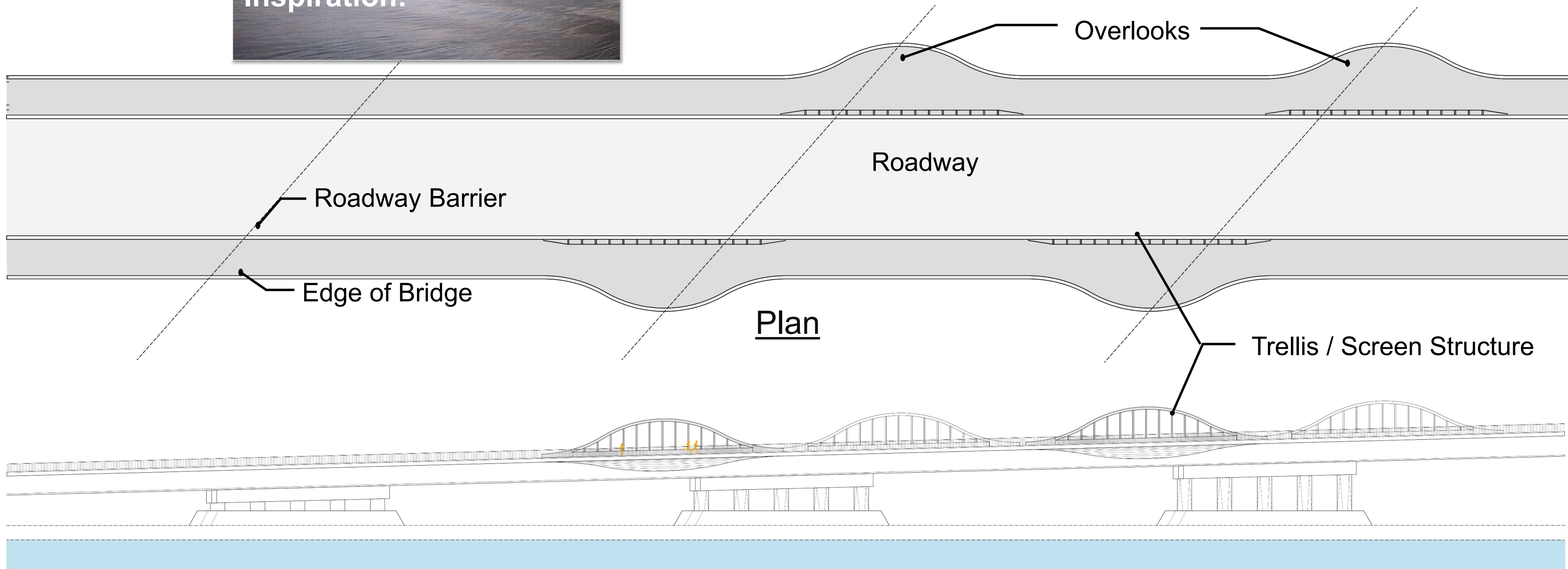


Architecture – Views *from* the Bridge

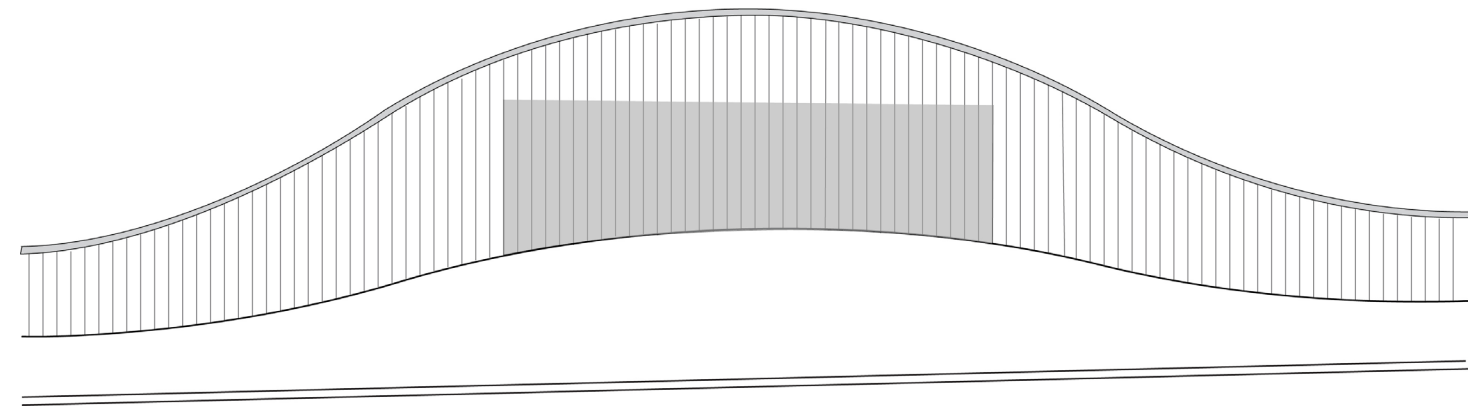
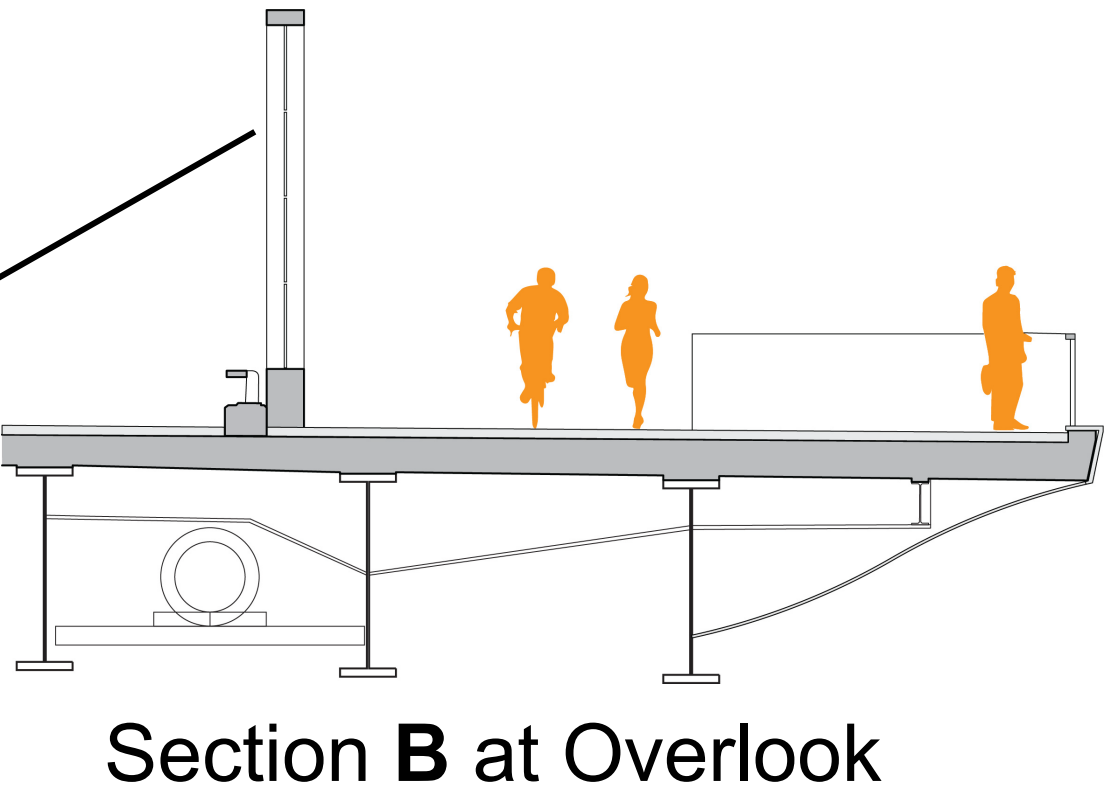
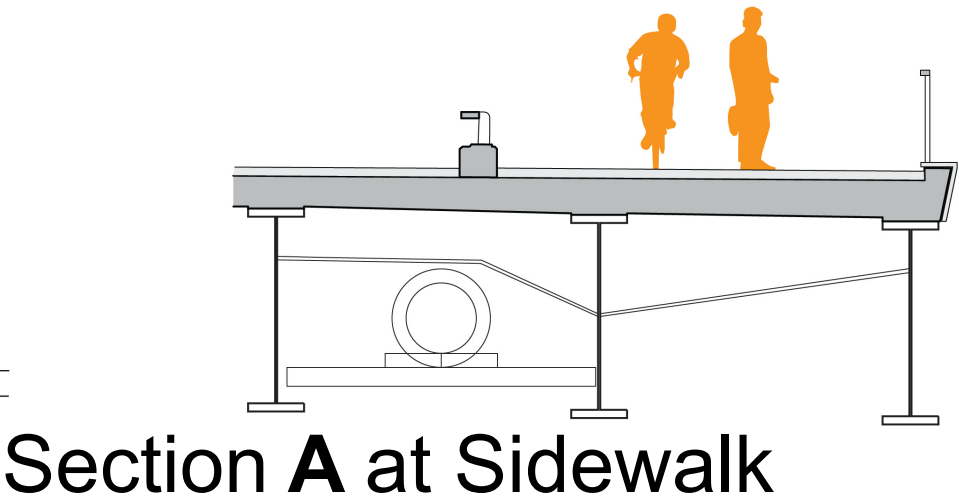
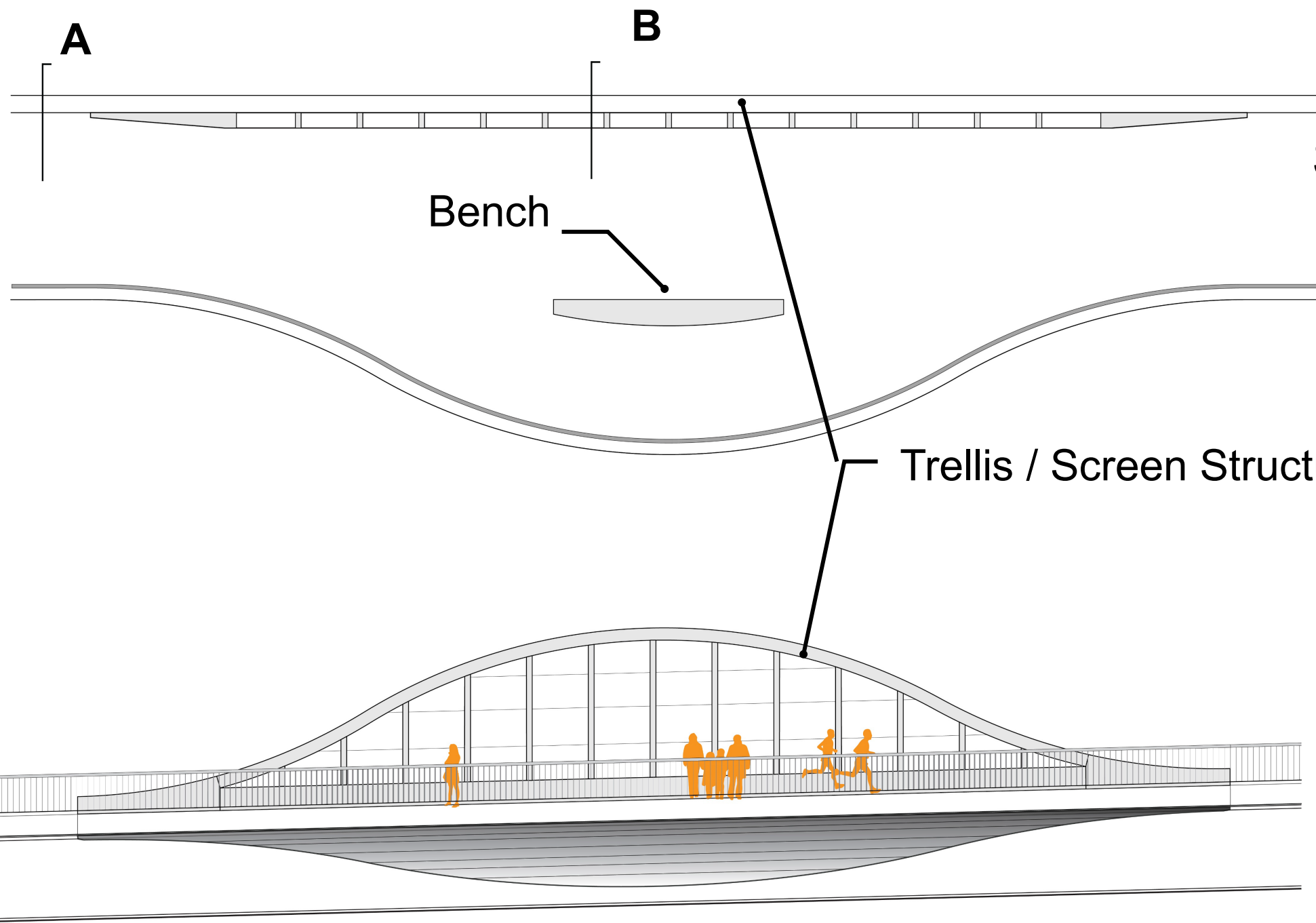




Architecture – Views *from* the Bridge



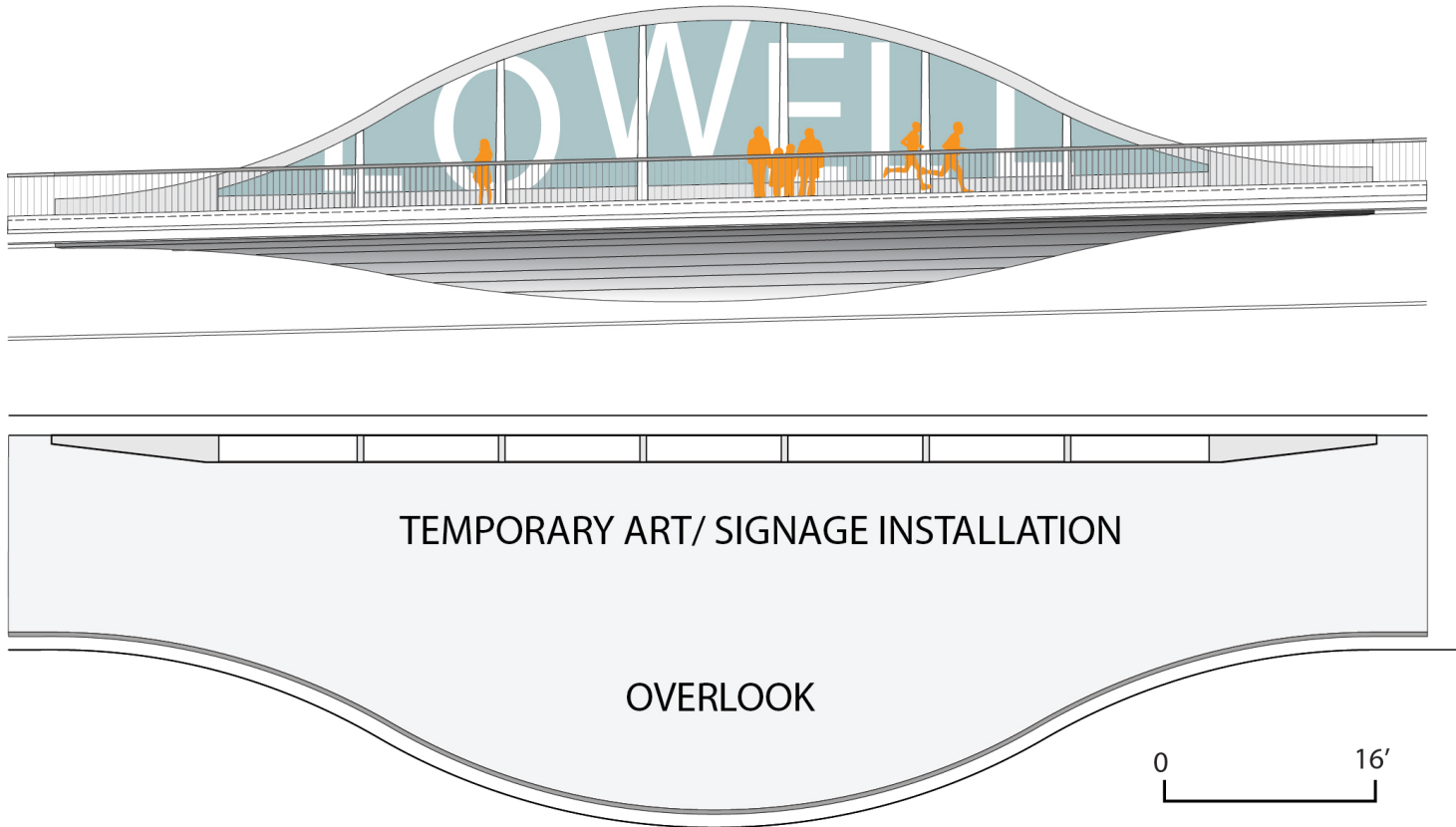
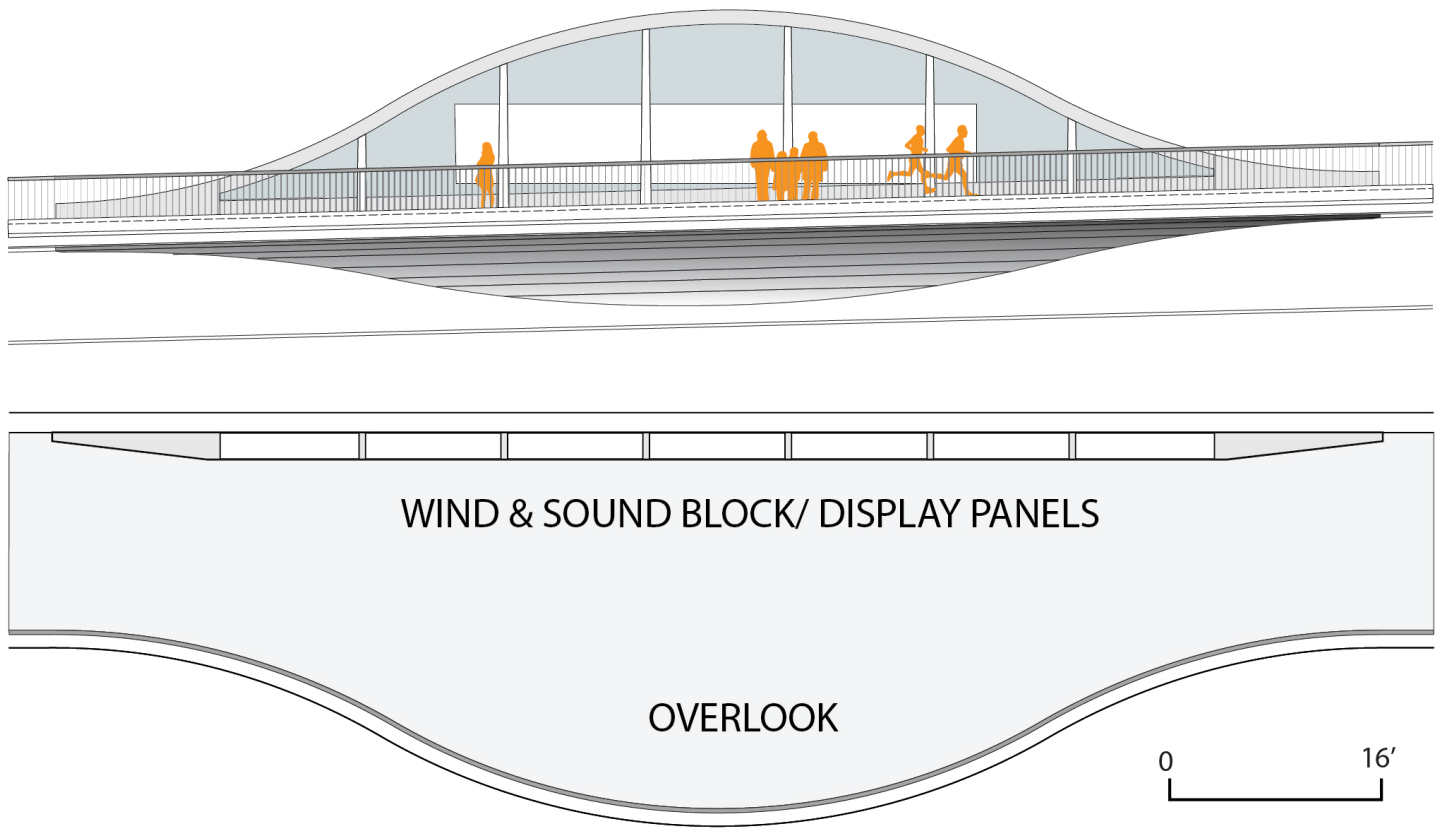
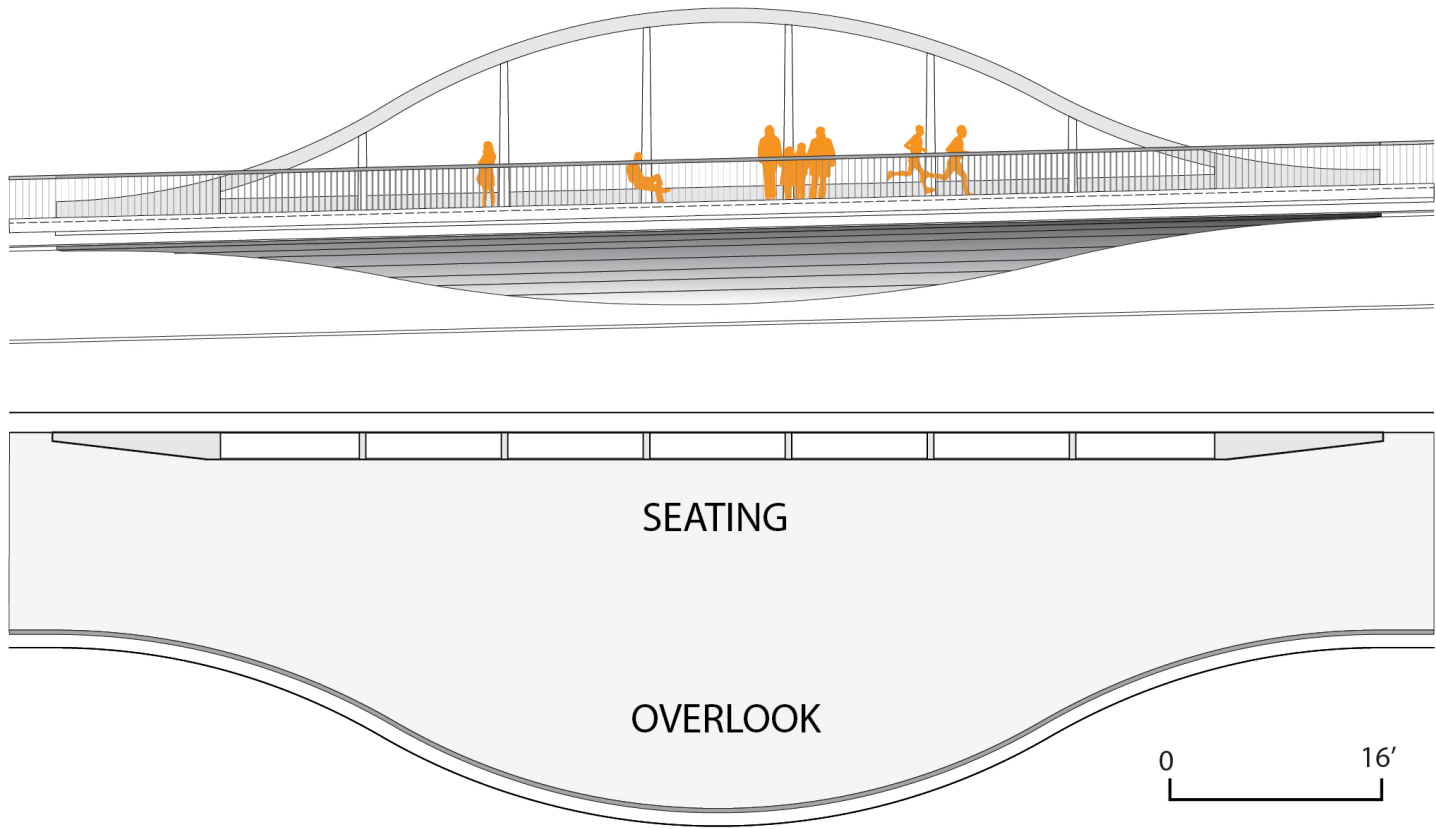
Architecture – Overlook



Elevation of Missile Barrier at CSX Tracks



Architecture – Overlook

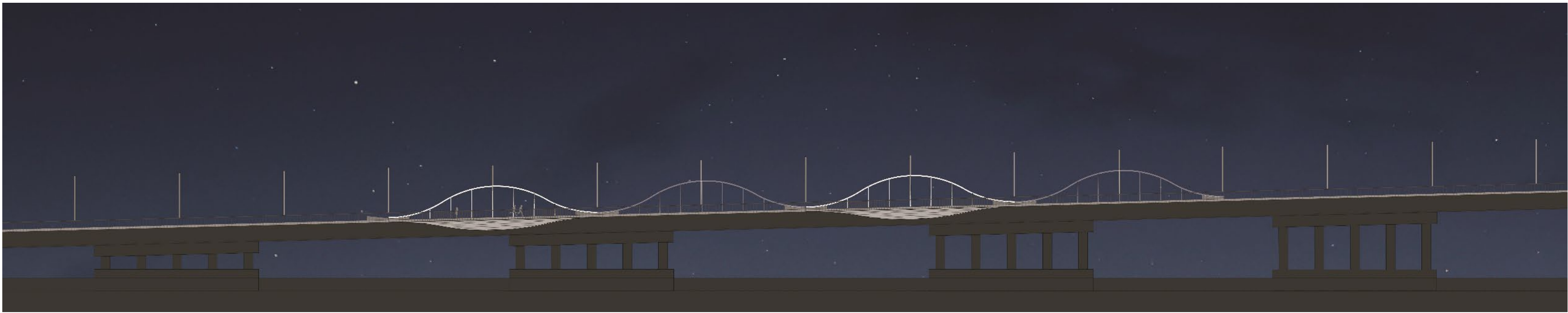


# Architecture – Bridge at Night



OPTION 1

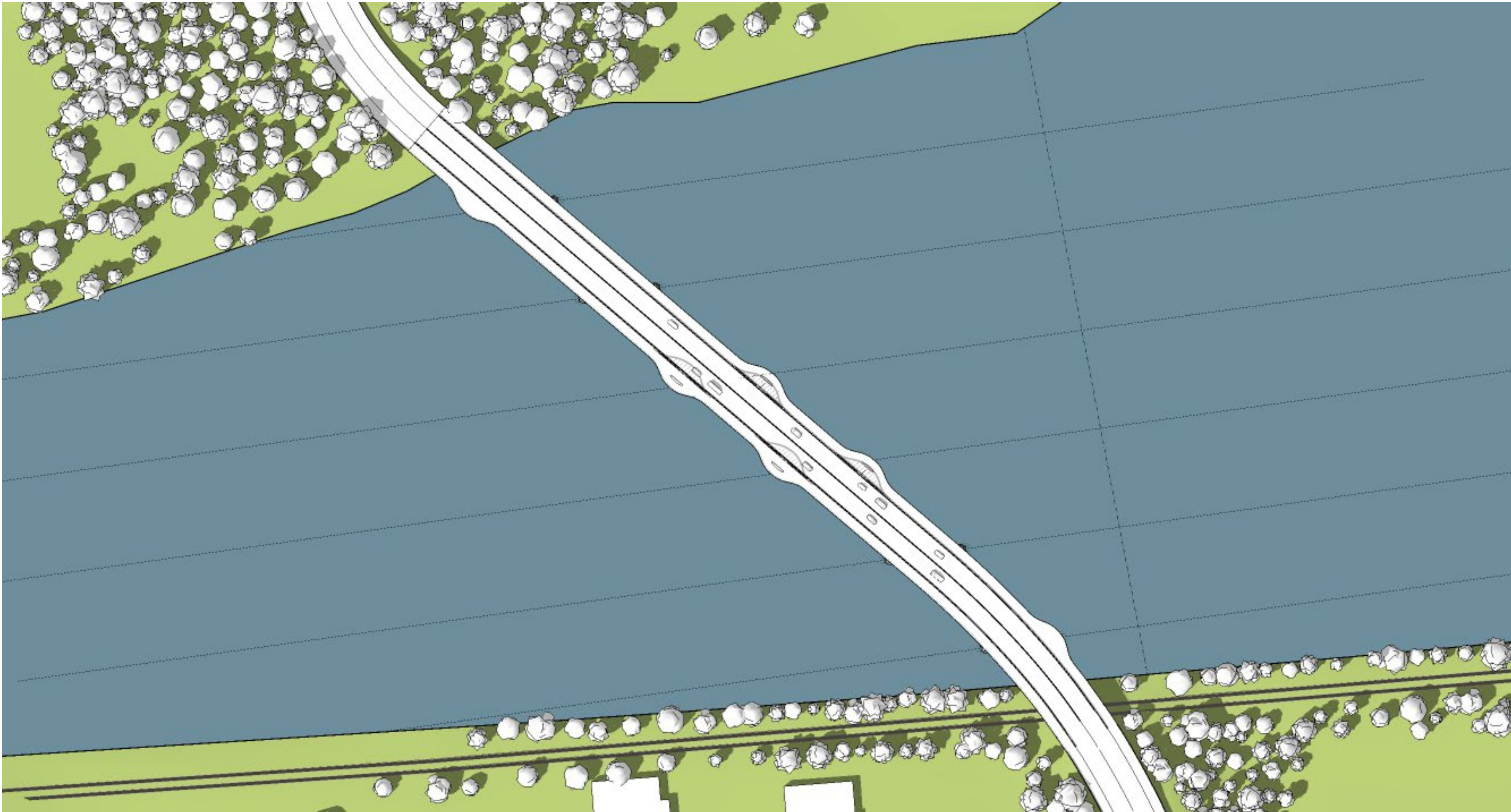
LIGHTING OF TRELLIS AND RAILING

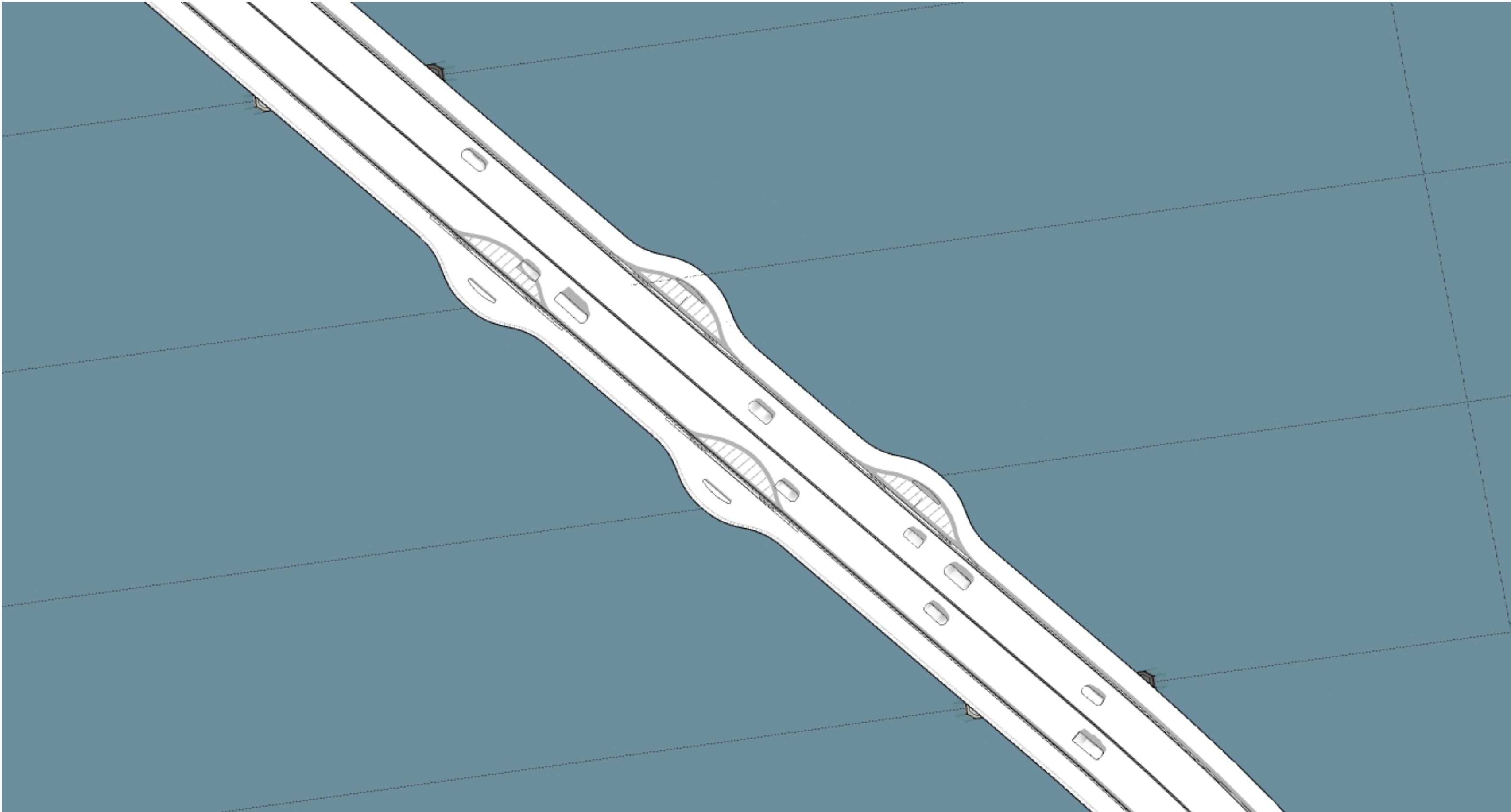


OPTION 2

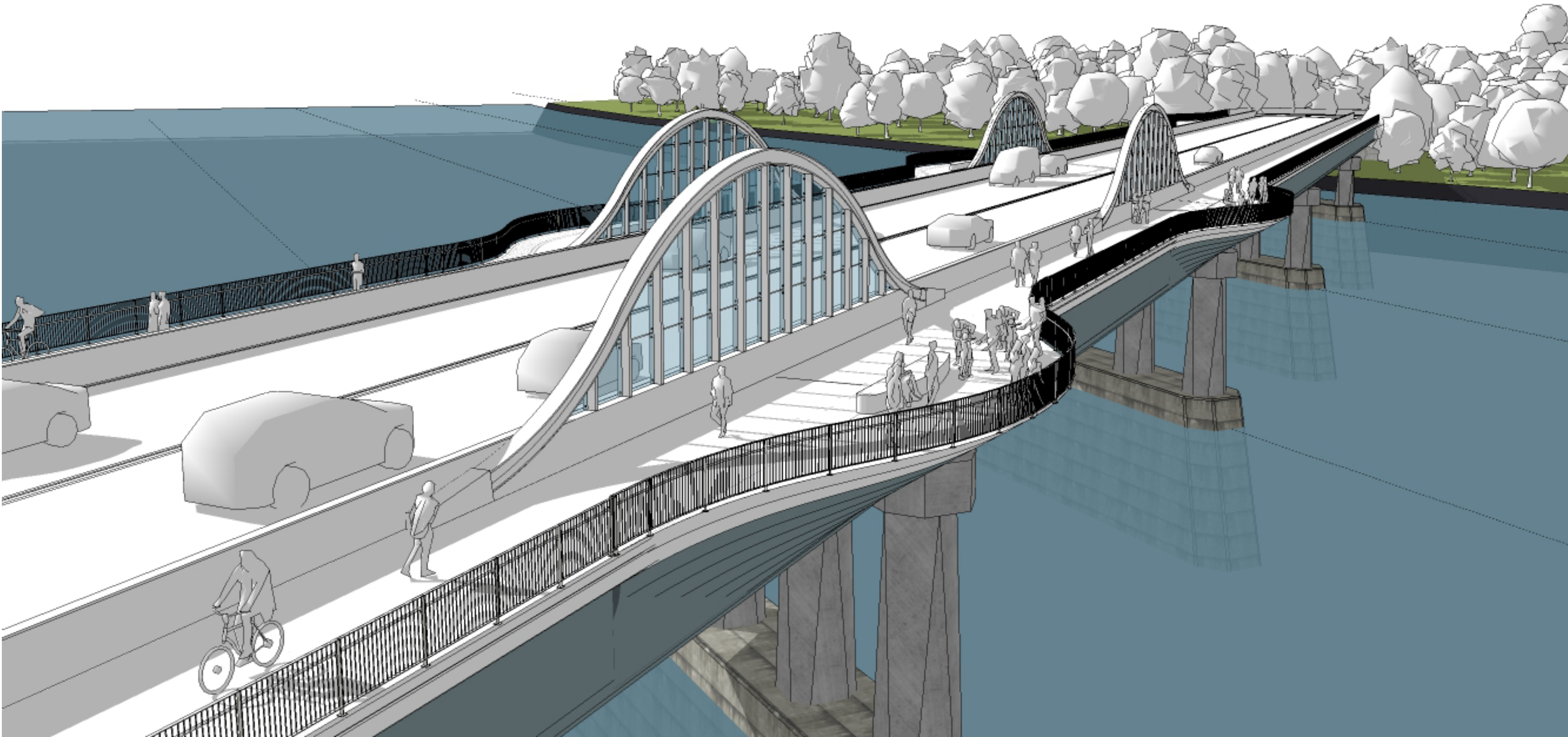
LIGHTING OF TRELLIS AND UNDERSIDE OF BELVERDERE

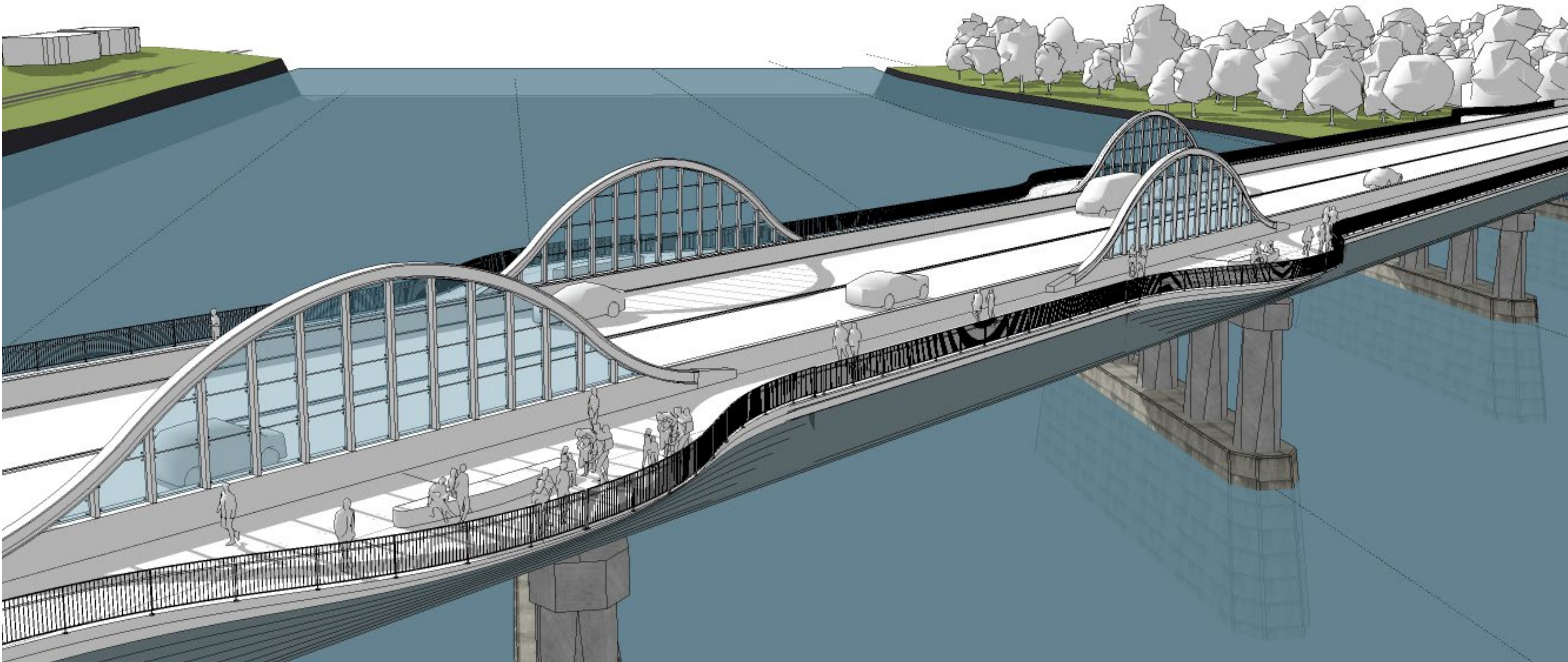


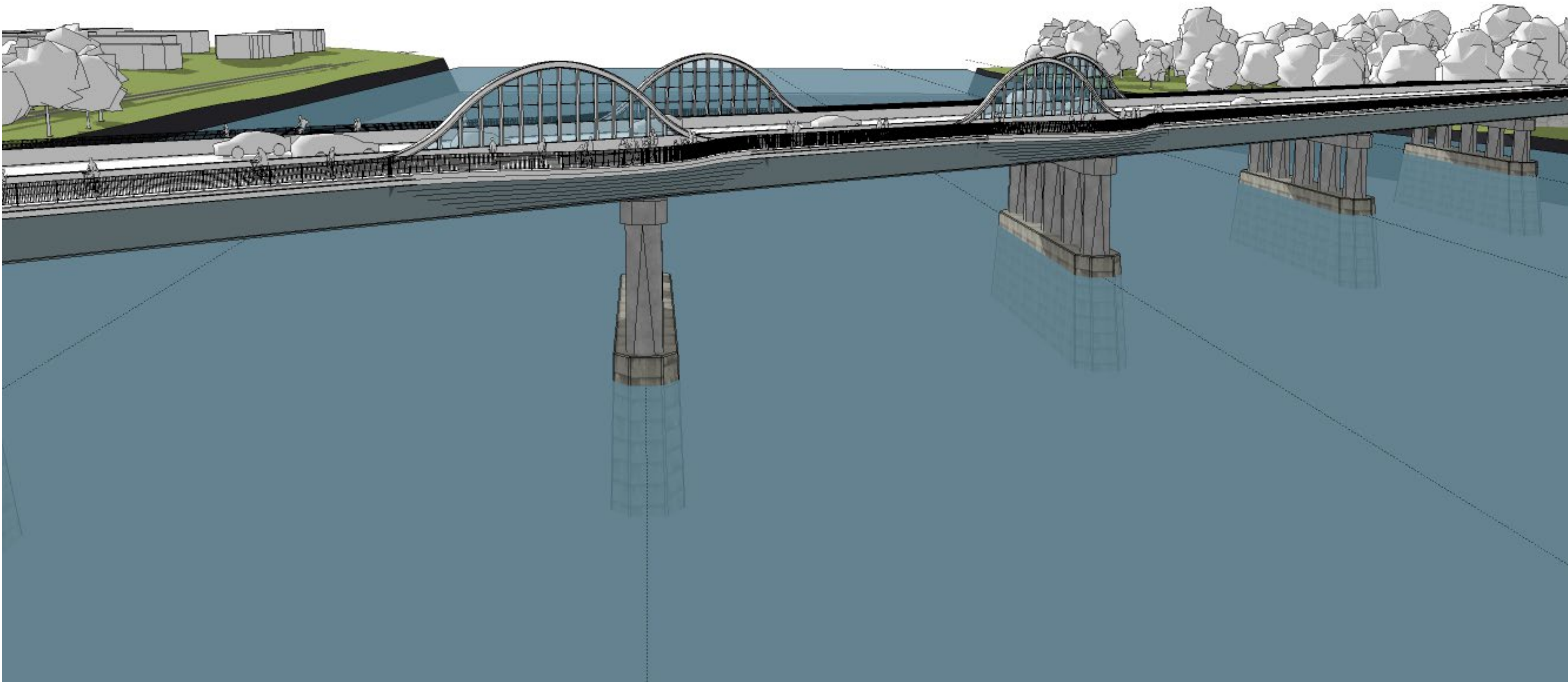


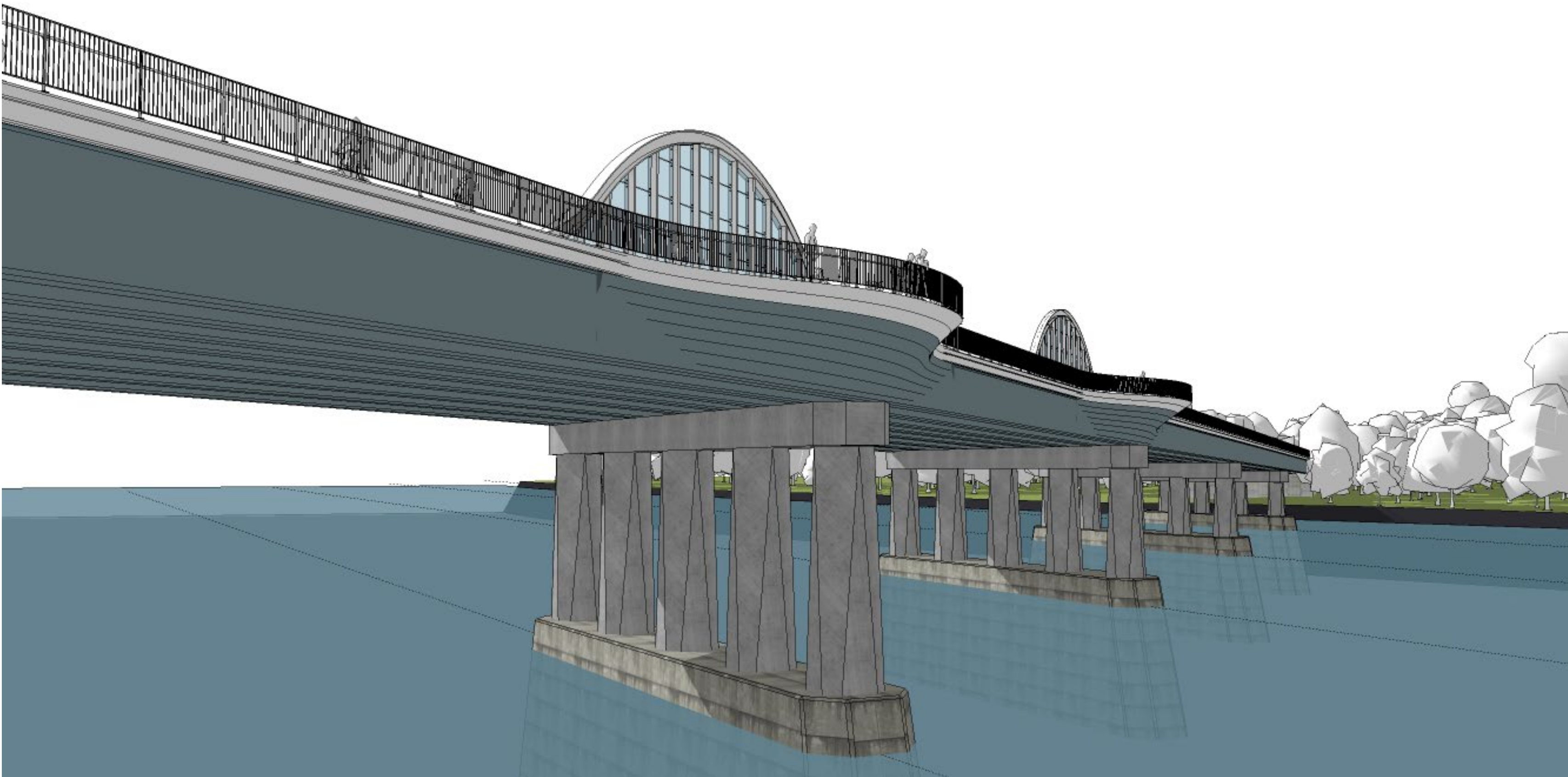


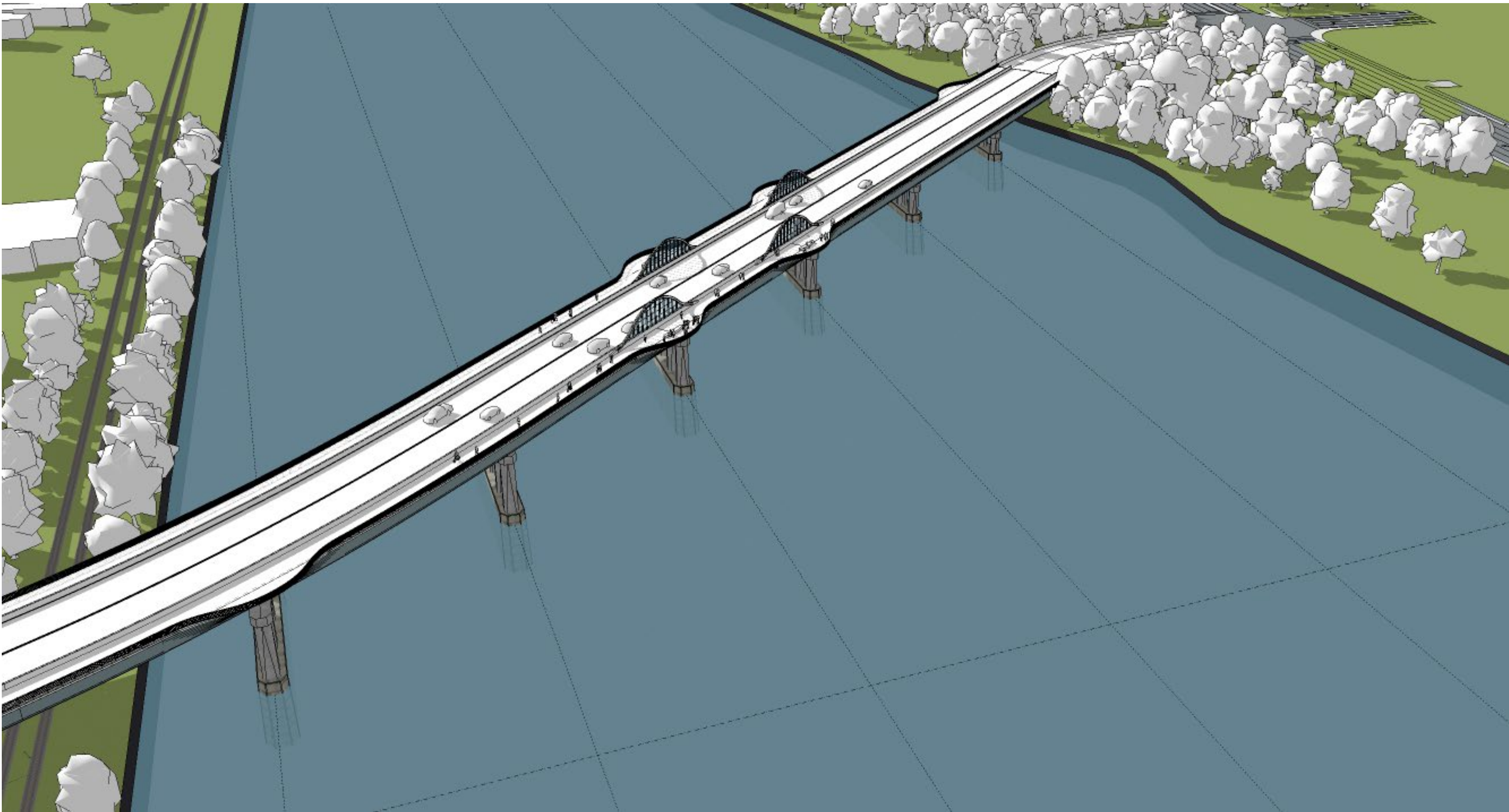


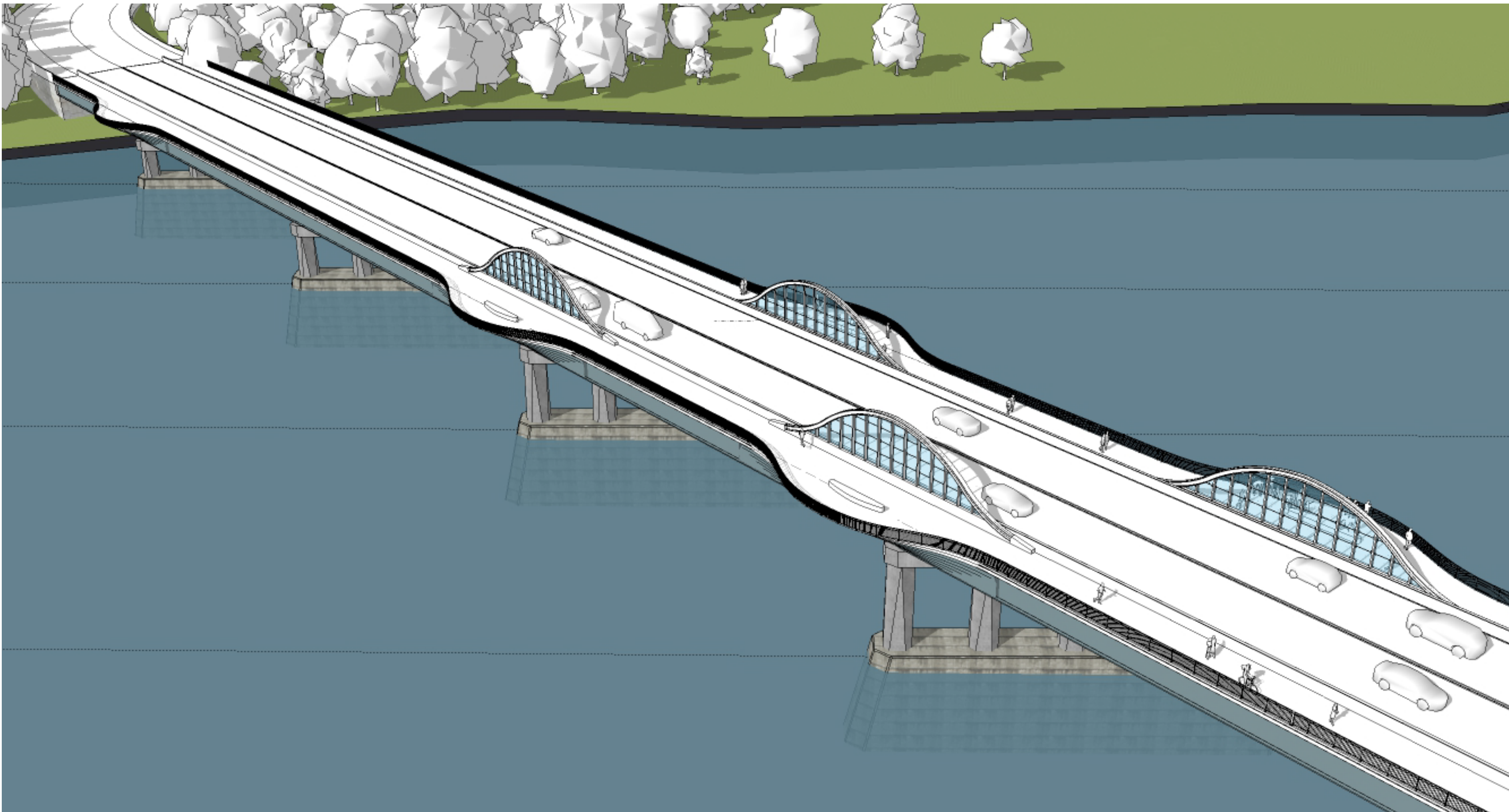














Examples of Bridge Handrails

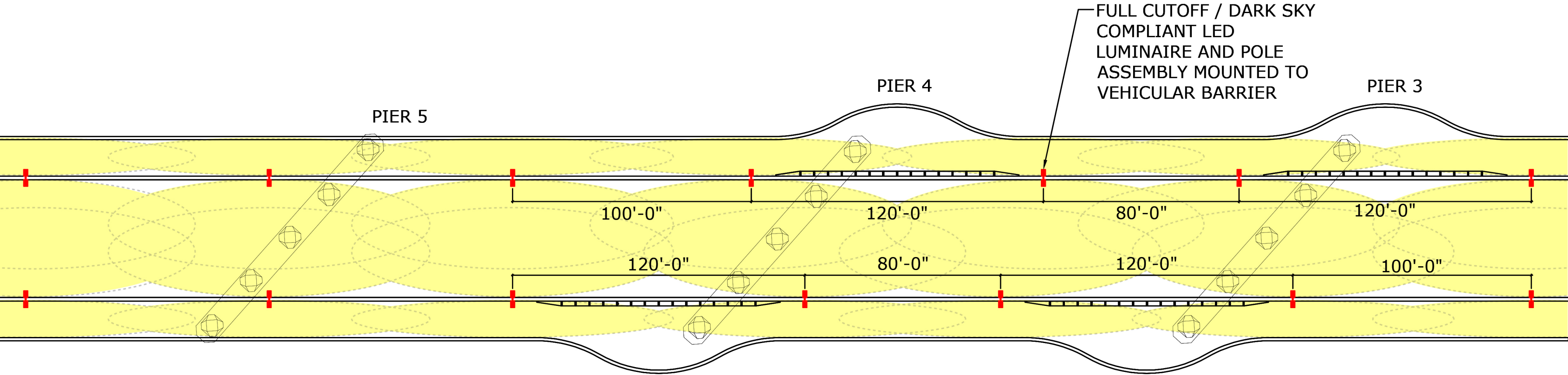




Examples of Signage and Interpretive Panels



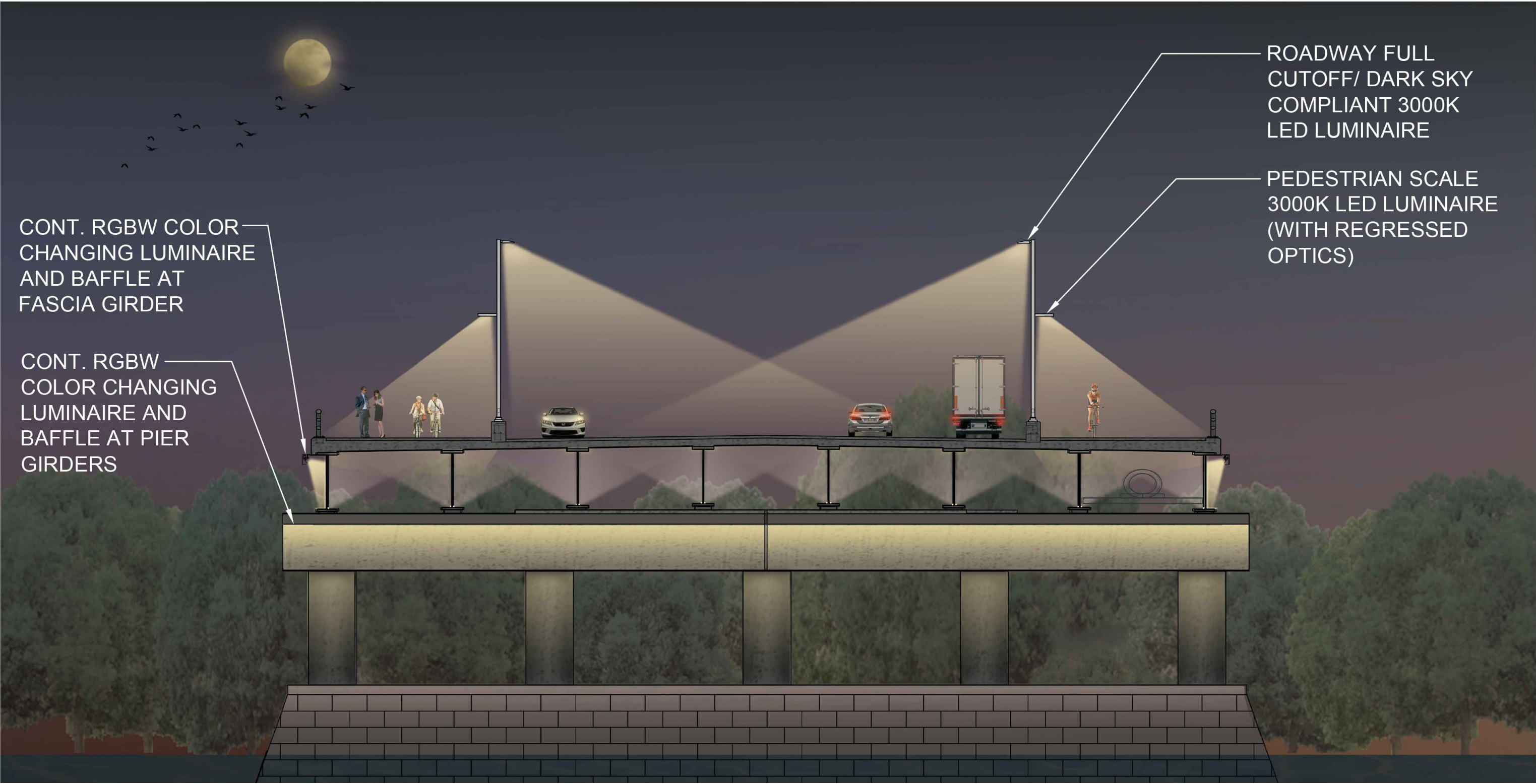
# Lighting Plans – Light Poles



Bridge Plan



Option 1 – Modern Pole & Luminaire at Road Barrier



Roadway Luminaire



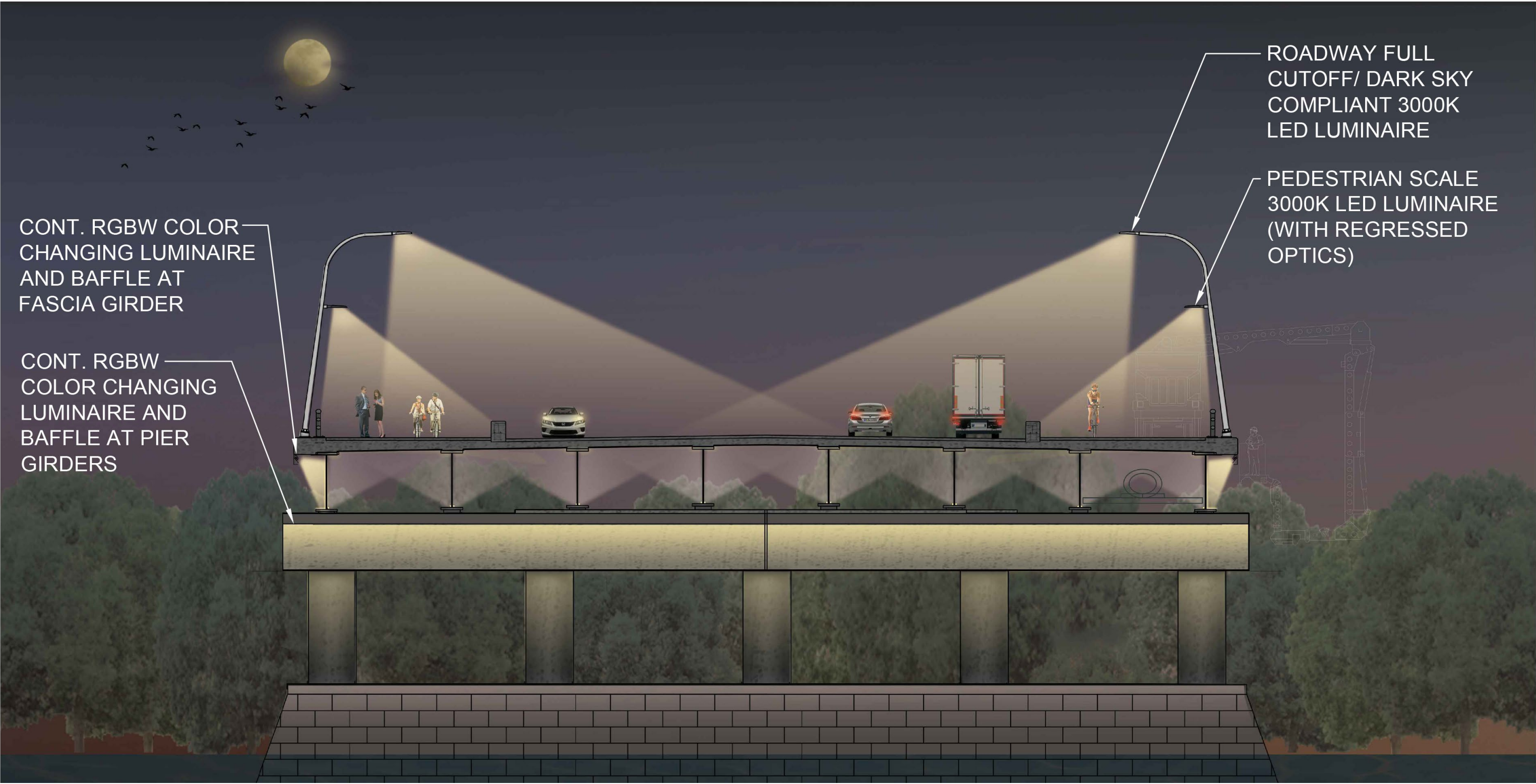
Pedestrian Scale Luminaire



Cross Section



Option 2 – Modern Sloping Davit Pole & Luminaire Outboard of Railing



Roadway Luminaire



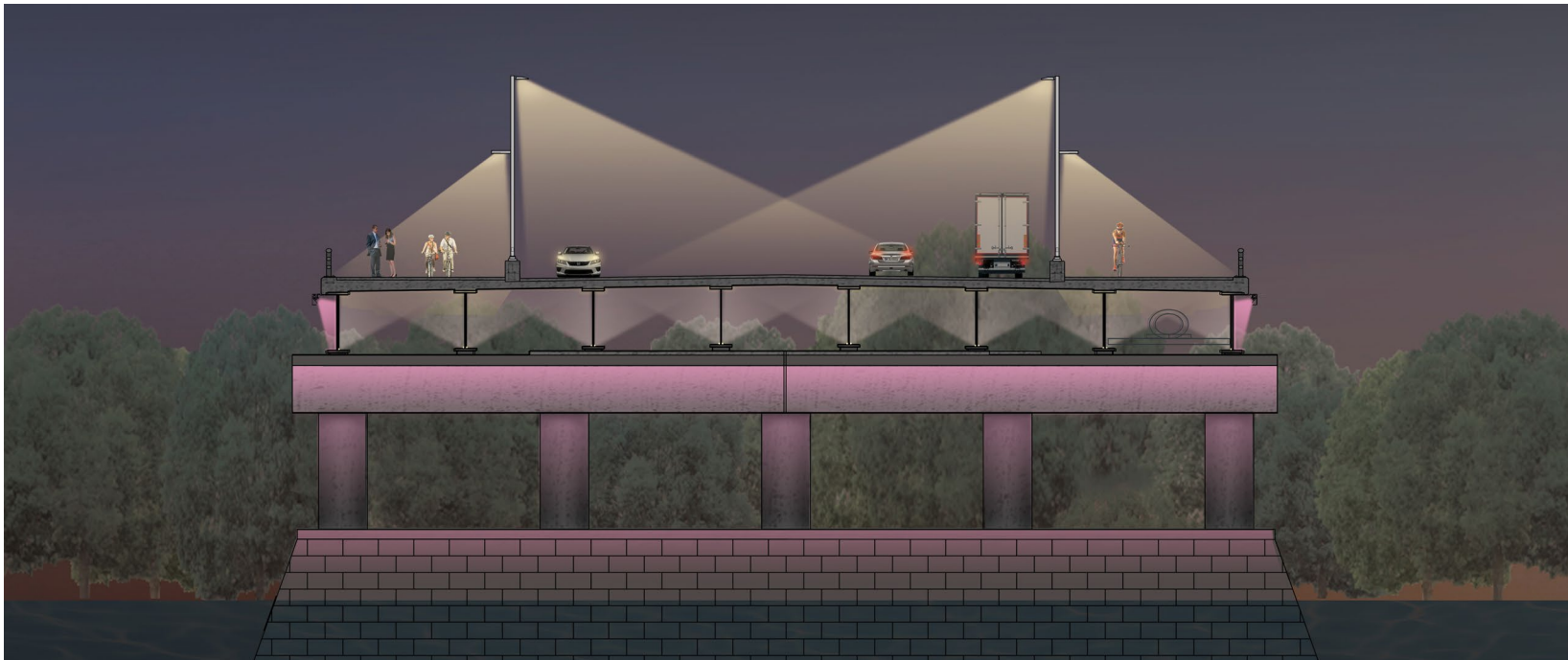
Pedestrian Scale Luminaire



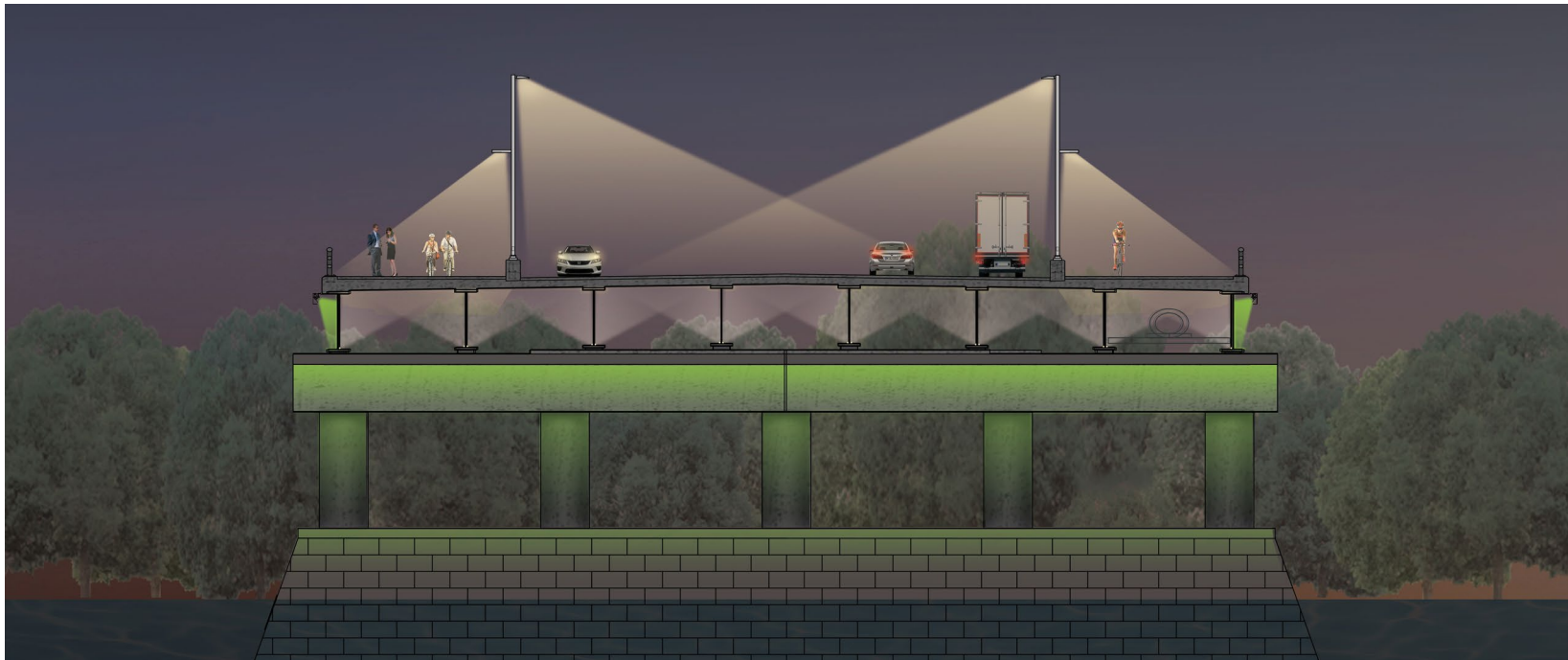
Cross Section



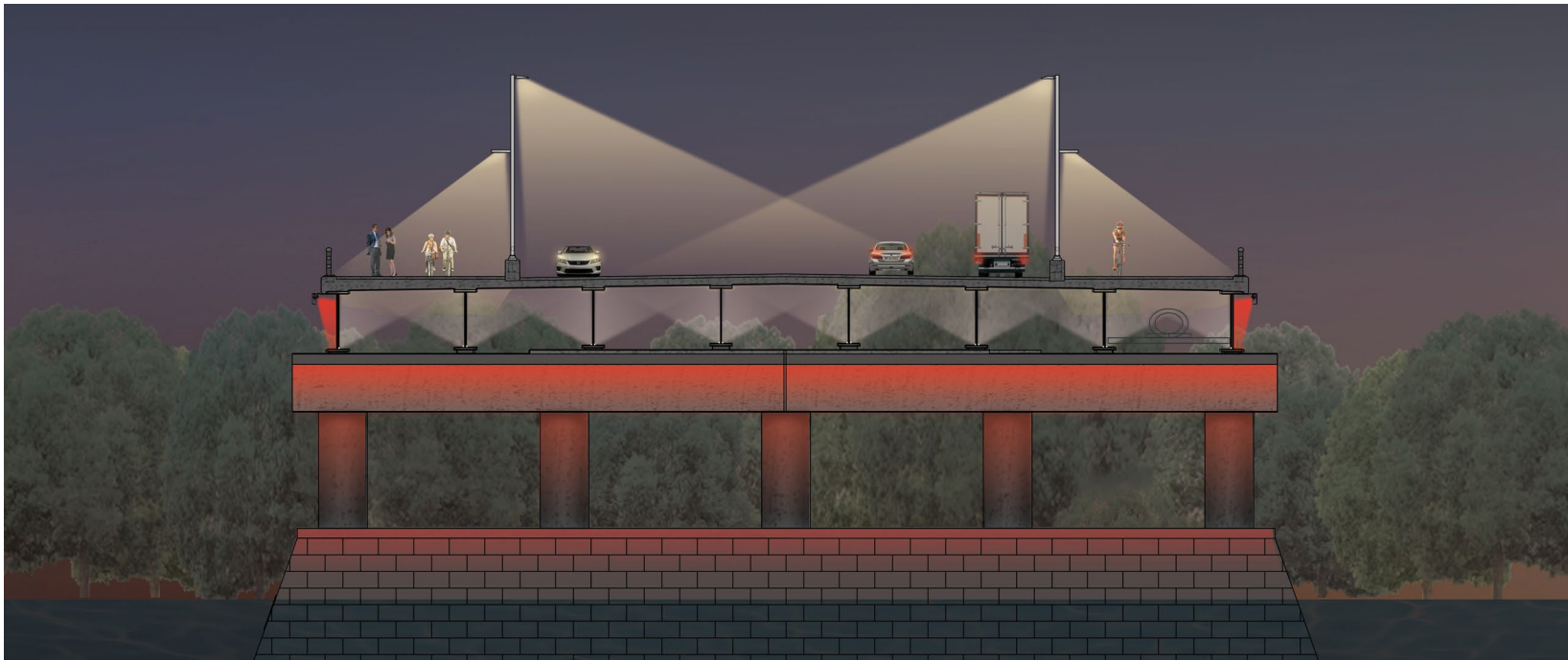
Modern Pole & Luminaire at Road Barrier [Color Options]



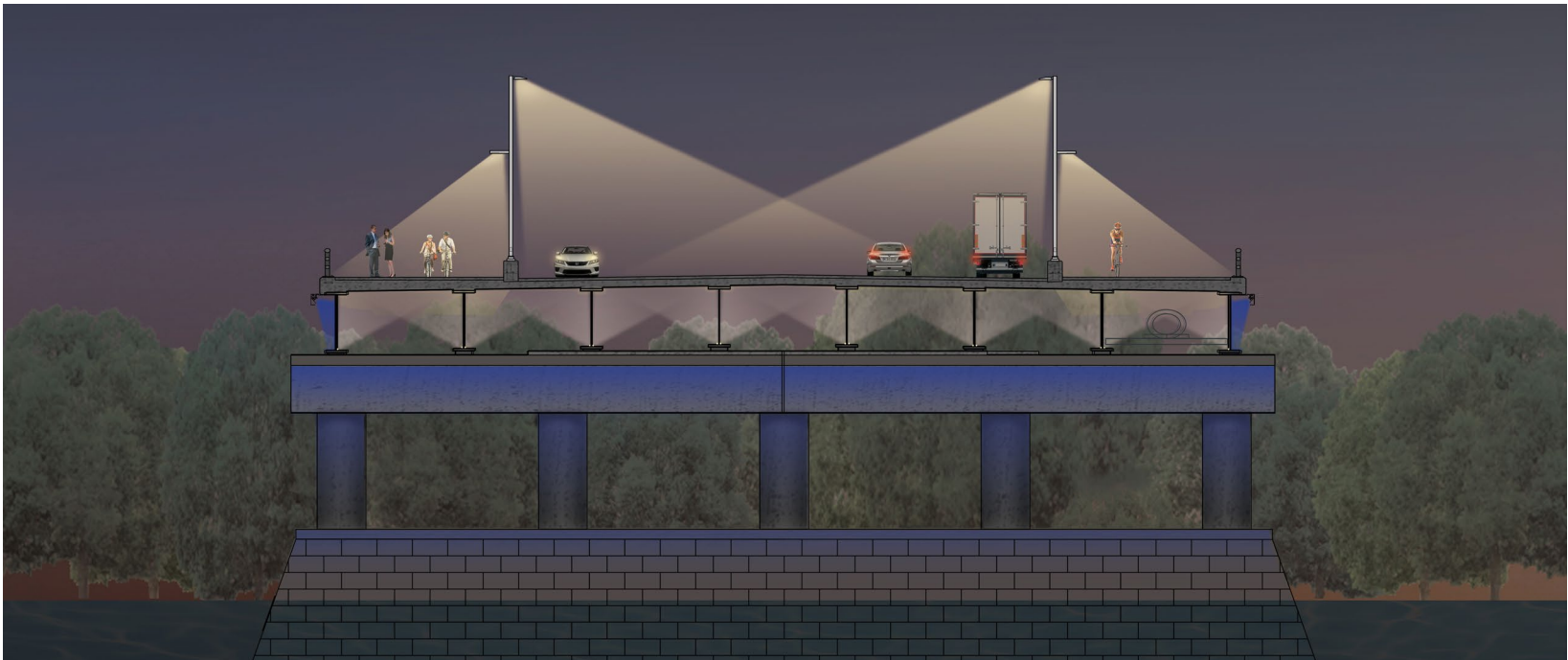
Breast Cancer Awareness - Color Changing LED in Pink



Saint Patrick's Day - Color Changing LED in Green



Valentine's Day - Color Changing LED in Red



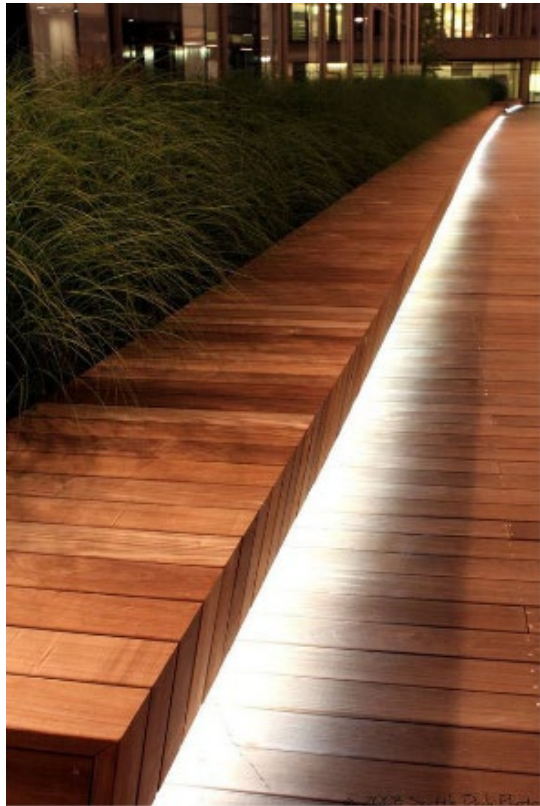
Police Memorial Week - Color Changing LED in Blue



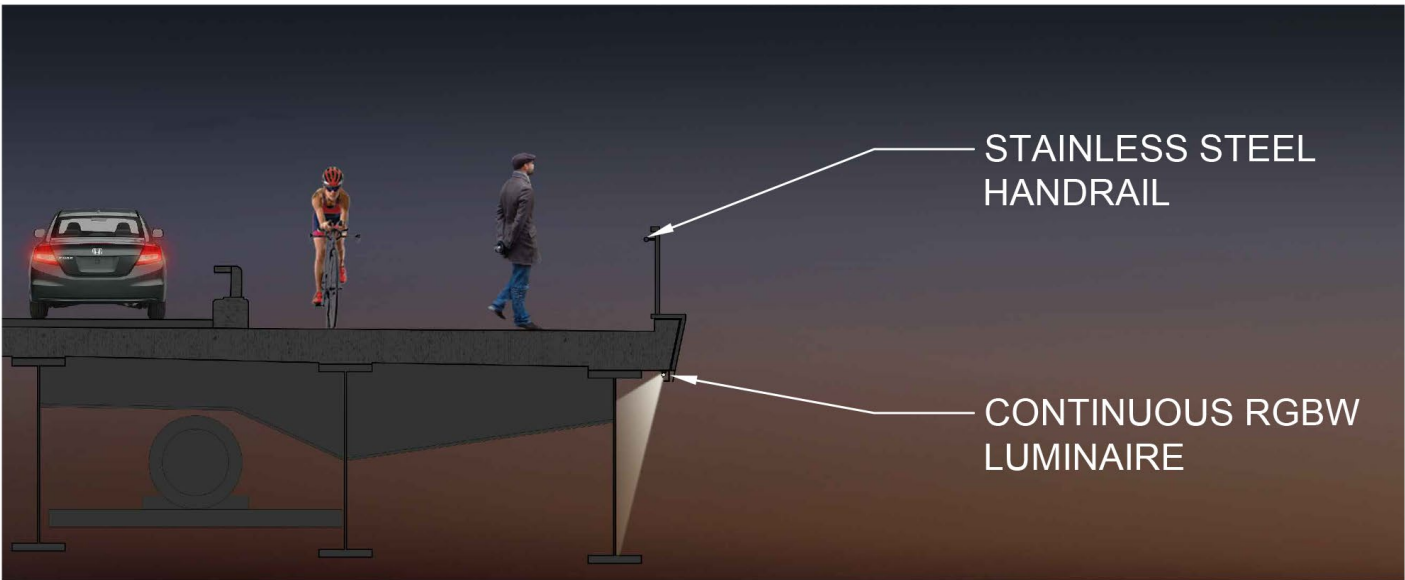
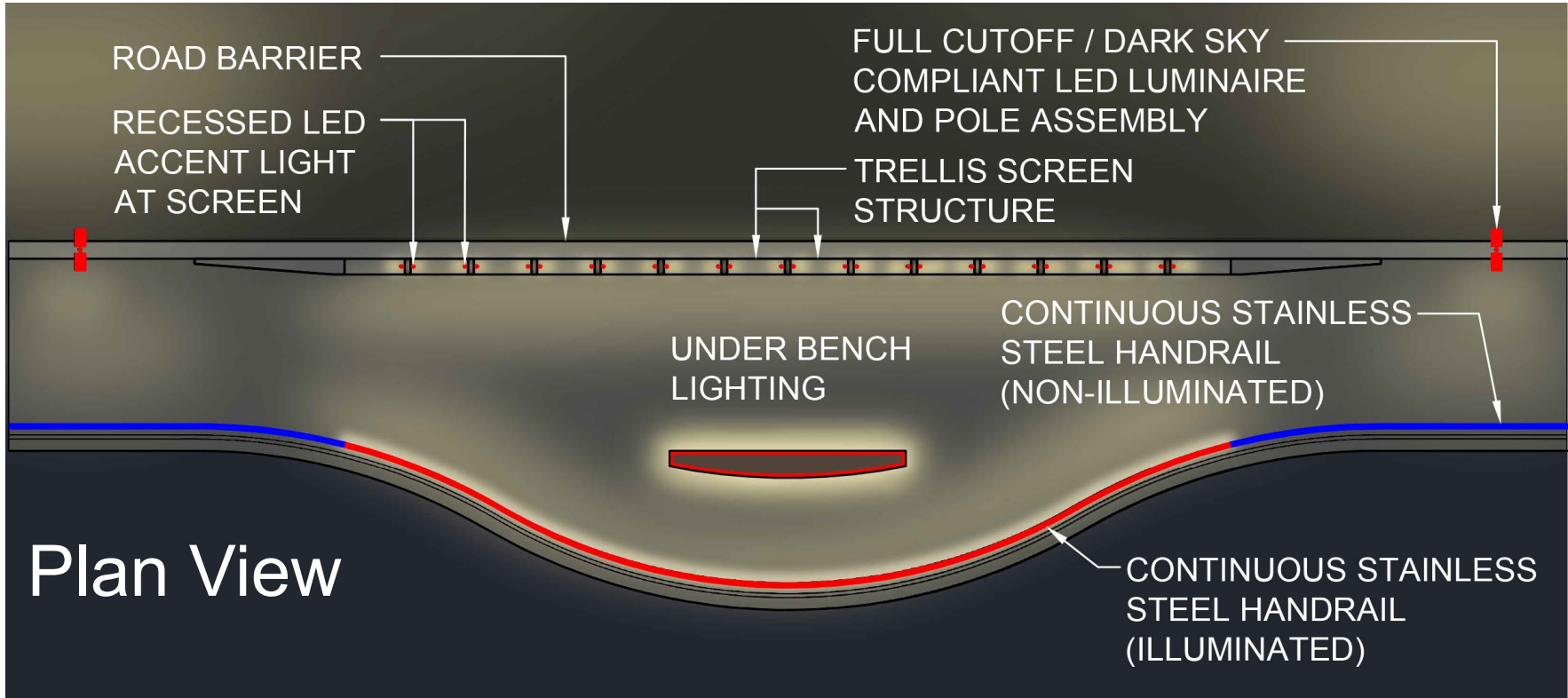
# Overlook - Illuminated Handrail Lighting



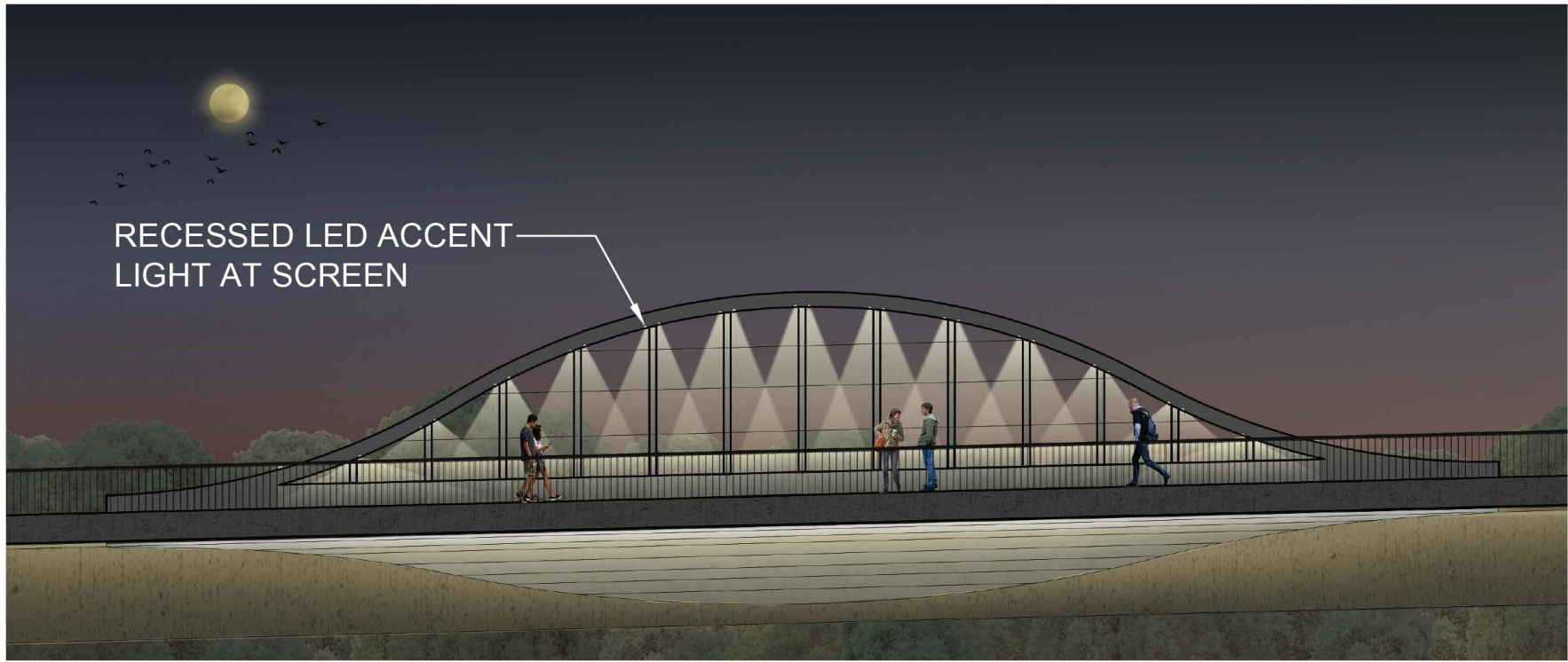
# Overlook - Under Bench Lighting



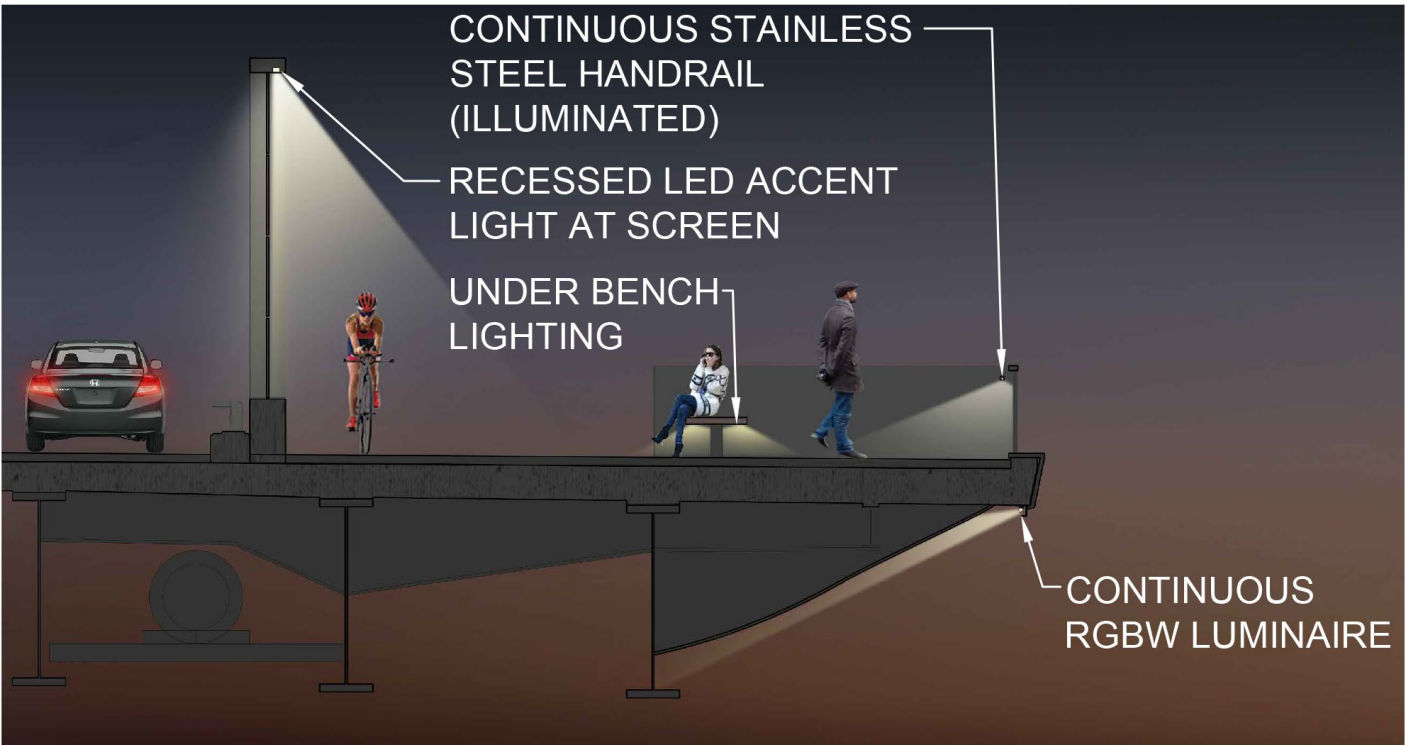
Lighting at Overlook



Section at Walkway



Elevation



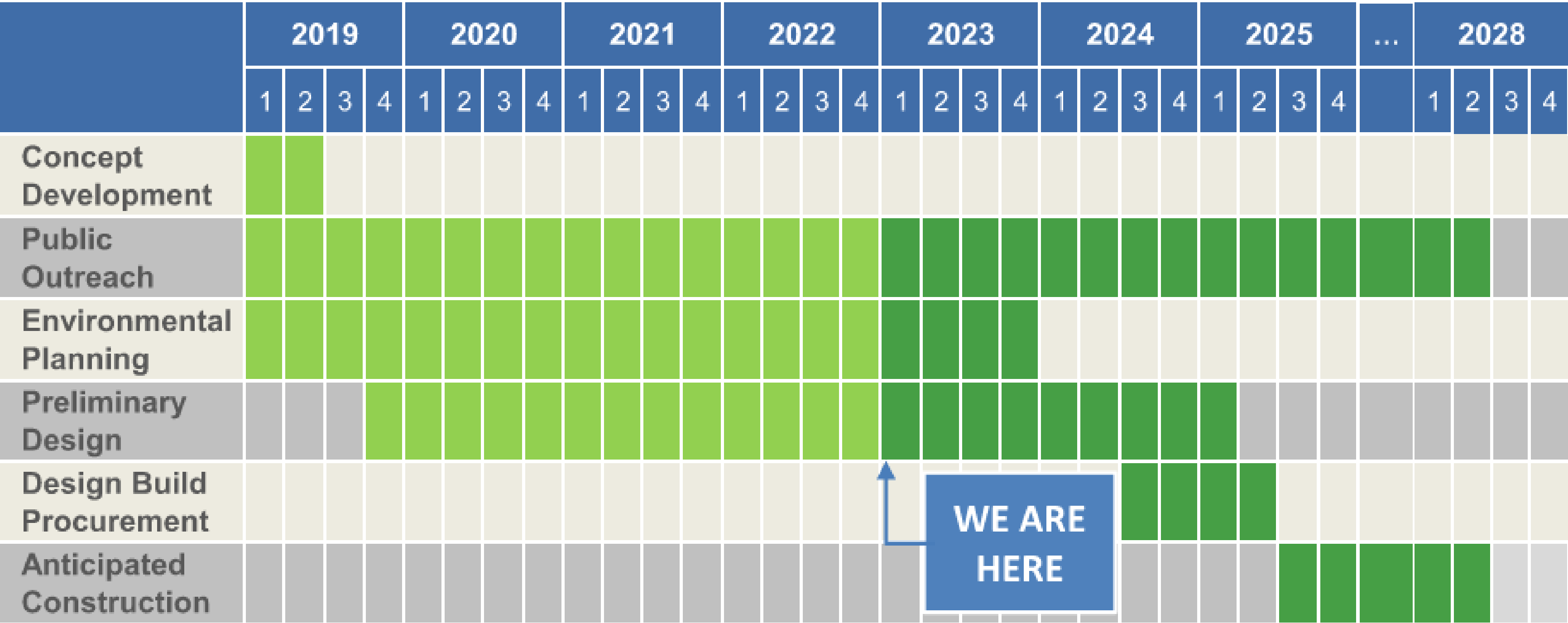
Section at Overlook





# Project Timeline

# Schedule & Cost

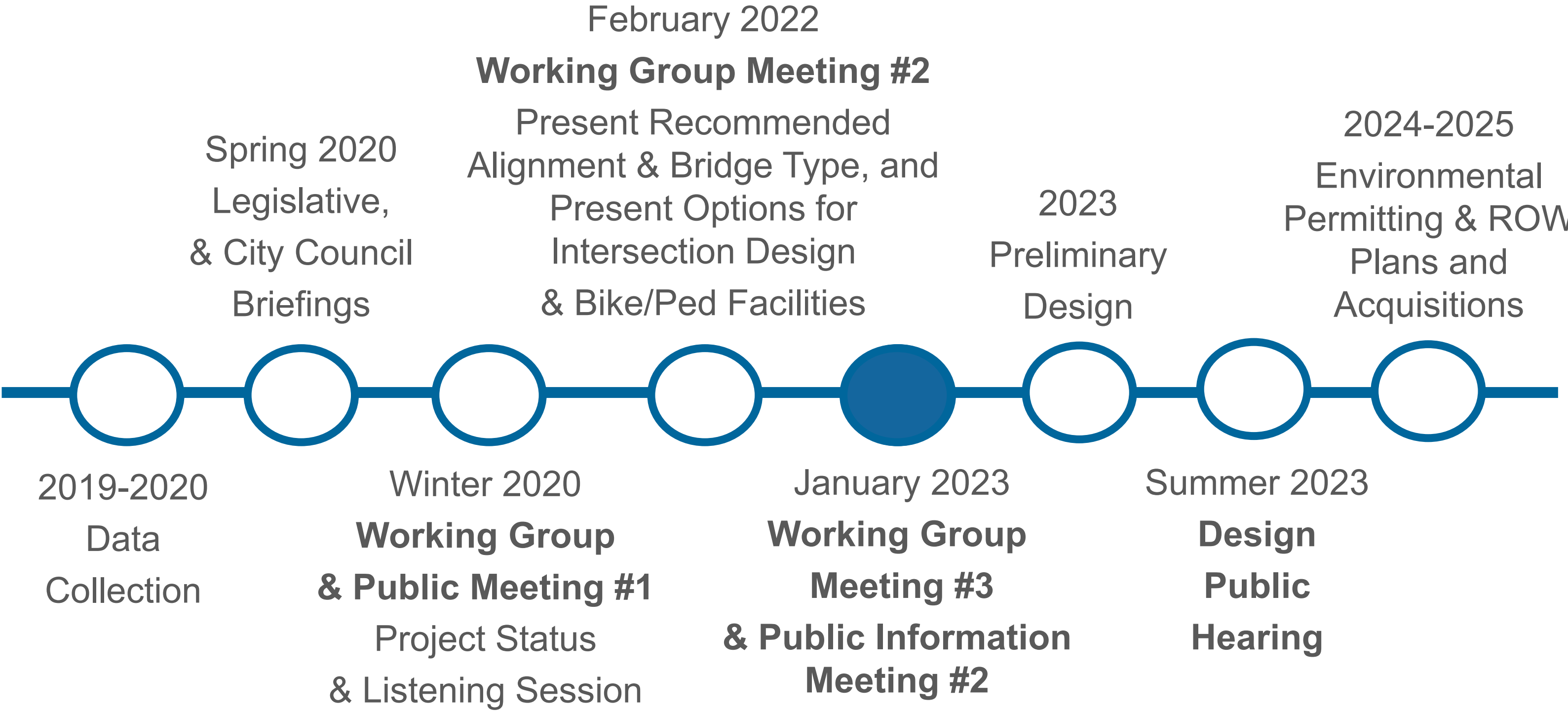


WE ARE  
HERE

Anticipated Project Cost - \$170 Million



# Our next steps



# Questions and Comments



- “Raise your hand” to be unmuted for verbal questions



- Submit your questions and comments using the Q&A button



- 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 few minutes to complete the survey after the meeting to let us know how your experience was with this virtual meeting.

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





## Questions and discussion



# Communications

**For General Information, Visit the Project Website:**

[www.mass.gov/rourke-bridge-replacement-project](http://www.mass.gov/rourke-bridge-replacement-project)



**To Leave a Comment Online, Visit:**

[pima.massdotpi.com/public/comment/project-comment-dynamic?project\\_id=13770](http://pima.massdotpi.com/public/comment/project-comment-dynamic?project_id=13770)

**To Submit a Comment by Mail, Write to:**

Carrie Lavalley, P.E., Chief Engineer

Suite 6340, 10 Park Plaza, Boston, MA 02116

Attention: Project Management, Project File No.  
607887



# Design Public Hearing - Advertisement

- 1. Newspaper Advertisement
- 2. Social Media: MassDOT Facebook and Twitter
- 3. Northern Middlesex Council of Government
- 4. Other Outreach from OPEO:
  - Lowell RMV Service Center
  - Work Opportunities Unlimited
  - Pollard Memorial Library



Northern  
Middlesex Council  
of Governments



REGISTRY OF MOTOR VEHICLES





# *Thank You*

## Rourke Bridge Replacement Project

Lowell, MA | February 7, 2023 | 6:00pm

MassDOT #607887

