



# Tobin Bridge Long-Term Strategic Planning Study

## Working Group Meeting #1

Chelsea Public Library | November 13, 2024 at 2:00 p.m.  
and virtual via Zoom



**TOBIN BRIDGE**  
PLANNING STUDY



# Zoom Controls



- Listen in Spanish/**escuchar en Español**



- Drop down menu to check microphone and speakers



- Ask a question and share comments



- Raise your hand



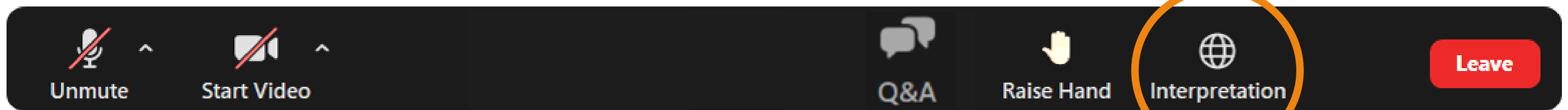
- If you are unable to access the internet or are having technical problems, please call into the meeting at +1 312 626 6799, Webinar ID: 865 5930 1377, Passcode: 712533



If you have trouble with the meeting technology during the presentation, please call:

1-888-799-9666

**Closed captioning automatically generated by Zoom**



# Public Meeting Notes and Procedures

## Notification of recording

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

## Important notes

- Your microphone and webcam are automatically disabled upon entering the meeting.
- The meeting will be open to questions and answers at the end of the presentation.

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

# Agenda

## 1 Welcome and Introductions

- Role of Working Group

## 2 Study Overview

- Study Process
- Public Involvement Plan
- Study Area

## 3 Draft Goals and Objectives and Evaluation Criteria

## 4 Discussion

- Working Group Discussion
- Public Comment

## 5 Schedule and Next Steps

- Future Meetings



# MAURICE J. TOBIN MEMORIAL BRIDGE

LONG-TERM STRATEGIC PLANNING STUDY

# Study Team



Leading study



Project Management · Environmental · Transportation Planning · Engineering Support Services



Complex Bridge and Tunnel Engineering · Equity Analysis · Outreach Strategy and Support



Outreach · Engagement



Constructability · Scheduling · Estimating



Urban Design · Placemaking



Land Use · Zoning · Socioeconomic Analysis



Archeological



# Meeting With You Today

- **MassDOT**
  - Patrick Snyder (Project Manager)
- **Consultant Team**
  - Michael Regan (VHB – Project Manager)
  - Don Cooke (VHB – Principal in Charge)
  - Niki Hastings (VHB – Mobility)
  - Erica Blonde (HNTB – Public Engagement)



# Invited Working Group Members

## Introductions of each member and organization

- **Federal Elected Officials**

- Office of Senator Edward J. Markey
- Office of Senator Elizabeth Warren
- Office of Representative Katherine Clark
- Office of Representative Ayanna Pressley
- Office of Representative Stephen Lynch

- **State Elected Officials**

- Office of State Senator Sal DiDomenico
- Office of State Representative Judith Garcia
- Office of State Representative Daniel Ryan

- **Local Representatives**

- Office of Mayor Michelle Wu – Boston
- Office of City Manager Fidel Maltez – Chelsea
- Office of City Councilor Gabriela Coletta – Boston District 1
- Office of City Council President Norieliz DeJesus – Chelsea
- City of Chelsea Housing and Community Development Department
- MAPC
- City of Boston Emergency Management
- City of Chelsea Emergency Management
- City of Boston Planning Department
- Mystic River Watershed Association

- **Federal and State Agency Representation**

- MassDOT Highway Division
- MBTA
- Massachusetts Port Authority
- MassDOT Highway District 6
- U.S. Coast Guard
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

- **Advocacy Groups**

- Greater Boston Chamber of Commerce
- Chamber of Commerce (Chelsea)
- MassBike
- WalkMassachusetts
- City of Boston Disability Commission
- City of Chelsea Disability Commission
- La Colaborativa (Chelsea)
- GreenRoots
- Charlestown Neighborhood Council
- Charlestown Coalition

# Role of Working Group

## Working Group Purpose

- Provide local knowledge, perspective, and expertise
- Share information with communities and organizations represented
- Review information and share feedback

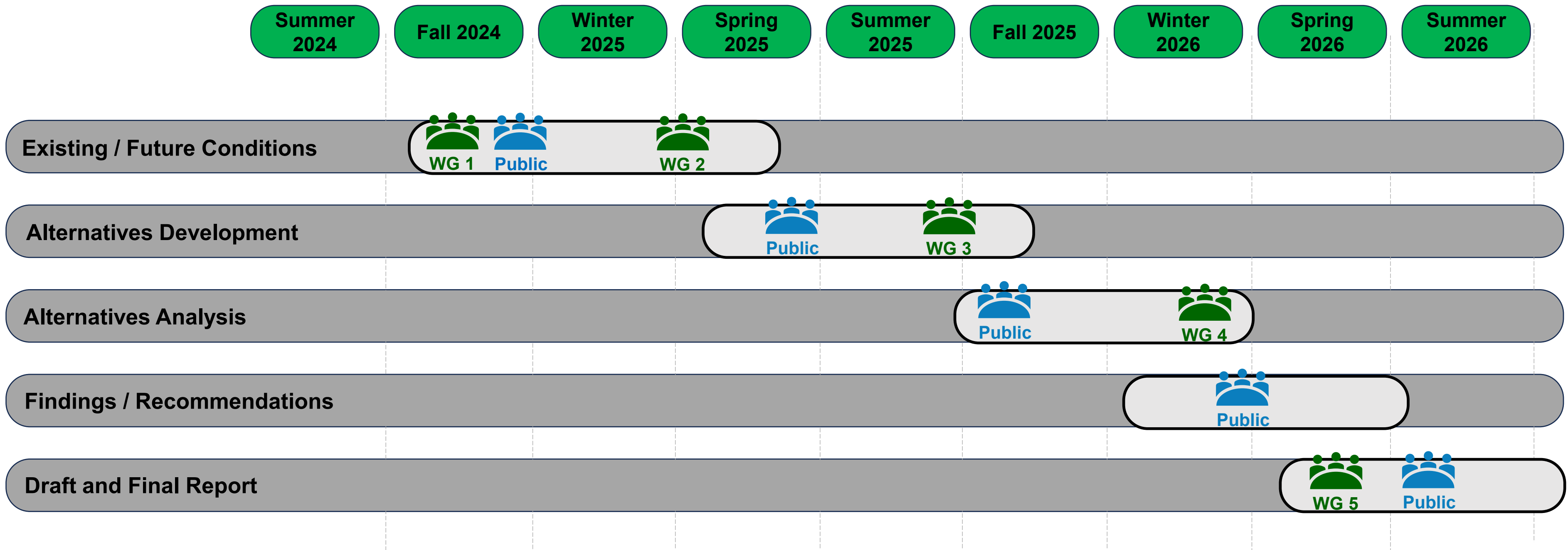
## Working Group Logistics

- Meetings are to review approach, analysis, and findings, share resources and information, and give feedback
- Documents and resources will be periodically posted on the study website and email notifications of meetings will be sent out



## Working Group Ground Rules

- Attend and engage at meetings consistently, if possible
- If members are unable to attend, please let the study team know if an alternate representative will participate
- Listen to the opinions of others to ensure a constructive and productive discussion

# Study Schedule (anticipated)



**5 Working Group meetings  
and 5 Public meetings  
across duration of study**

-  Working Group Meeting
-  Public Meeting



# Study Overview

## Study Context

- This conceptual planning study will **develop and evaluate long-term replacement options** for the Tobin Bridge connecting Chelsea and Boston
- In addition to exploring replacement alternatives for the Bridge, the study will **focus on ways to reconnect surrounding communities** in Chelsea and Charlestown and **build upon area sustainability goals**

## Examples of Related Efforts

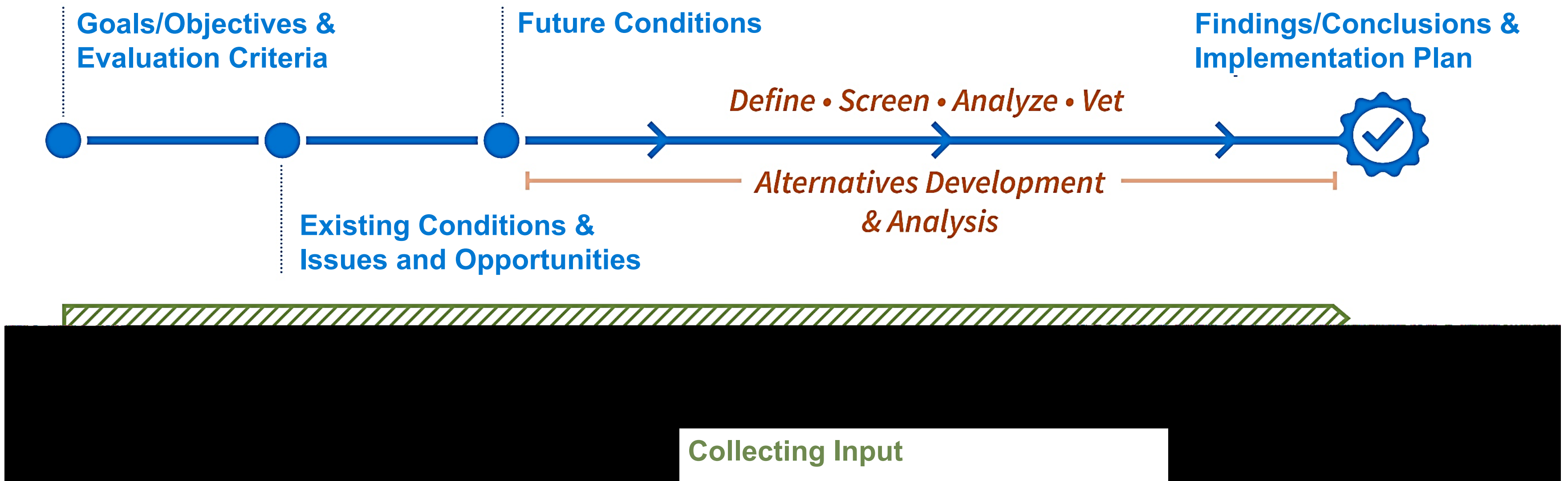
- Beyond Mobility
- Tobin Memorial Bridge CY2016-CY2035 Capital Plan
- Boston Transportation Department's Rutherford Avenue/Sullivan Square Design Project
- Chelsea Zero Carbon Action Plan
- MBTA Better Bus Project, Bus Network Redesign
- Climate Ready Charlestown & Coastal Resilience Solutions for East Boston and Charlestown
- MAPC Regional Climate Adaptation Strategy
- Tobin Bridge/Chelsea Curves Rehabilitation project
- Massachusetts Decarbonization Roadmap

## Study Overview

- **Develop alternatives that incorporate transit priority and multimodal travel**
- **Accommodate existing and future vehicle traffic levels**
- **Incorporate public feedback** to collaborate with local stakeholders and community members
- **Develop recommendations and implementation plan** for next steps



# Study Process



# Public Involvement Plan

- Outreach Approach and Methods
- Working Group meetings (5)
- Public Information Meetings (5)
- Equity Focus Group Meetings (3)
- Online engagement
- **Meetings will provide Spanish interpretation/translation services**

## Study Website / Contact Information:

Patrick L. Snyder, Project Manager

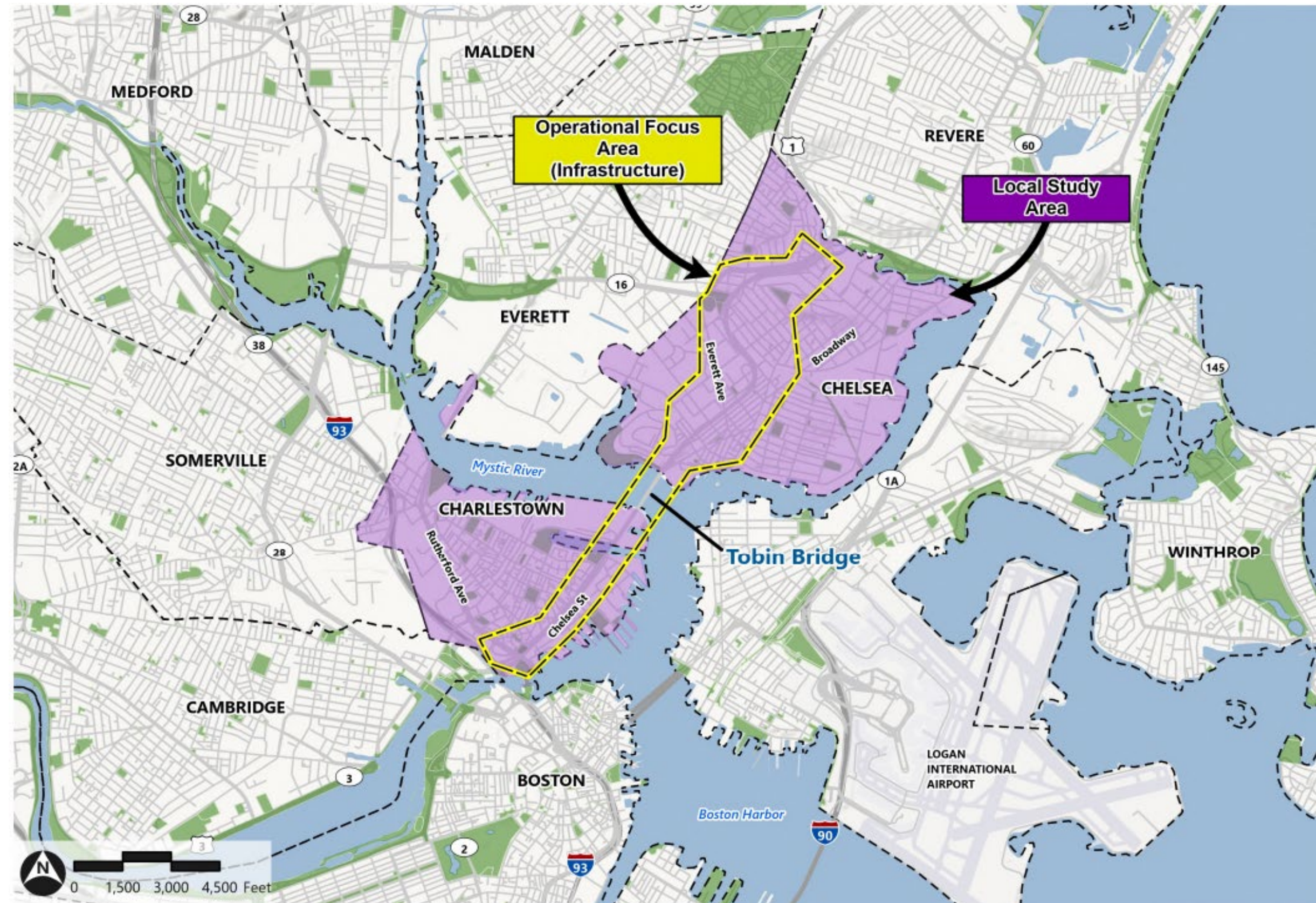
Address: 10 Park Plaza, Suite 4150, Boston, MA 02116

Email: [planning@dot.state.ma.us](mailto:planning@dot.state.ma.us)



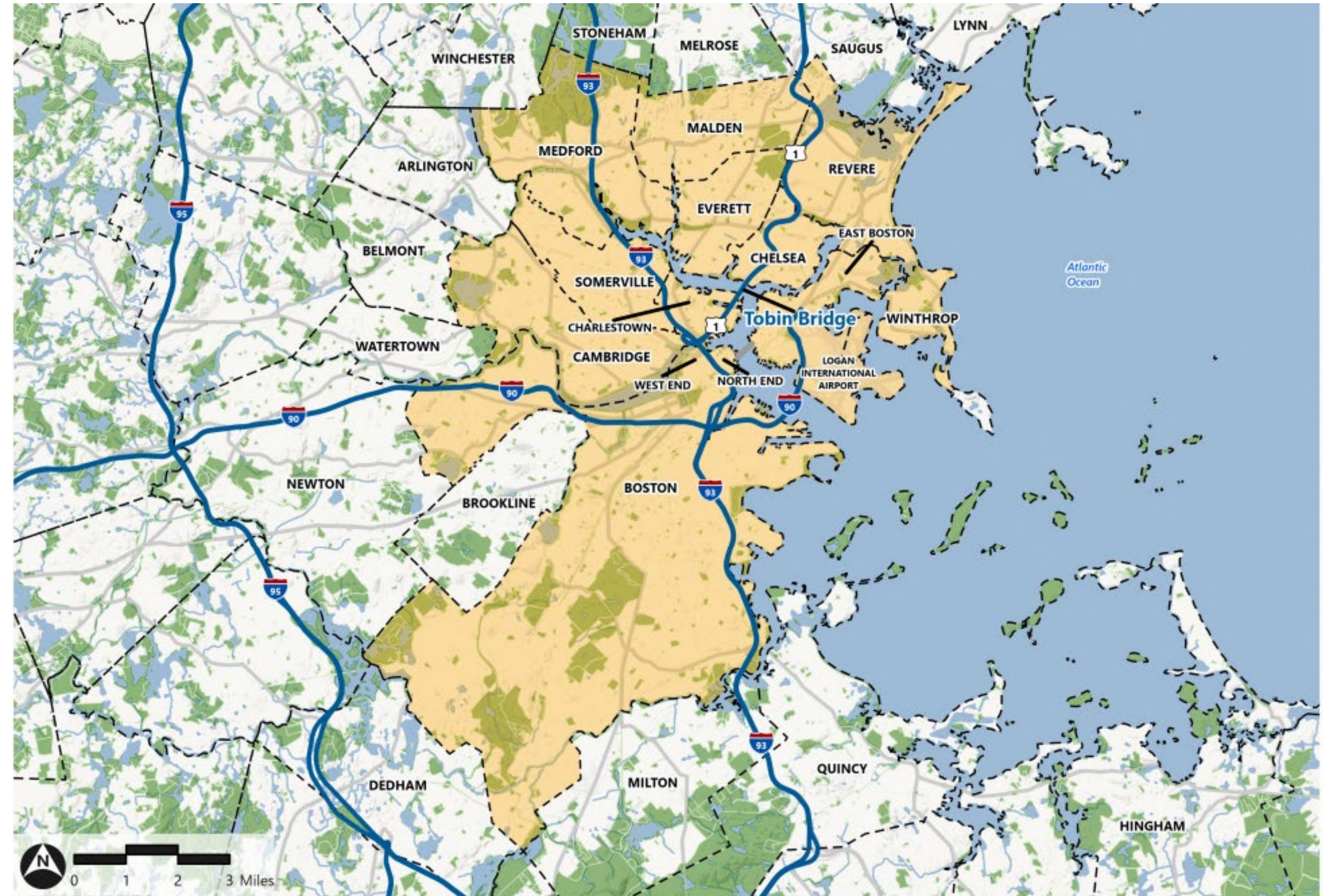
# Local Study Area

- Focus on Chelsea and Charlestown
- Review of existing and future land use, environmental impacts, mobility



# Regional Study Area

- Impacts Boston metro area - adjacent towns and cities
- Tobin Bridge is a regional connection





# Draft Goals, Objectives, and Evaluation Criteria

## Goals and Objectives Overview

- Goals and objectives define the purpose of the study and act as the guiding principles
- Create more detailed aims to support the study purpose
- The evaluation criteria will be used to categorize the benefits and drawbacks of alternatives

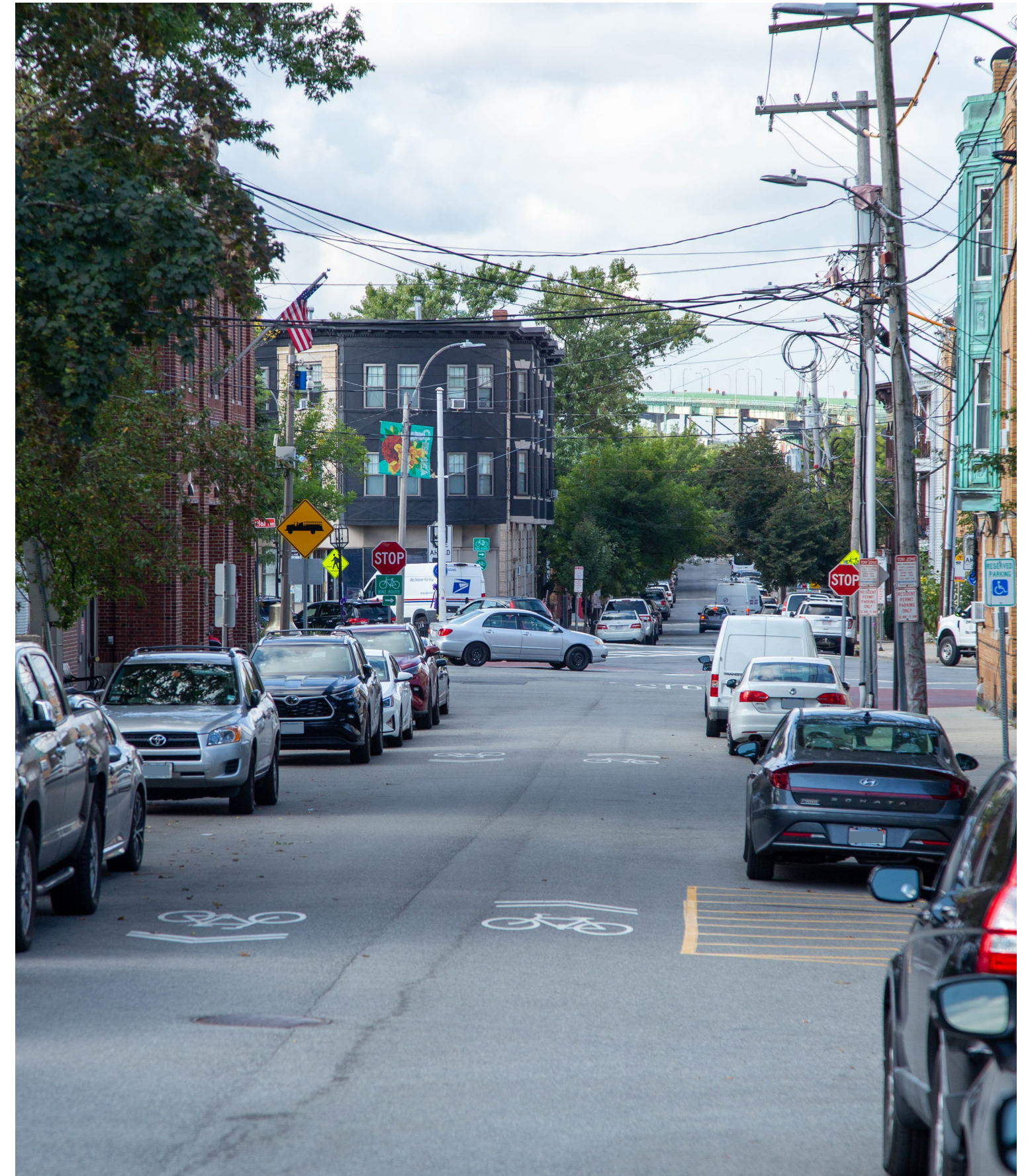
## Draft Study Goals & Objectives

Improve Access, Safety, and Mobility for Local Communities

Enhance Sustainability of Corridor Infrastructure and the Surrounding Area

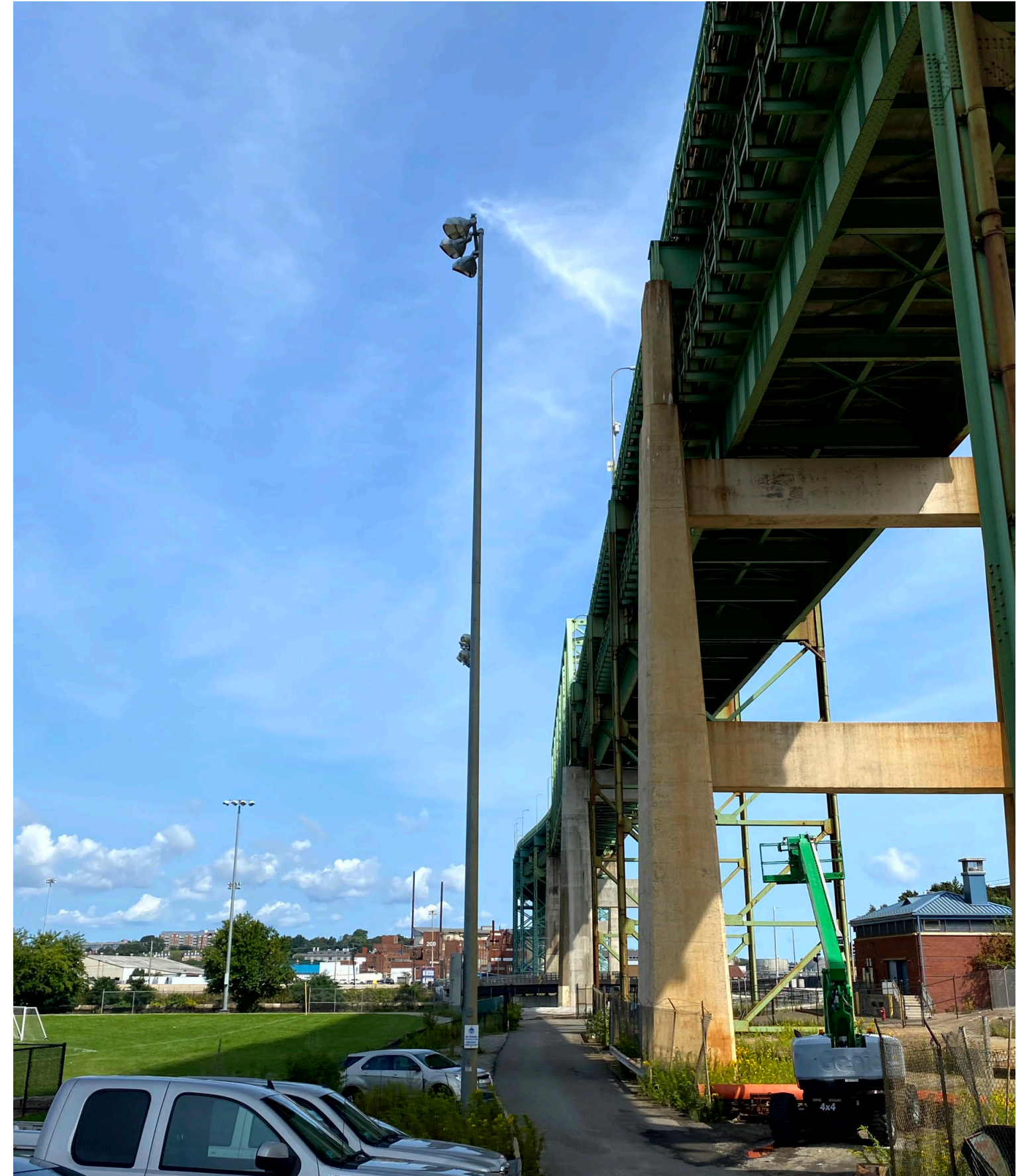
Improve Regional Connectivity

Develop Actionable Next Steps



## Goal: Improve Access, Safety, and Mobility for Local Communities

- **Increase safety, convenience, and comfort** for pedestrians, bicyclists, and transit users.
- **Create new multimodal connections** between neighborhoods, communities, and everyday destinations.
- Enhance **access and connections to transit options**.



## Goal: Enhance Sustainability of Corridor Infrastructure and the Surrounding Area

- Improve the transportation system in the study area to **address gaps in social and economic equity**.
- Align with **local, regional, state, and federal climate mitigation initiatives and associated policies**.
- Develop and examine alternatives that **maximize resilience and minimize long-term maintenance costs**.
- **Minimize public health, environmental, historic, and cultural resource impacts** and identify opportunities to improve outcomes.



## Goal: Improve Regional Connectivity

- Balance needs of **road users and non-vehicle modes** along the Route 1 corridor to improve regional reliability.
- Connect **existing regional pedestrian and bicycle facilities and recreational resources.**
- **Integrate Transportation Systems Management and Operations (TSMO) strategies** to maximize capabilities of the transportation system.
- Incorporate **freight, maritime navigation, and port access** needs in support of the regional economy and future job growth.



## Goal: Develop Actionable Next Steps

- **Develop alternatives with demonstrated support** from the public and host communities.
- Identify long-term alternatives with **permitting and funding strategies and implementation schedules.**
- **Minimize local and regional impacts** during construction.



## Draft Evaluation Criteria

**Evaluation criteria are the standards by which the alternatives will be measured against the goals and objectives**

Safety for Roadway Users

Mobility and Accessibility for Transportation Modes

Social Equity

Economic and Land Use Impacts

Climate Change Resilience and Mitigation

Health Effects

Environmental Effects

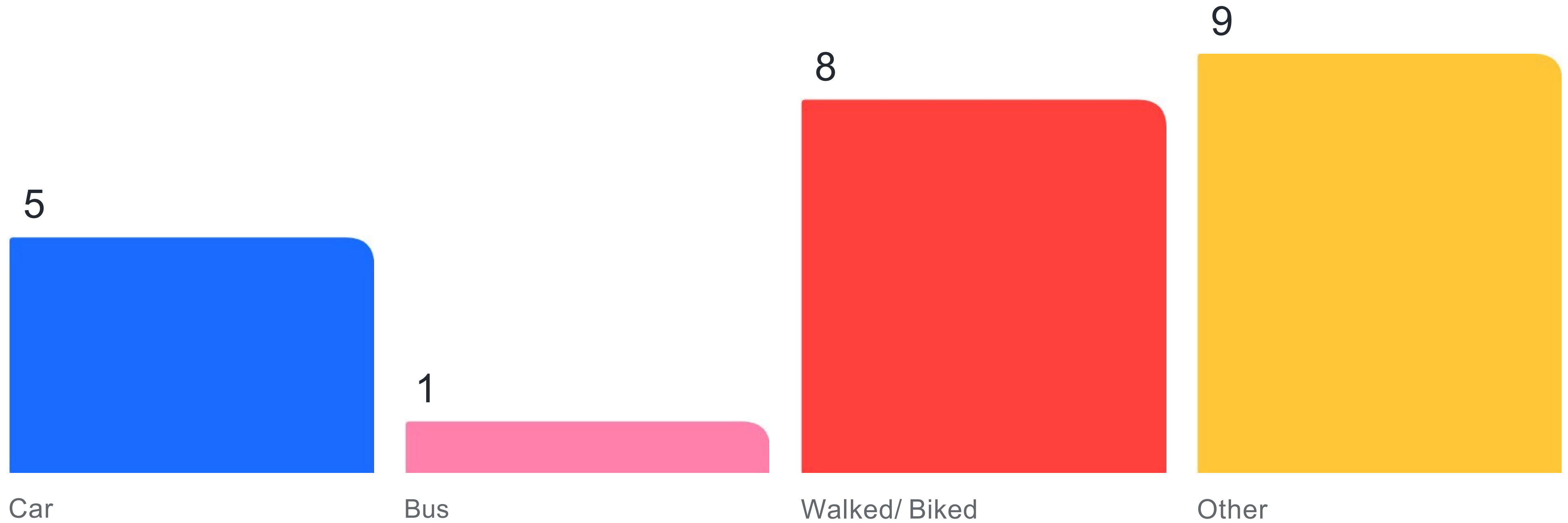
Cost and Cost Effectiveness

Feasibility of Construction

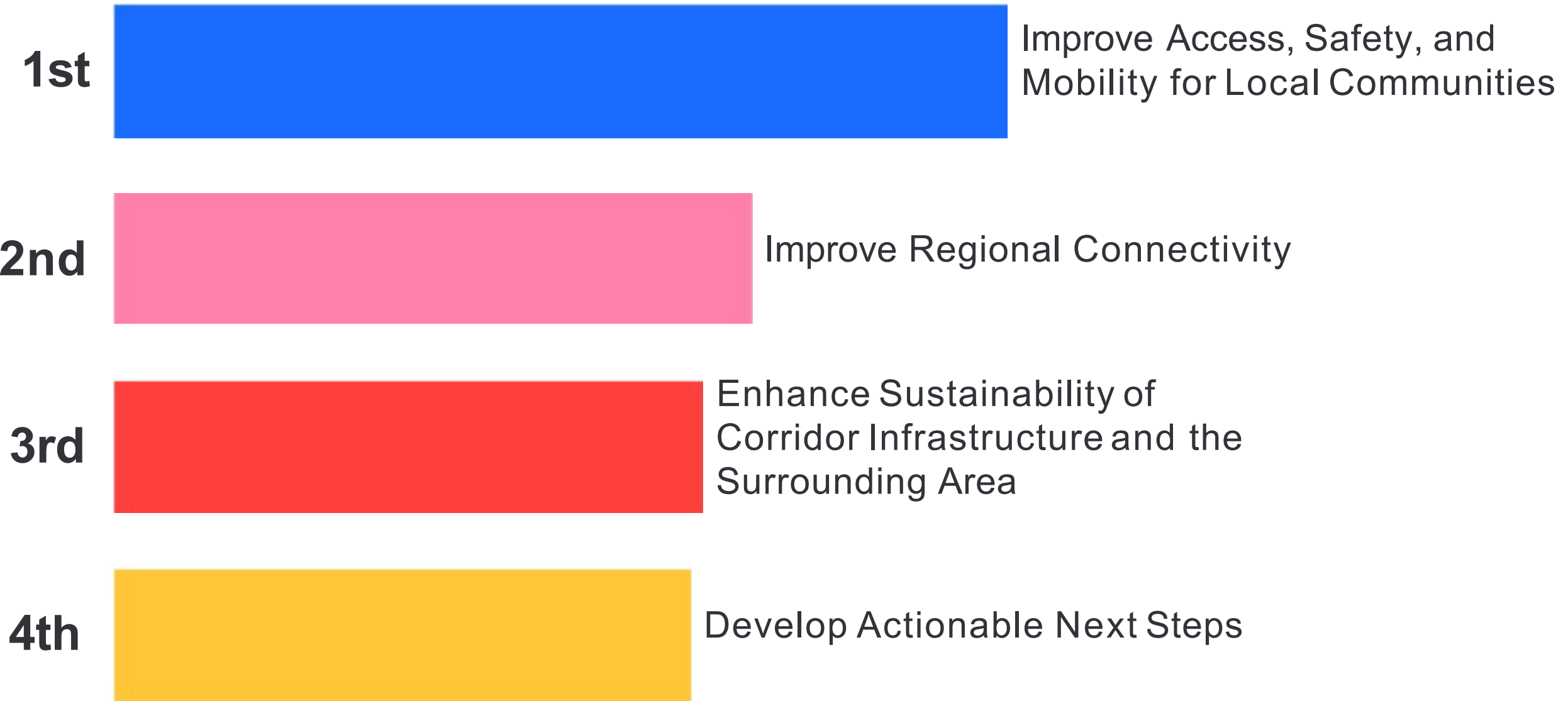


# Working Group Discussion

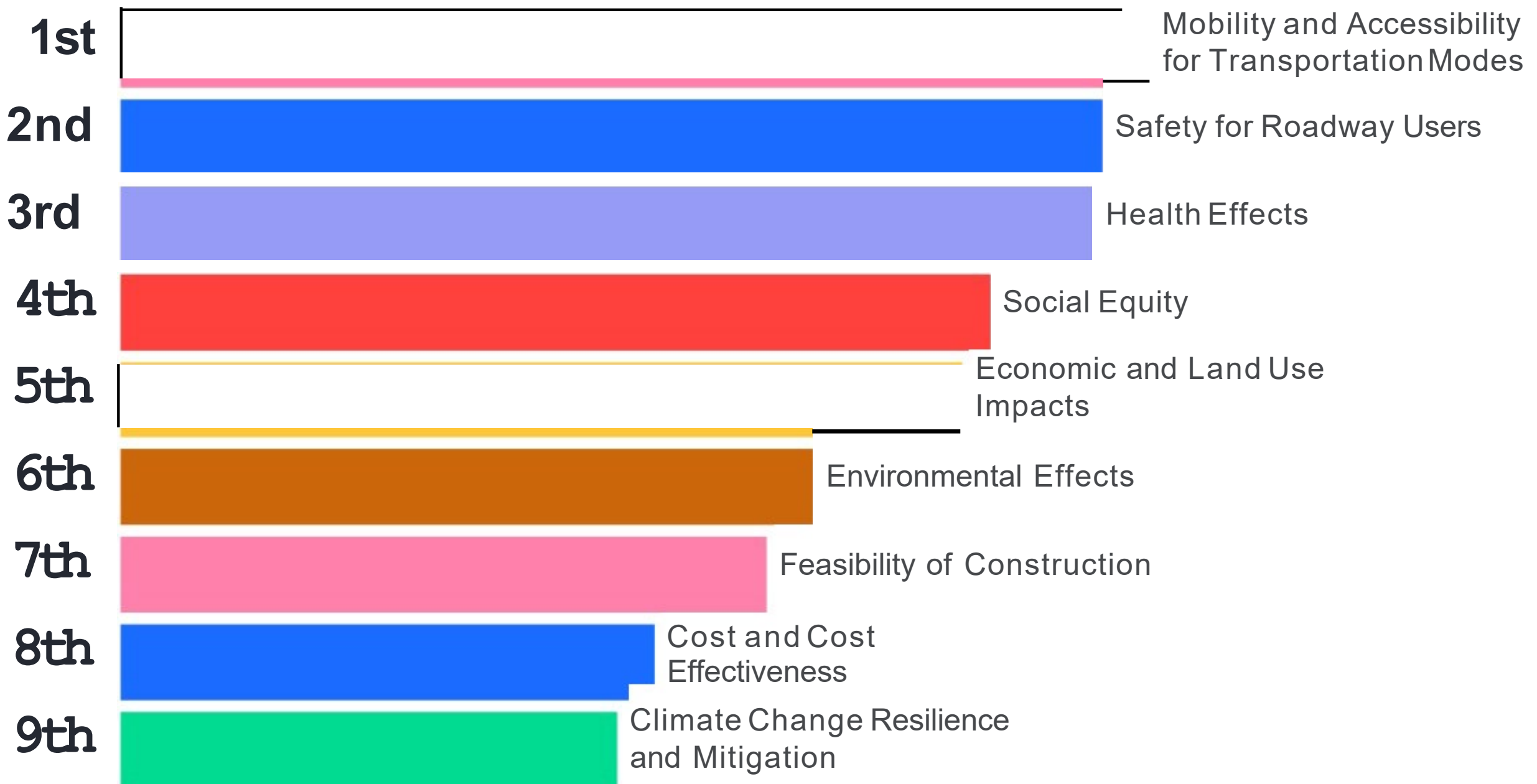
# How did you get here today?



# Rank Goals



# Rank Evaluation Criteria



# One word to describe the most important aspect of this project

40 responses





# Public Comment

## Public Comment: Hybrid Meeting Process

- In-Person and Virtual moderators will work together to ensure that attendees in both spaces can share their questions and comments
- Moderators will take a few comments at a time in one space and then switch throughout the public comment period
- If multiple people ask the same question, moderators will inform the audience how many asked and answer the question once

**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**

## Public Comment: In-Person Attendees



- 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

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



## Public Comment: Virtual Attendees



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



- "Raise your hand" to be unmuted for verbal questions



- 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



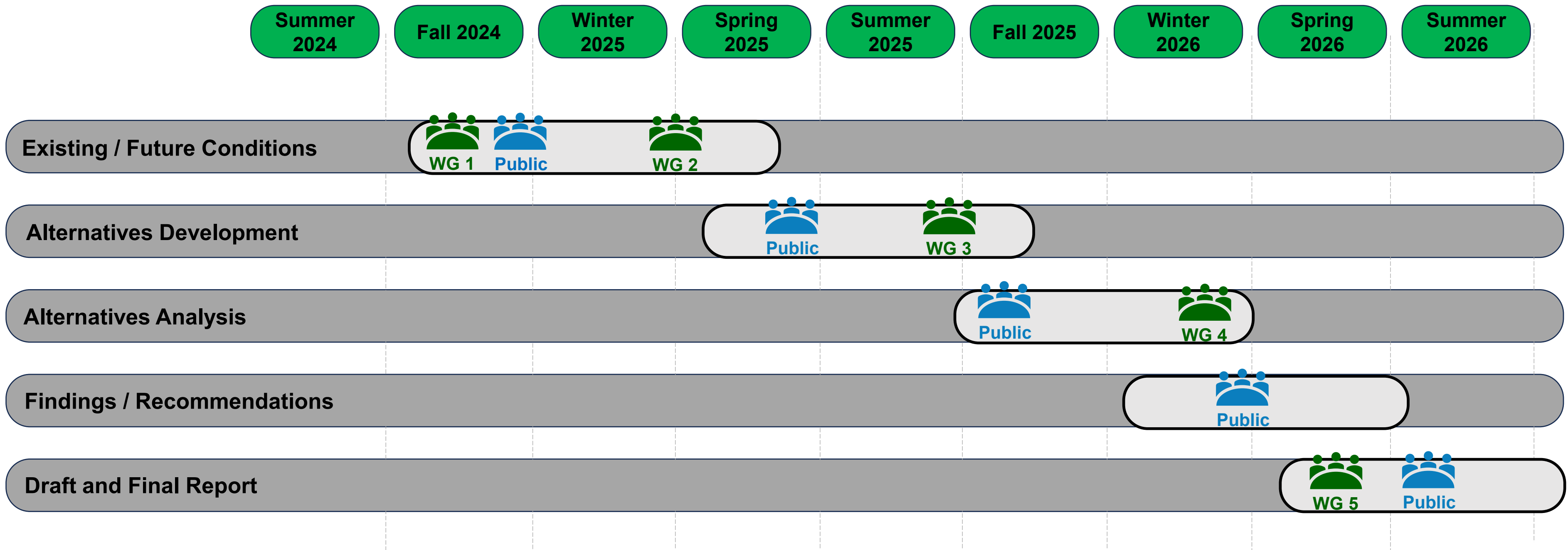
- To ask a question via phone, dial \*9 and the moderator will call out the last digits of your phone number and unmute your audio when it is your turn

**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**



# Schedule and Next Steps

# Study Schedule (anticipated)



**5 Working Group meetings  
and 5 Public meetings  
across duration of study**



WG

*Working Group Meeting*



Public

*Public Meeting*

## Next Steps

- Refine and Finalize Goals and Objectives based on Working Group input
- Public Meeting #1 (November 2024)
- Continue Existing Conditions Analysis and Documentation
- Equity Focus Group meetings (Winter 2024)
- Working Group Meeting #2: Existing Conditions & Future Conditions Scenario Planning (Winter 2025)

## Future Meeting Timing / Schedule

**What days and/or times generally work best for future Working Group meetings?**



# *Thank You*

**Study Website:**

<https://www.mass.gov/maurice-j-tobin-bridge-long-term-strategic-planning-study>

**Patrick L. Snyder, Project Manager**

[planning@dot.state.ma.us](mailto:planning@dot.state.ma.us)

