

What's Happening in Downtown Middlebury?



If you're visiting our town you may be wondering, what is Middlebury building?

The short answer is that the Vermont Agency of Transportation, in partnership with the Federal Highway Administration and the Town of Middlebury, is replacing the two bridges on Main Street and Merchants Row and rebuilding a 3,500-foot section of the rail line that passes through downtown Middlebury.

Why?

Those two bridges, built in the early 1920s, reached the end of their safe life and were temporarily replaced in 2017 with the modular truss bridges you see today. Those, in turn, will be replaced in 2020 by a precast concrete tunnel that will restore the Town Green to its original dimensions before the railroad arrived in the 1840s.

Rebuilding the rail line through Middlebury will improve rail safety, clean up the environment, pave the way for providing Amtrak service between Middlebury and New York City, and prepare for future freight needs.

In 2020, the project will focus on constructing the new downtown tunnel and rebuilding the downtown rail corridor. See map on the right for details.

Looking Ahead to 2021

Replacing the Main Street and Merchants Row bridges with a tunnel will restore Middlebury's Town Green to its original size, significantly expanding the area known as Triangle Park with new green space and hardscape for public events. In addition, Printer's Alley will be a completely rebuilt gateway between Main Street and the Marble Works. The new green space will be named Lazarus Park in honor of the Lazarus family whose department store for 50 years occupied the Duclos Building on Main Street (now the National Bank of Middlebury) and whose annex sat alongside Printer's Alley.



Middlebury's Road to Recovery

Town and State officials have worked closely with local stakeholders to develop and fund programs designed to help mitigate the economic and social impact of a four-year construction project in the center of town. That work took on heightened importance in March 2020 with the onset of Covid-19 and the extended shutdown of much of Middlebury.

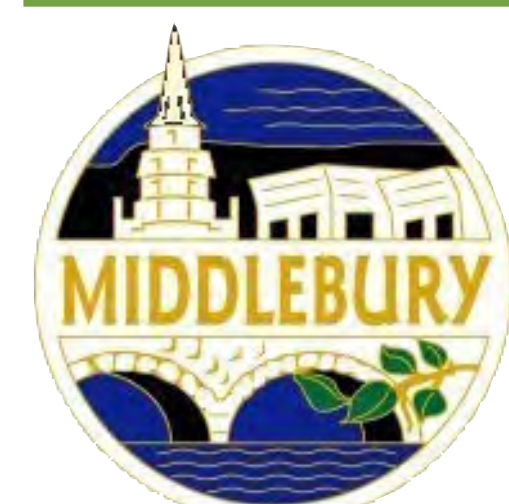
This summer, **Neighbors Together** – a spirited group of volunteers representing the business, religious, cultural, and educational life of the community – will launch a series of initiatives designed to support local businesses while following Vermont's guidelines for maintaining public health. You can support Middlebury's road to recovery by visiting our stores and restaurants. And you can check out the many shopping incentives, prizes, and promotions in store at www.experiencemiddlebury.org.

Neighbors Together works in close collaboration with the **Better Middlebury Partnership**, with funding provided by the Vermont Agency of Transportation and the Federal Highway Administration.



Tunneling Into the Past

In the 1840s, the Rutland & Burlington Railroad pushed north through Middlebury, leaving behind two new bridges to span the 20-foot-deep rail corridor now running through the Town Green. In 2020, the Vermont Agency of Transportation will replace those two bridges with a 350-foot tunnel that restores the lost section of the Town Green with a landscaped park designed to be the new centerpiece of downtown Middlebury. The tunnel will be constructed of precast concrete "U-walls" (see photo to the right). Some 422 pieces of precast concrete will be trucked into central downtown in July and August to form the tunnel and the rail abutments extending to its north and south. An average tunnel piece weighs about 40 tons.



vtrans.vermont.gov/projects/middlebury

Questions or comments?

Contact Middlebury Community Liaison Jim Gish
Email: jgish@townofmiddlebury.org Blog: www.middleburybridges.org



2020 Construction Plan

Construction Activities

- 1 Two crews, working north and south, excavate rail corridor to a depth of up to 13 feet. Some blasting required to clear bedrock. **July 13 - July 23***
- 2 Trucks carrying excavated soil to Fifield Farm north marshaling yard exit rail corridor here.
- 3 Access to Battell Block parking lot during closure of Merchants Row.
- 4 Merchants Row closed to thru traffic **May 28 - Sept 21***.
- 5 Main Street closed to thru traffic between Bakery Lane and North Pleasant St/Route 7 **July 13 - Sept 21***. 422 pieces of precast concrete trucked down Main Street from Fifield Farm **July 23 - Aug 13***.
- 6 15-minute parking for Post Office
- 7 Location of 300-ton crane to lift and assemble precast concrete tunnel.
- 8 Left-hand turn from South Pleasant Street onto Cross Street temporarily eliminated.
- 9 Franklin Street temporarily converted to one-way roadway westbound to create additional parking for downtown.
- 10 Site of new Lazarus Park.
- 11 Town Green restored to its original dimensions, creating new downtown public event space.
- 12 New Amtrak rail platform for service between Middlebury and Penn Station New York.

* All dates are approximate and depend on weather, unexpected construction challenges, and other factors.

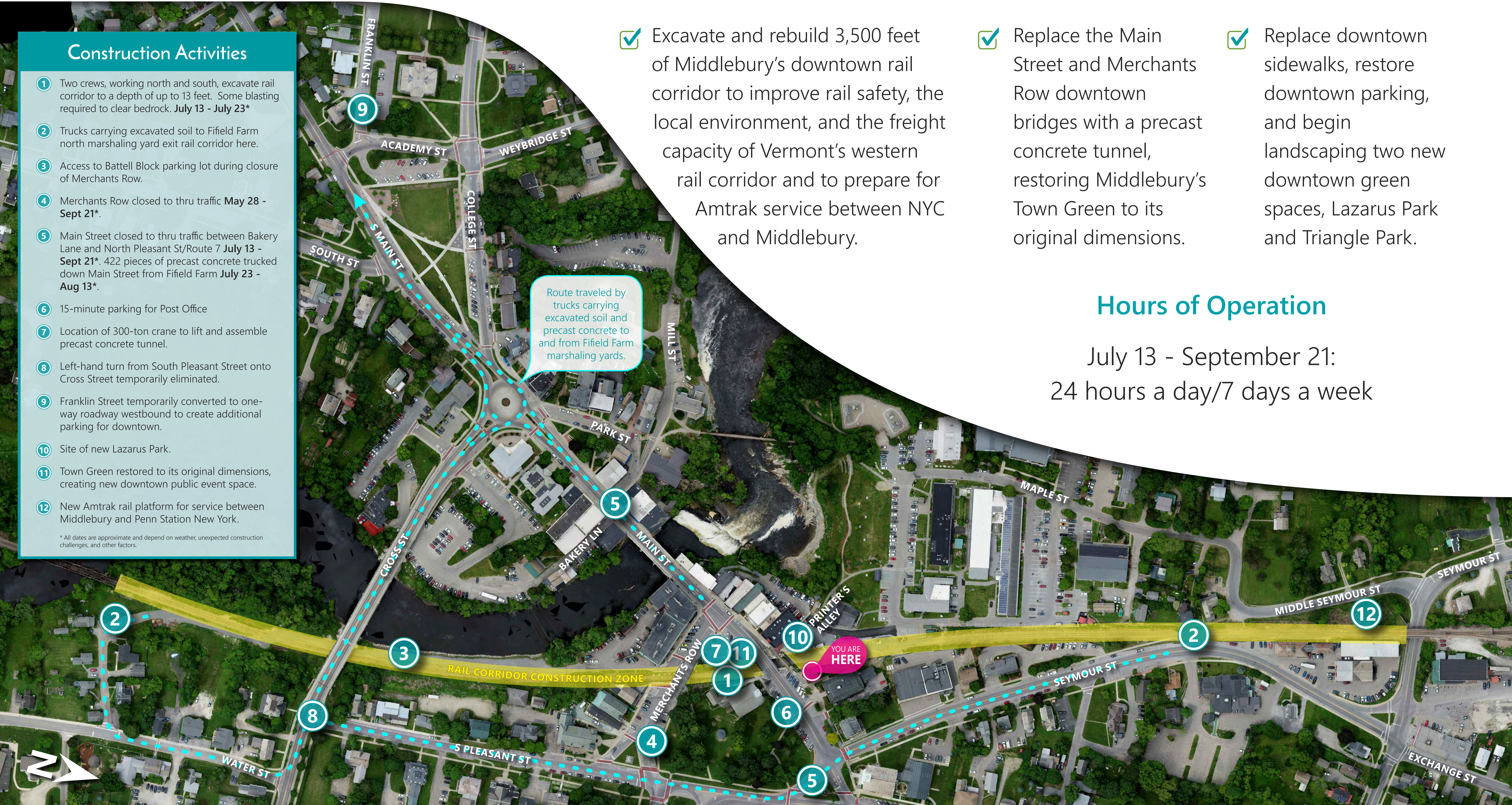
✓ Excavate and rebuild 3,500 feet of Middlebury's downtown rail corridor to improve rail safety, the local environment, and the freight capacity of Vermont's western rail corridor and to prepare for Amtrak service between NYC and Middlebury.

✓ Replace the Main Street and Merchants Row downtown bridges with a precast concrete tunnel, restoring Middlebury's Town Green to its original dimensions.

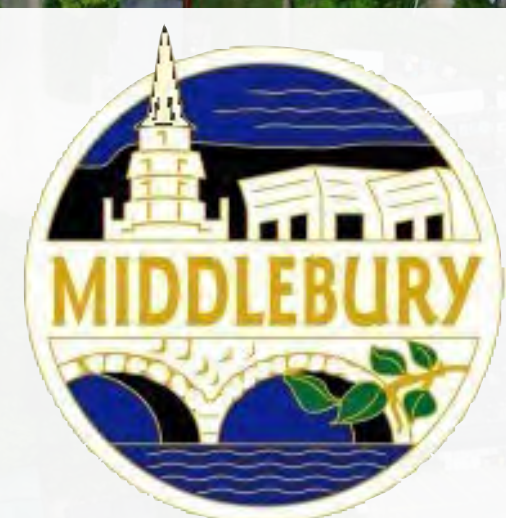
✓ Replace downtown sidewalks, restore downtown parking, and begin landscaping two new downtown green spaces, Lazarus Park and Triangle Park.

Hours of Operation

July 13 - September 21:
24 hours a day/7 days a week



Route traveled by trucks carrying excavated soil and precast concrete to and from Fifield Farm marshaling yards.



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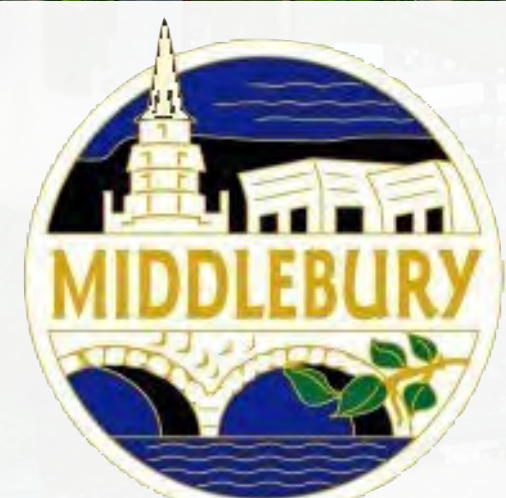
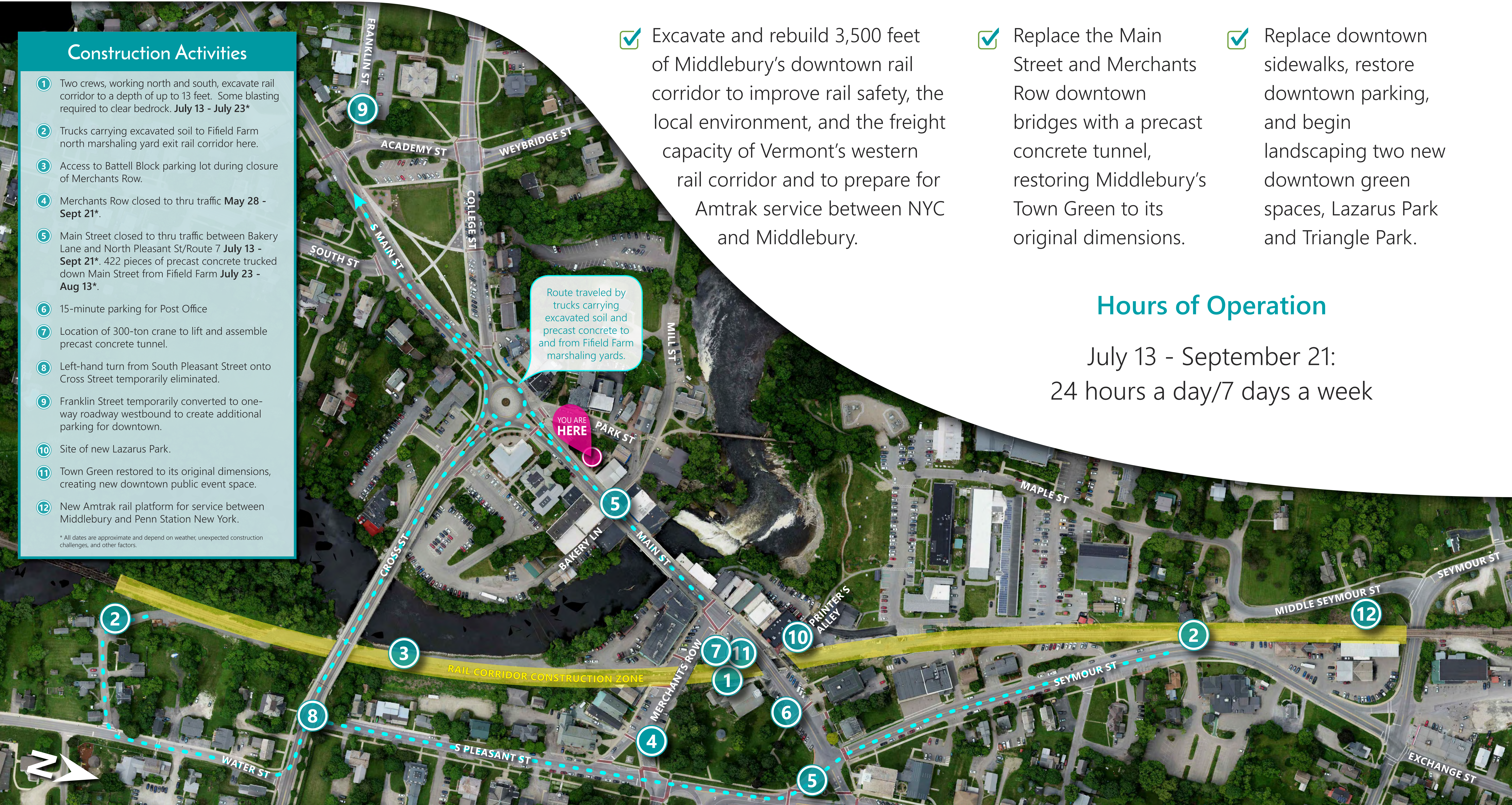
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