



Middlebury
Bridge & Rail Project

PRESENTED TO
Addison County Regional Planning Commission

PRESENTED BY
VTrans, VHB, Town of Middlebury,
Fitzgerald & Halliday, Inc.



Meeting with you today

- **Wayne Symonds**, PE, Deputy Chief Engineer, *VTrans*
- **Aaron Guyette**, PE, Design Project Manager, *VHB*
- **Jill Barrett**, Public Outreach Coordinator, *Fitzgerald & Halliday, Inc. (FHI)*
- **Jim Gish**, Middlebury Community Liaison

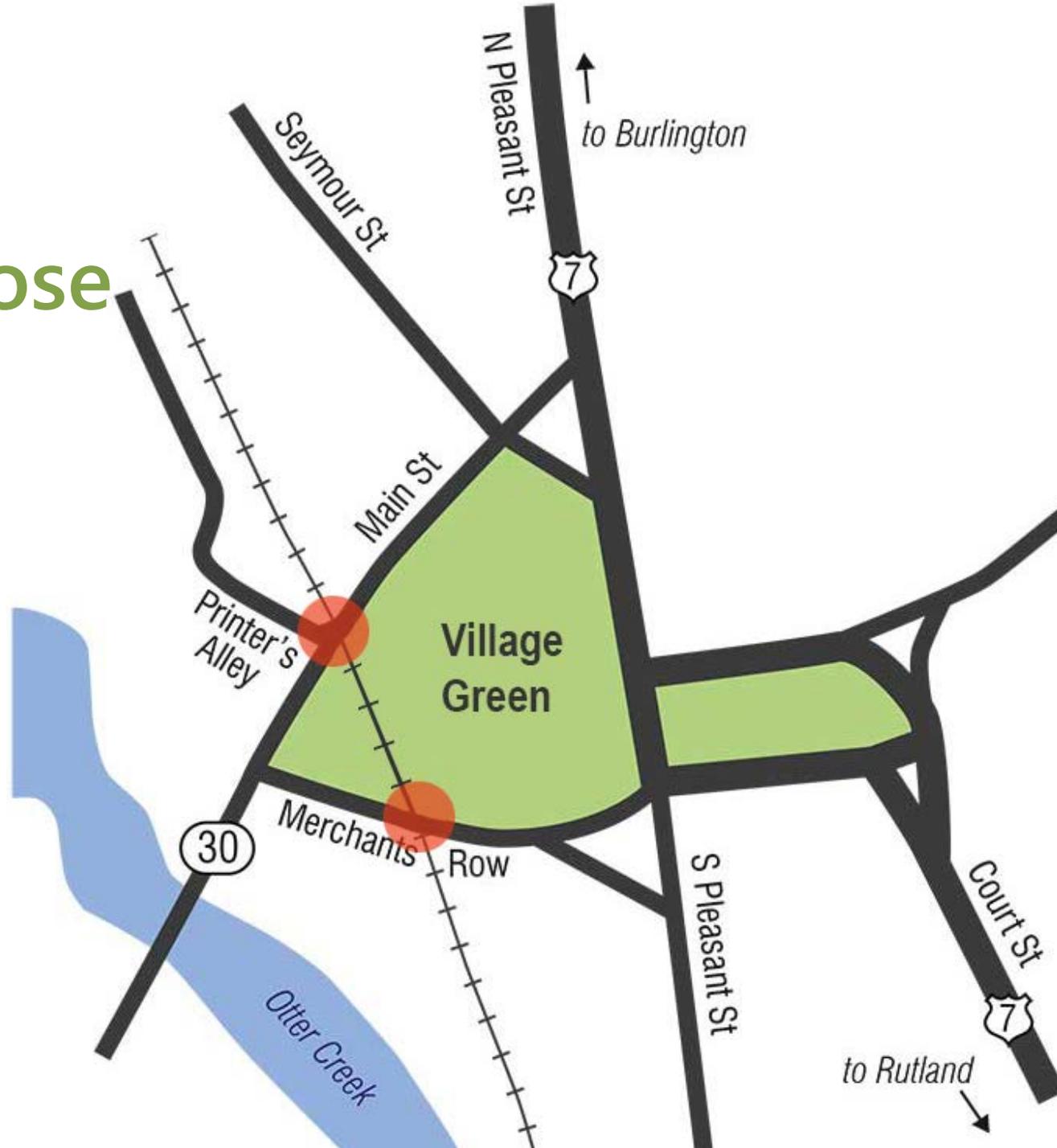


Community Project Goals

- Protect the safety of the community: people, property, environment
- Minimize the project impact on the vitality of the downtown community: businesses, residents, institutions
- Maintain traffic flow and pedestrian access to the greatest extent possible
- Develop and maintain a credible schedule
- Engage with the local community and facilitate clear communication with all stakeholders



Defining Purpose and Need



***“The purpose of the project** is to address the structural deficiencies of two rail-highway grade-separated bridges in downtown Middlebury where Main Street (VT 30/TH 2 Bridge 102) and Merchants Row (TH 8 Bridge 2) span the Vermont Western Rail Corridor track, to address rail safety concerns, and to provide appropriate vertical and horizontal rail clearances for the design service life of the structure(s) (100 years).”*

—Environmental Assessment
Section 1.4, Project Purpose





Project Need: *Existing Conditions*
Main Street Bridge



Project Need: *Existing Conditions*
Merchants Row Bridge



Project Need: *Existing Conditions*
Vermont Western Rail Corridor Tracks



Project Milestone Schedule

- NEPA – Completed Summer 2017
- Temporary bridges – Installed Summer 2017
- Design Tasks – To be completed through 2017 and early 2018
- Remaining Project Construction – 2018–2021

2017

2018

2019

2020

2021



OTTER CREEK TRUSS BRIDGE

Otter Creek

OTTER CREEK FALLS

VILLAGE GREEN

Proposed Action Overview

Project Dimensions

Overall length: 3,550 feet

Tunnel length: 360 feet

Construction Area: 6.1 Acres



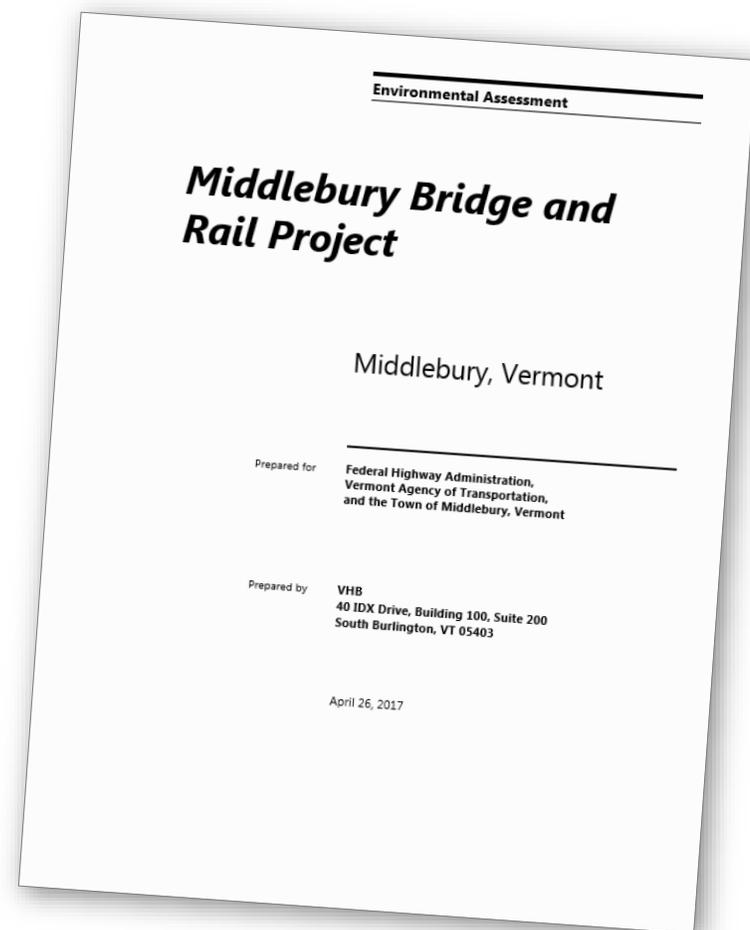
National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)

Federal requirement that federal agencies must assess the environmental effects of their proposed actions prior to undertaking major federal actions including expenditure of federal funds.



National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)

- Levels of NEPA environmental review
 - Categorical Exclusion (CE)
 - **Environmental Assessment (EA)**
 - Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)





Environmental Assessment Process

- ✓ **Purpose and need**
- ✓ **Alternatives considered**
- ✓ **Identification of Proposed Action**
- ✓ **Resource assessment, effects & mitigation**
- ✓ **Public Hearing & Comment Period**
- ✓ **FHWA determination**
 - Finding of no significant impact (FONSI)





Proposed Action Overview

- Permanent construction
 - Structures
 - Highway
 - Railroad
 - Utilities
 - Landscaping
- Temporary works
 - Access roads
 - Support of excavation
 - Waste, borrow, and staging





Resources Effects Summary from EA: **Completed Project**

Land use		Noise and vibration	
Traffic		Parks, recreation, and conservation land	
Wetlands		Historic resources	
Surface waters		Archaeological resources	
Groundwater and drinking water resources		Acquisitions	
Floodplains and floodways		Social and economic considerations	
Wildlife		Utilities and emergency services	
Threatened and endangered species		Hazardous/Contaminated materials	
Air quality			

Beneficial effect

No effect

Adverse effect



Resources Effects Summary from EA: **Construction**

Land use		Noise and vibration	
Traffic		Parks, recreation, and conservation land	
Wetlands		Historic resources	
Surface waters		Archaeological resources	
Groundwater and drinking water resources		Acquisitions	
Floodplains and floodways		Social and economic considerations	
Wildlife		Utilities and emergency services	
Threatened and endangered species		Hazardous/Contaminated materials	
Air quality			

Beneficial effect

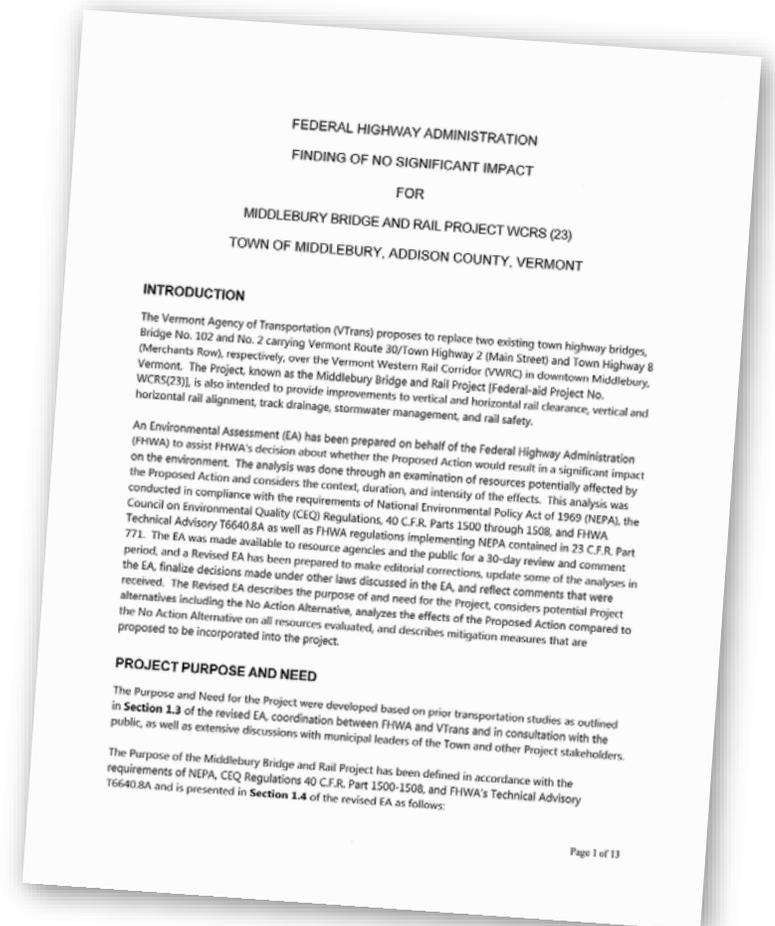
No effect

Adverse effect



Environmental Assessment Outcome

- Federal Highway Administration
 - **Finding Of No Significant Impact**
 - Allows project permitting, ROW, and design to move forward
 - Validates approach to the project





Middlebury Bridge & Rail Project

2017

2018

2019

2020

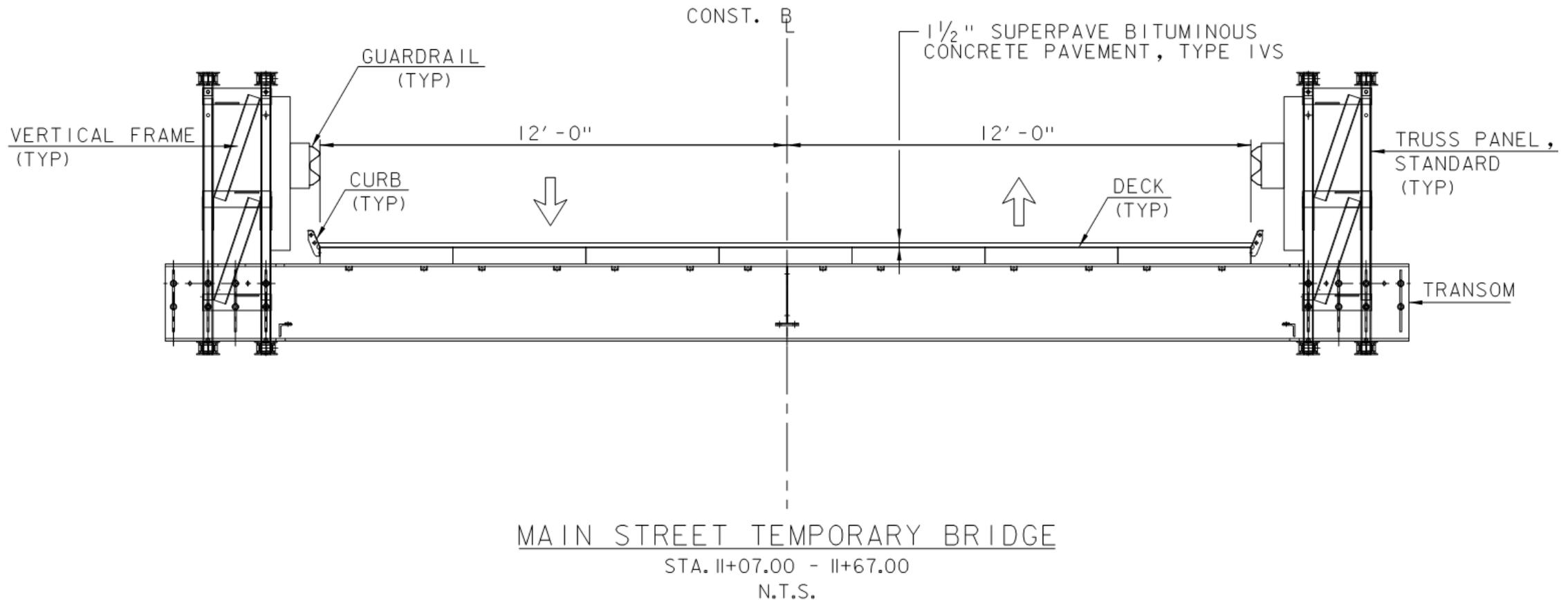
2021

2017 Construction Activity

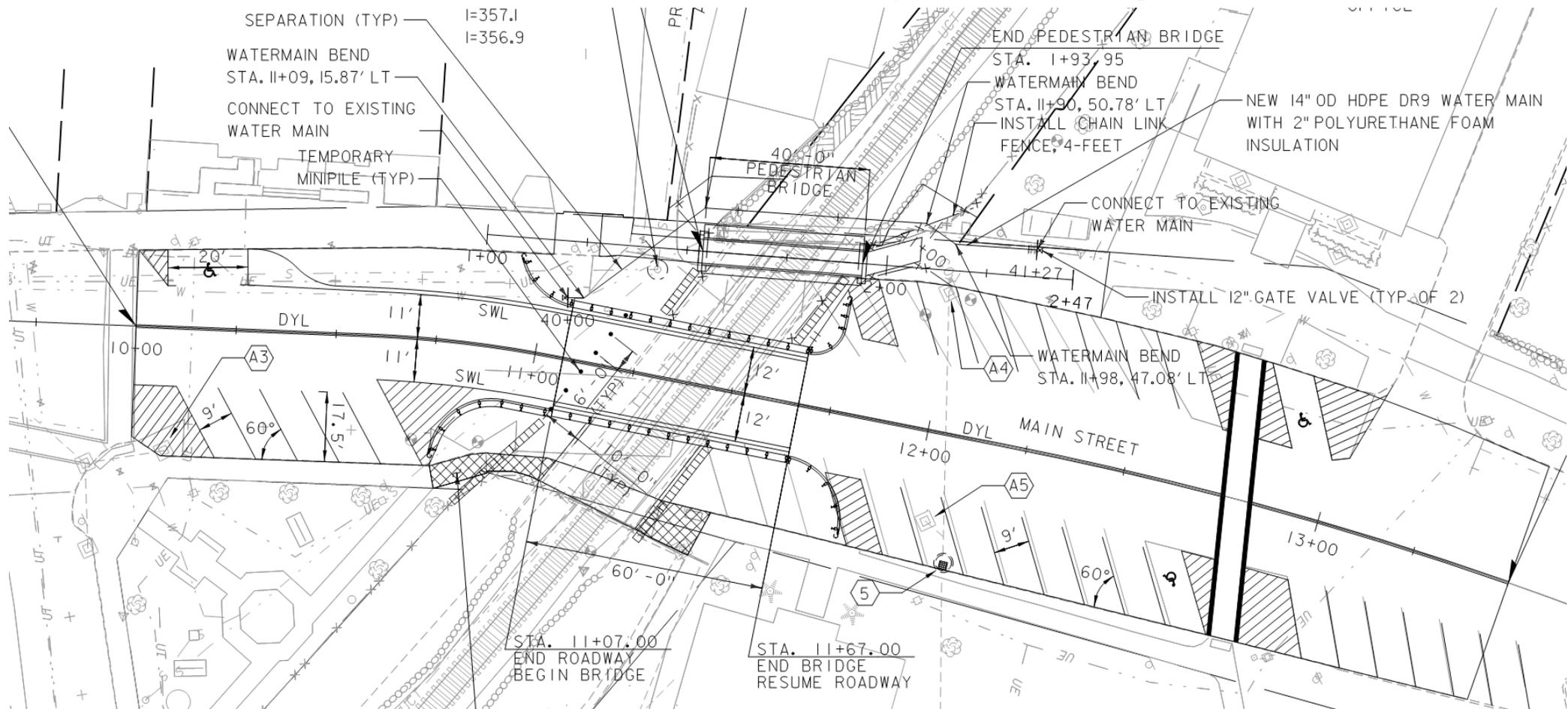
- Bridge Demolition
- Temporary Bridge Construction



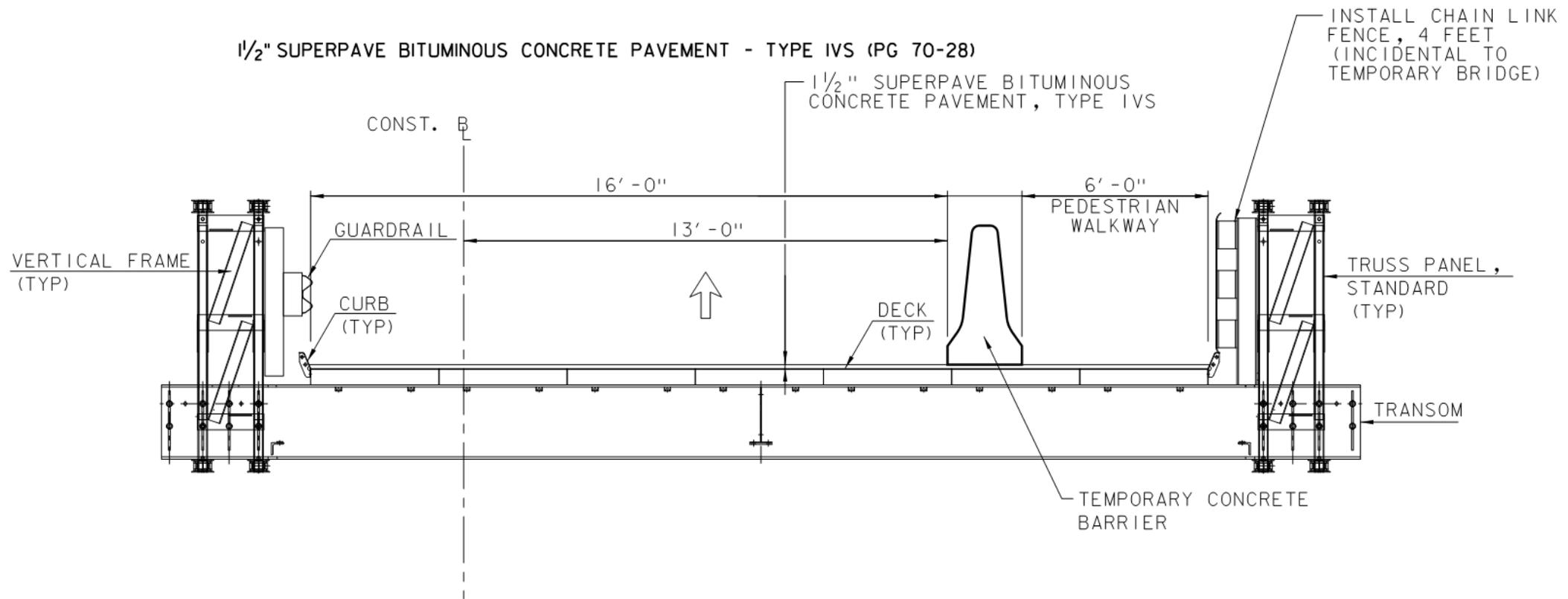
Main Street Temporary Bridge



Main Street Temporary Bridge



Merchants Row Temporary Bridge



MERCHANTS ROW TEMPORARY BRIDGE

STA. 21+44.00- 22+04.00

N.T.S.



Middlebury Bridge & Rail Project

2017

2018

2019

2020

2021

2018 Construction Activity

- Tree Cutting
- Temporary access road
- Drainage system
- Maintenance road and outfall
- Underground utility infrastructure

2017

2018

2019

2020

2021

Summer 2018 Temporary access road



2018 Drainage system installation

Drainage outfall/
receiving shaft 1

Drive 1

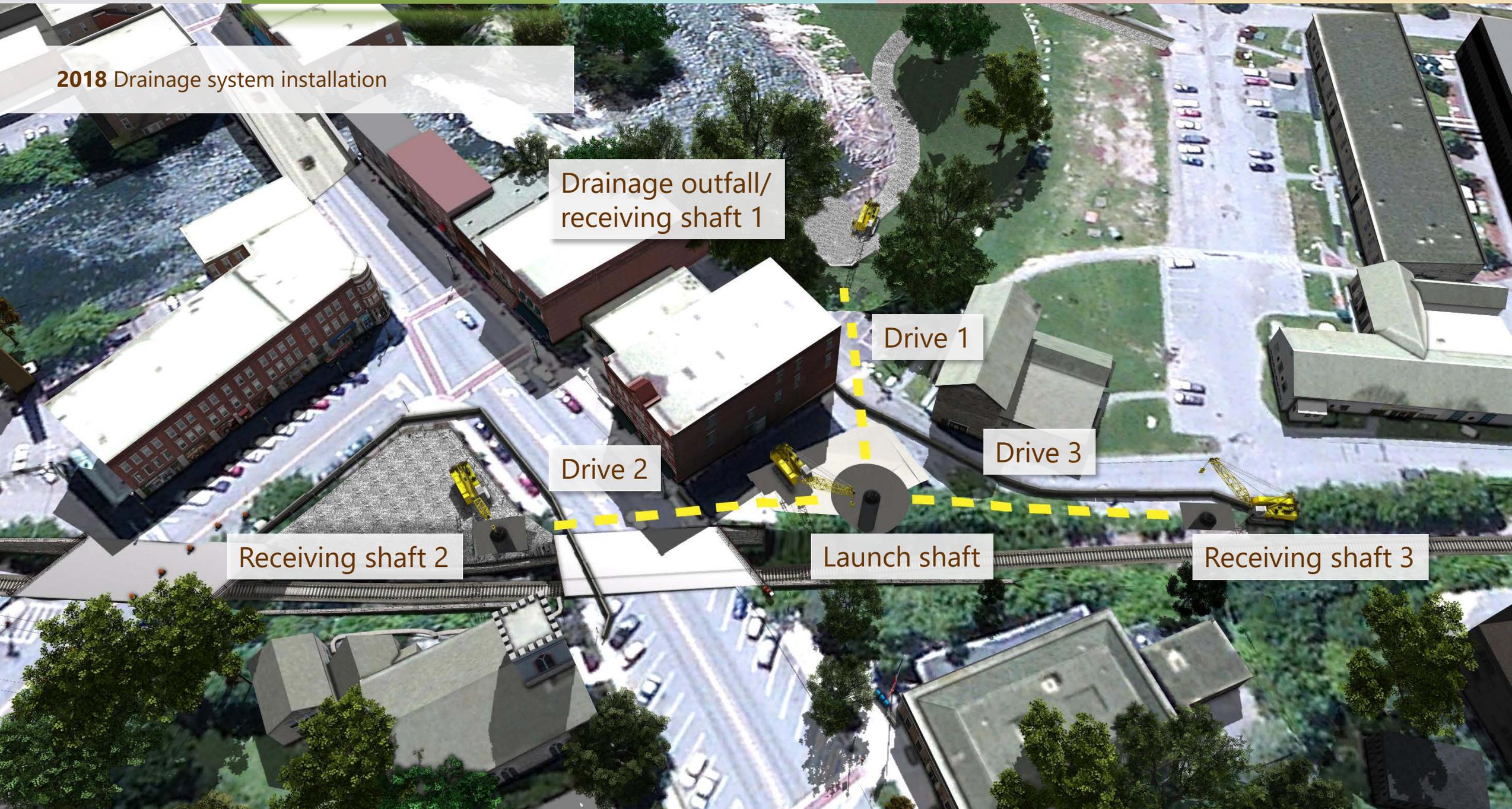
Drive 2

Drive 3

Receiving shaft 2

Launch shaft

Receiving shaft 3



2017

2018

2019

2020

2021

2018 Temporary access road/outfall

Park area undisturbed during construction



2017

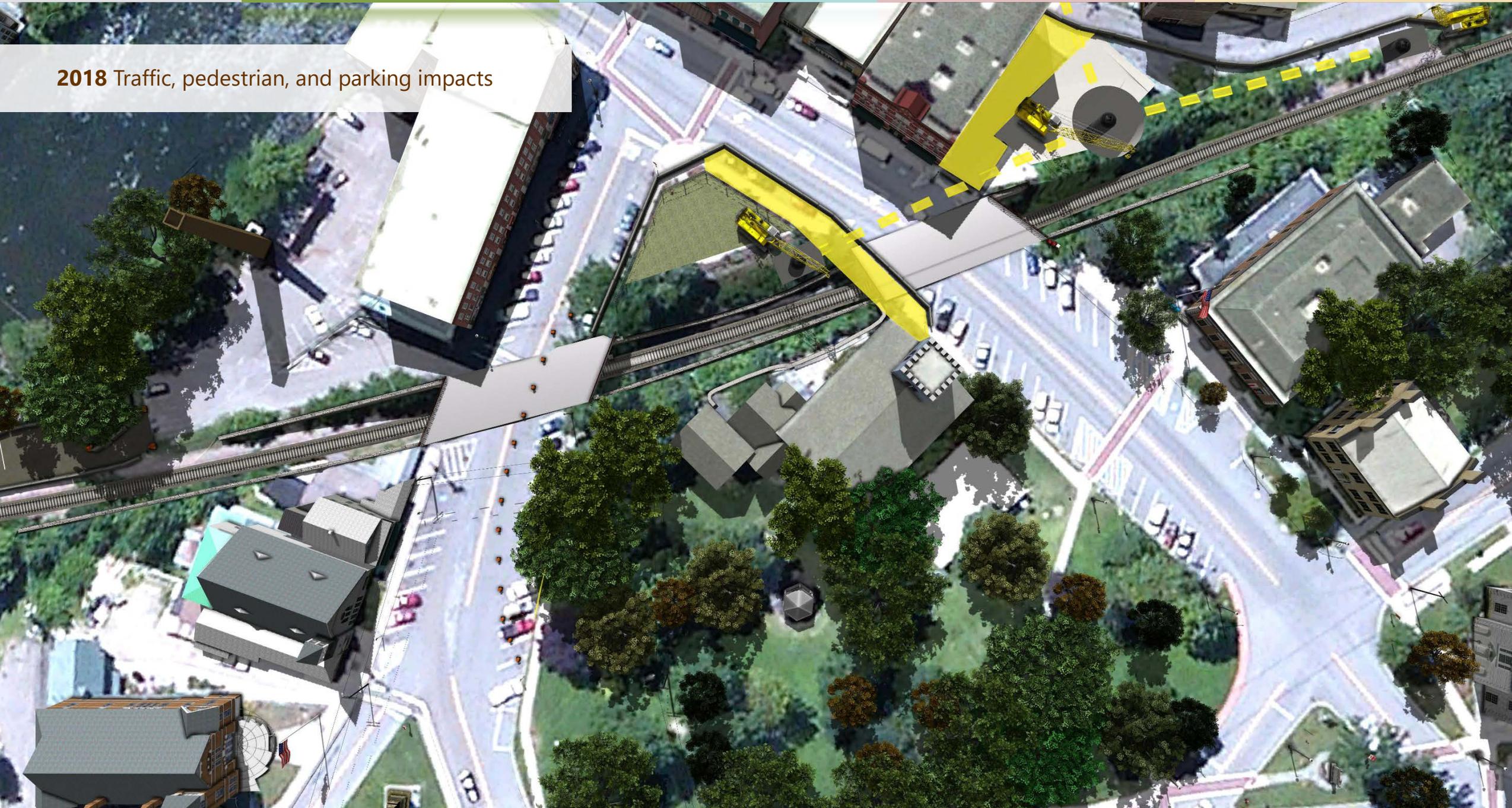
2018

2019

2020

2021

2018 Traffic, pedestrian, and parking impacts



2018 Project Impacts

- Traffic, parking, and pedestrian impacts
 - Main Street and Triangle Park area
 - Printer's Alley
- Working hours
 - Anticipated weekday 7:00am–5:00pm
 - Isolated extended working hours



Middlebury Bridge & Rail Project

2017

2018

2019

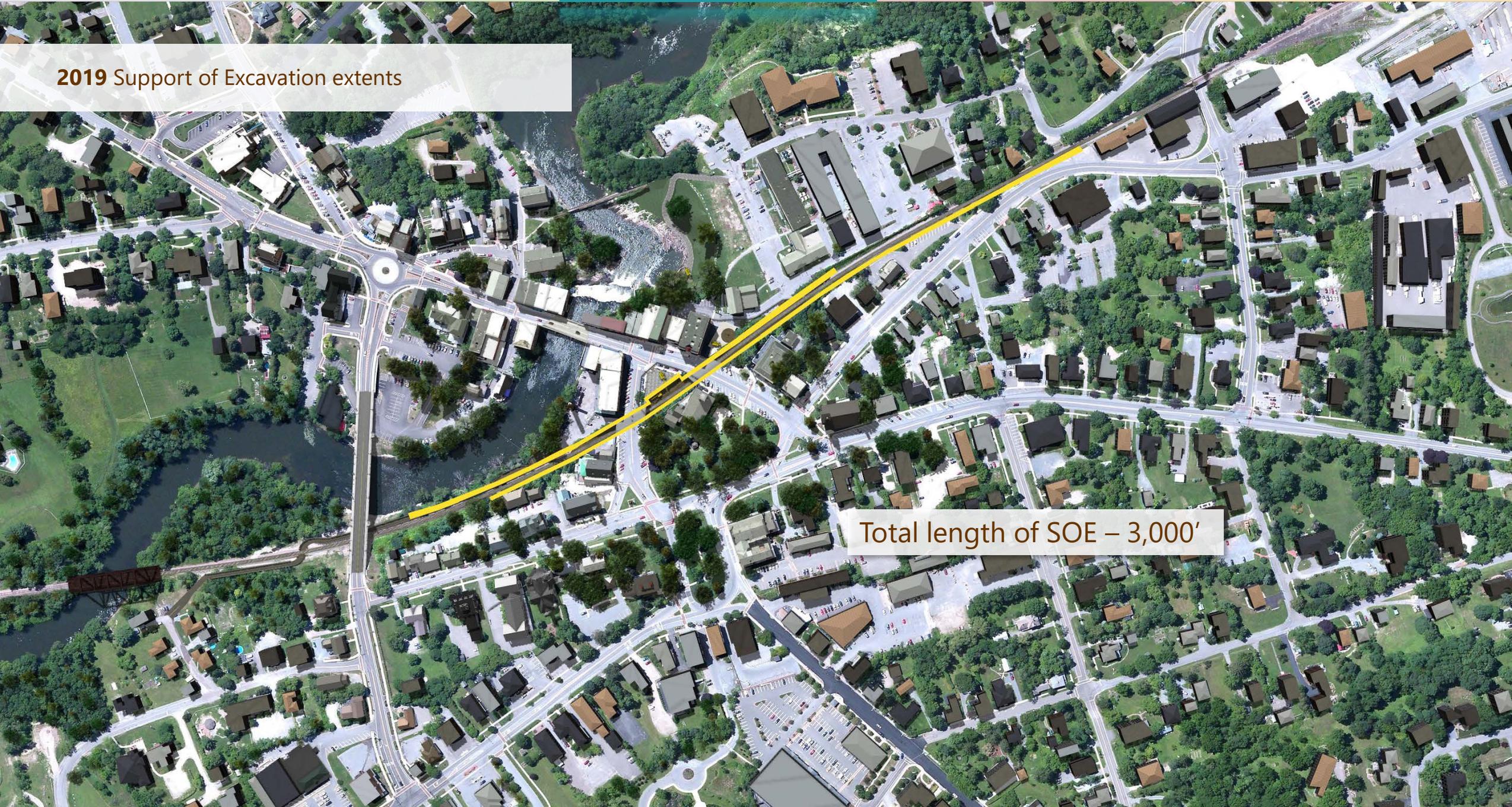
2020

2021

2019 Construction Activity

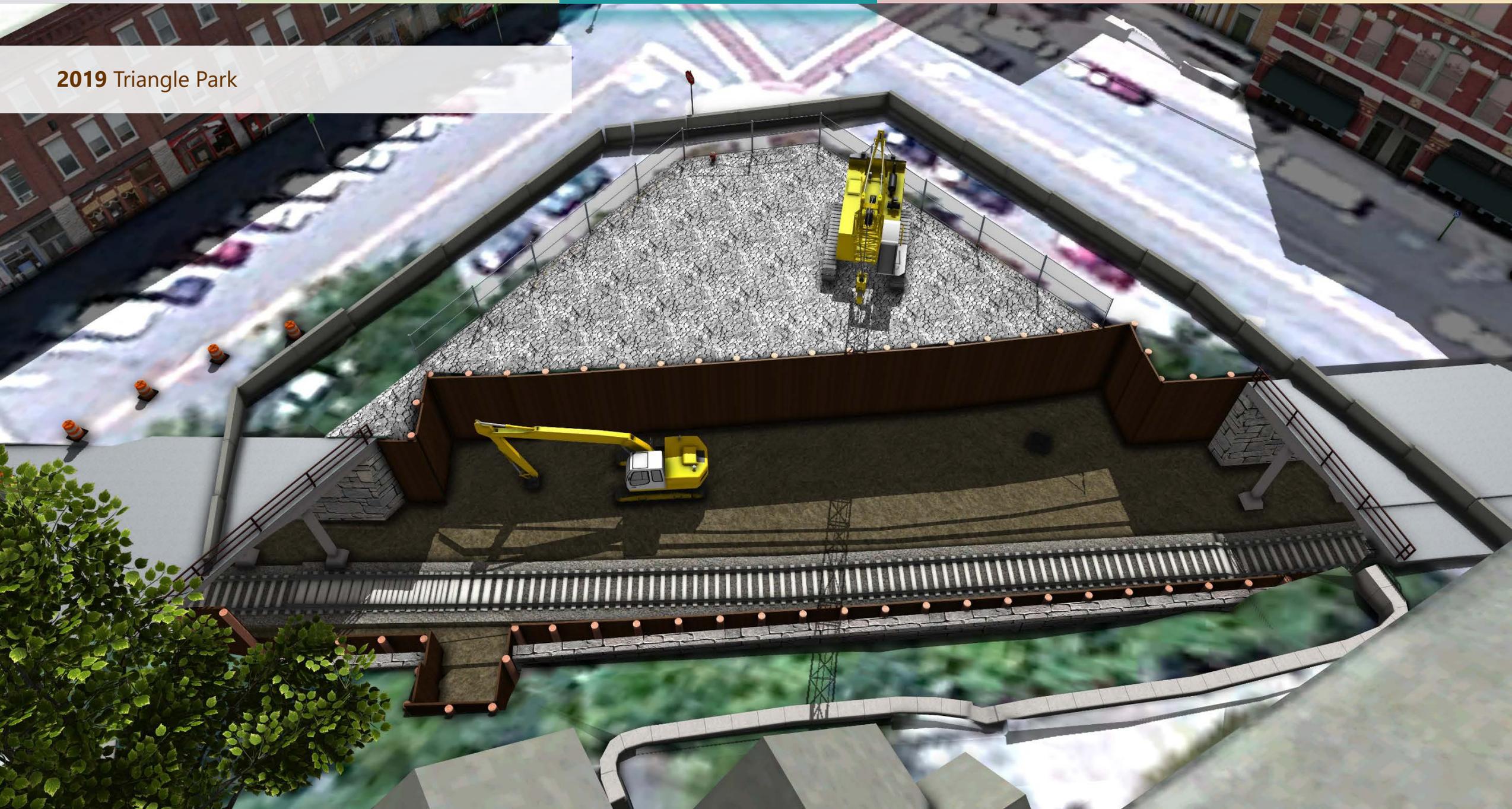
- Utility construction
- Support of excavation installation along railroad
- Initial excavation along railroad

2019 Support of Excavation extents

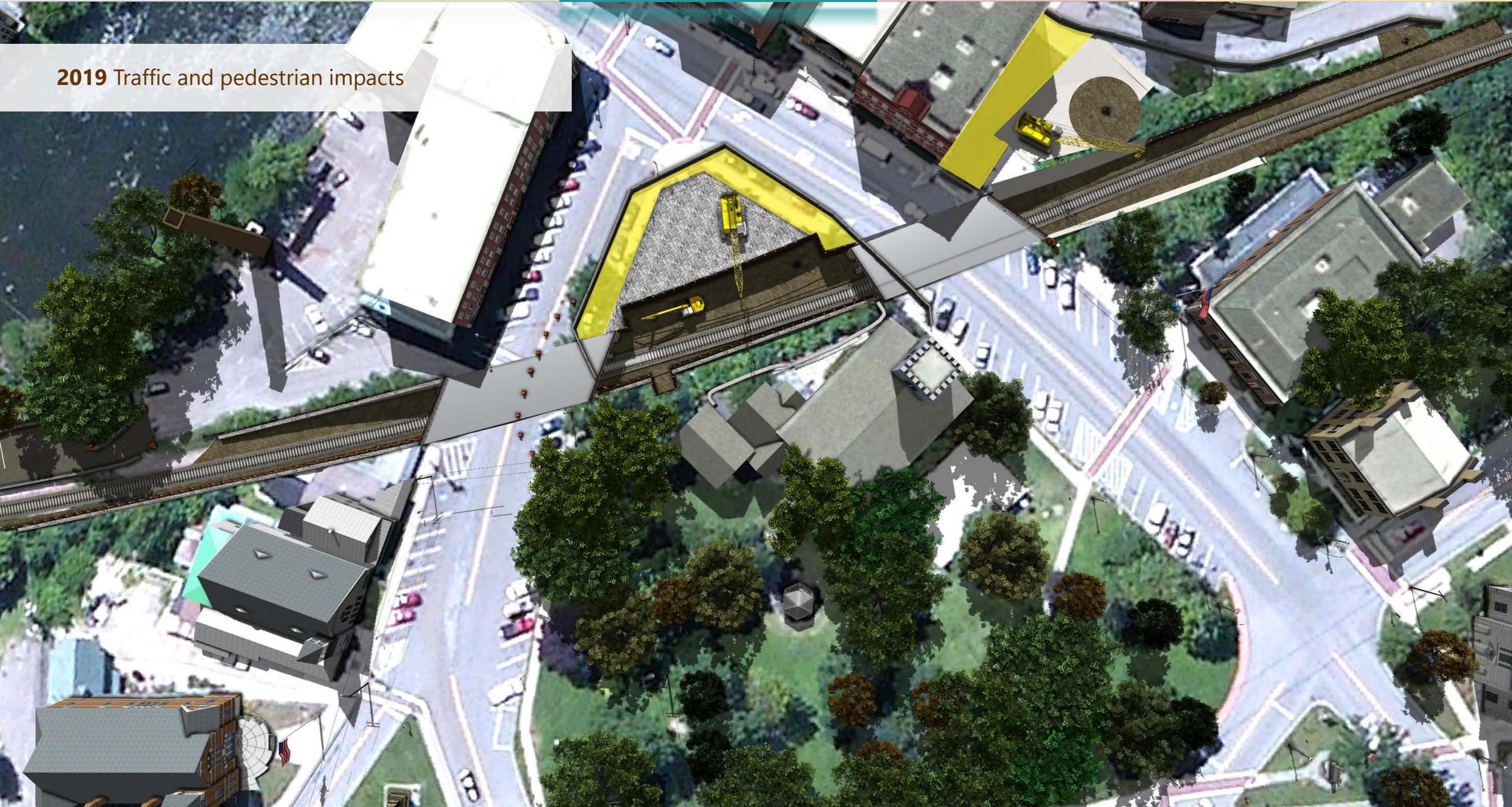


Total length of SOE – 3,000'

2019 Triangle Park



2019 Traffic and pedestrian impacts



2019 Project Impacts

- Traffic, parking, and pedestrian impacts
 - Main Street and Merchants Row/Triangle Park area
 - Printer's Alley
 - Short term lane closures
- Working hours
 - Anticipated weekday 7:00am–5:00pm
 - Isolated extended working hours



Middlebury Bridge & Rail Project

2017

2018

2019

2020

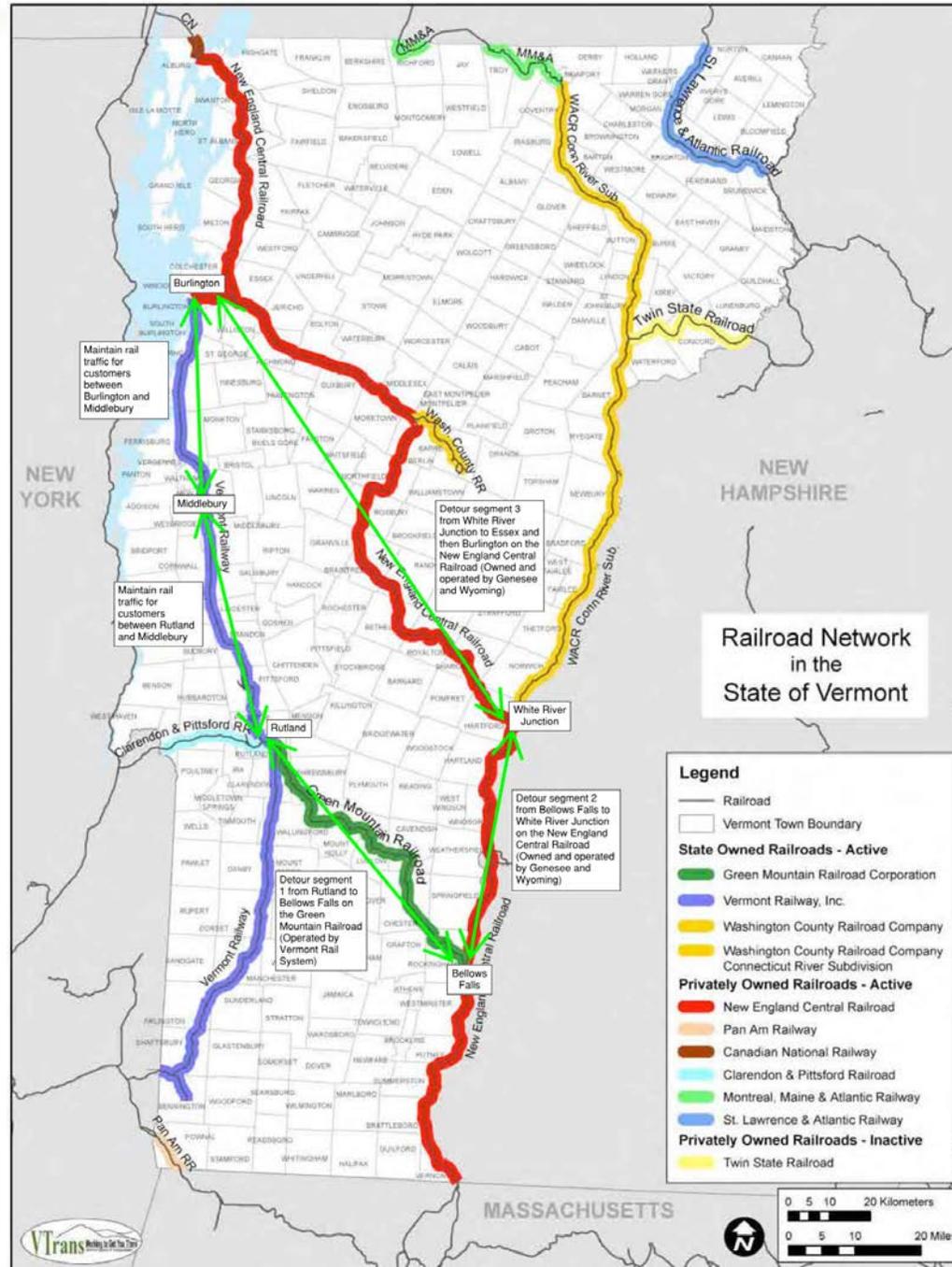
2021

2020 Construction Activity

- **Pre-closure** (April and May)
- **Closure** (June, July, August)
 - Main Street and Merchants Row closures
 - Railroad detour
- **Post-closure** (September, October, November, December)

Accelerated Bridge Construction (ABC)

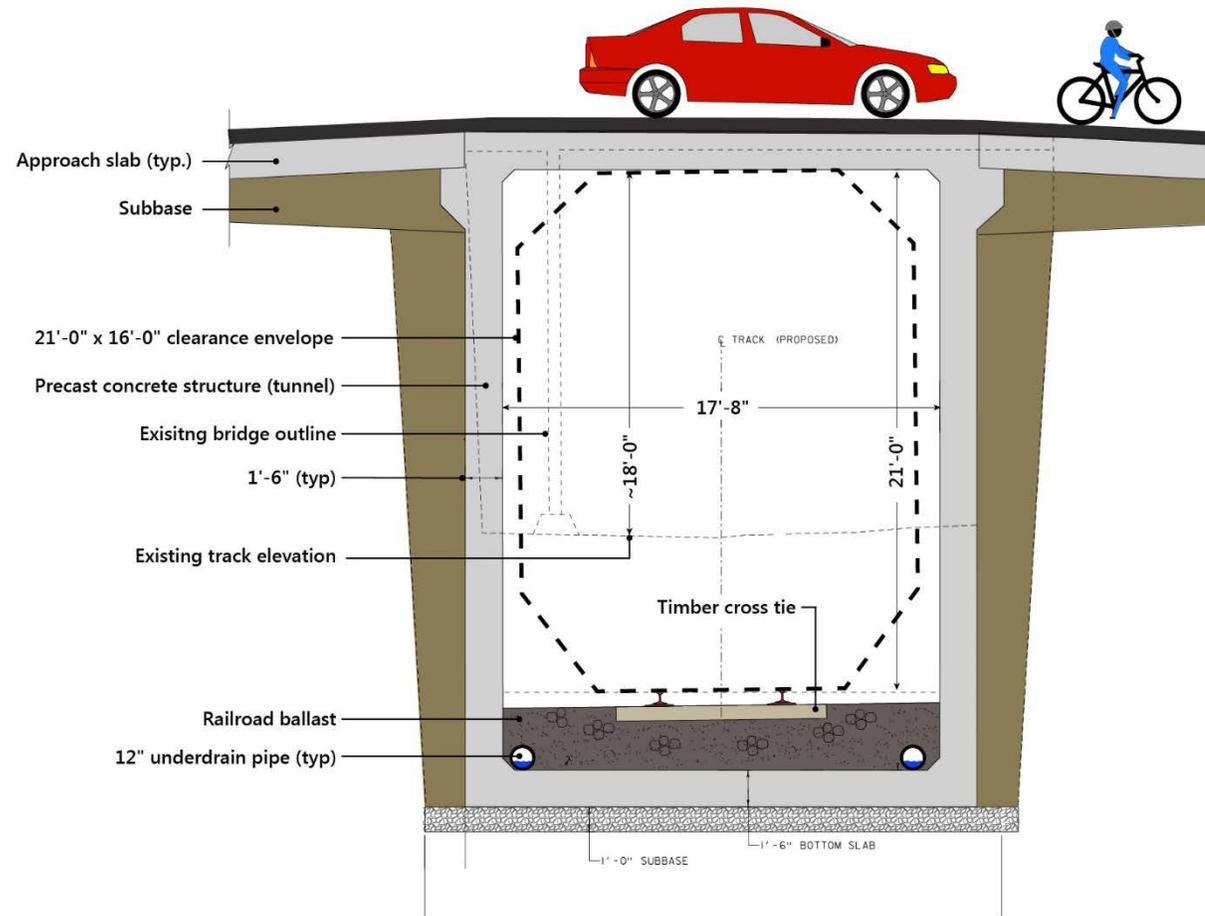
- 10-week road closure with detour vs. 2 years of conventional construction
- New bridge uses precast concrete pieces to rapidly replace the old bridges
- Project designed to be built quickly



2020 Closure Activity (10 Weeks)

- Track removal/existing bridge demolition
- Earth and rock excavation
- Precast tunnel placement
- Return traffic to Main Street and Merchants Row

New Bridge Design



2017

2018

2019

2020

2021

2020 Closure

- Removal of temporary bridges
- Railroad corridor excavation



2017

2018

2019

2020

2021

2020 Closure

- Precast tunnel placement
- Railroad approach excavation



2017

2018

2019

2020

2021

2020 Closure

- Tunnel backfill
- Continued excavation and tunnel construction at Main Street
- Final U-walls



2017

2018

2019

2020

2021

2020 Closure

- Tunnel complete
- Main Street and Merchants Row open to vehicle and pedestrian use
- Continued railroad approach work





2020 Road closures

Otter Creek

Otter Creek

Main Street

Merchants Row

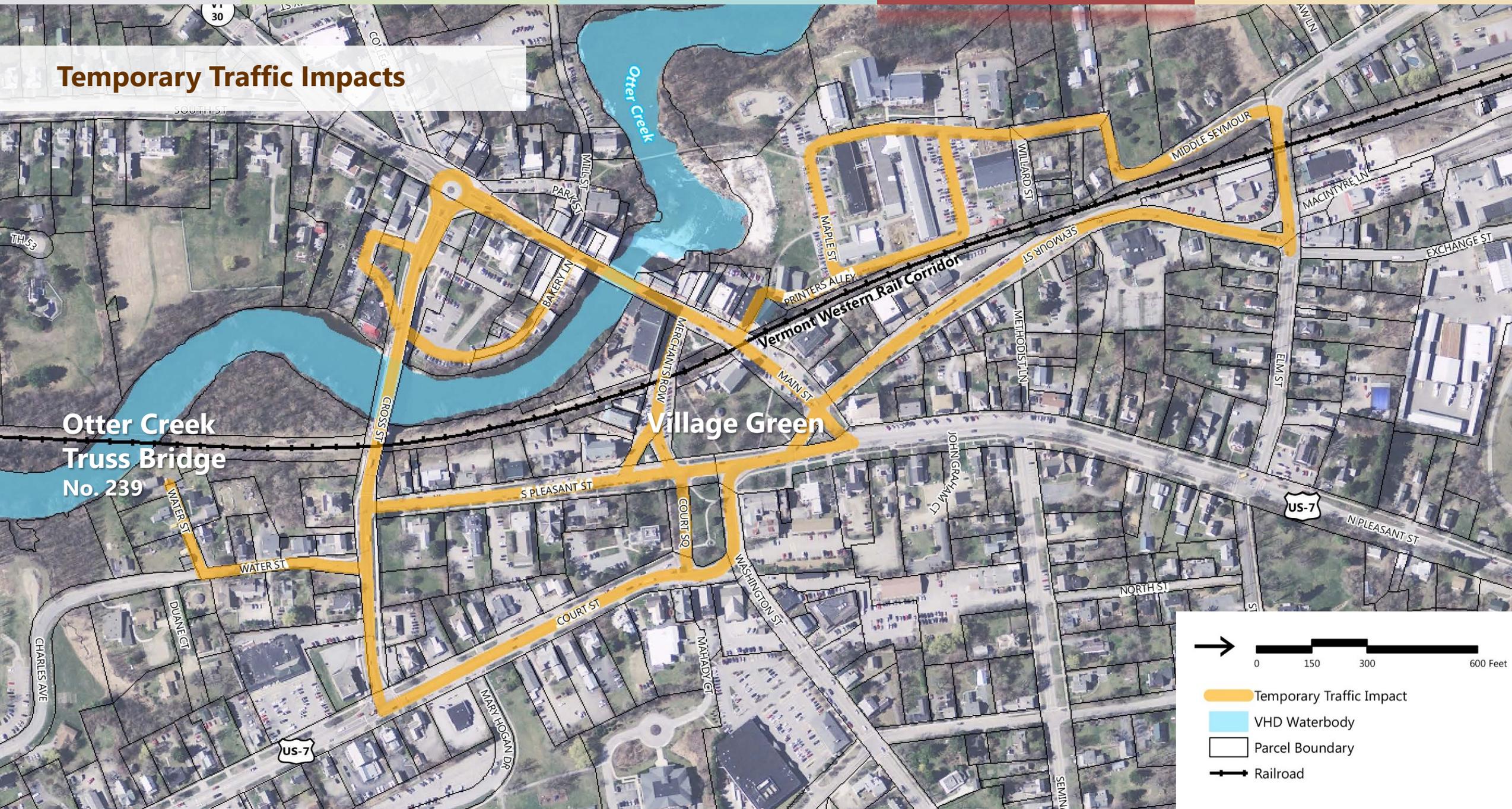


Temporary Traffic Impacts

Otter Creek
Truss Bridge
No. 239

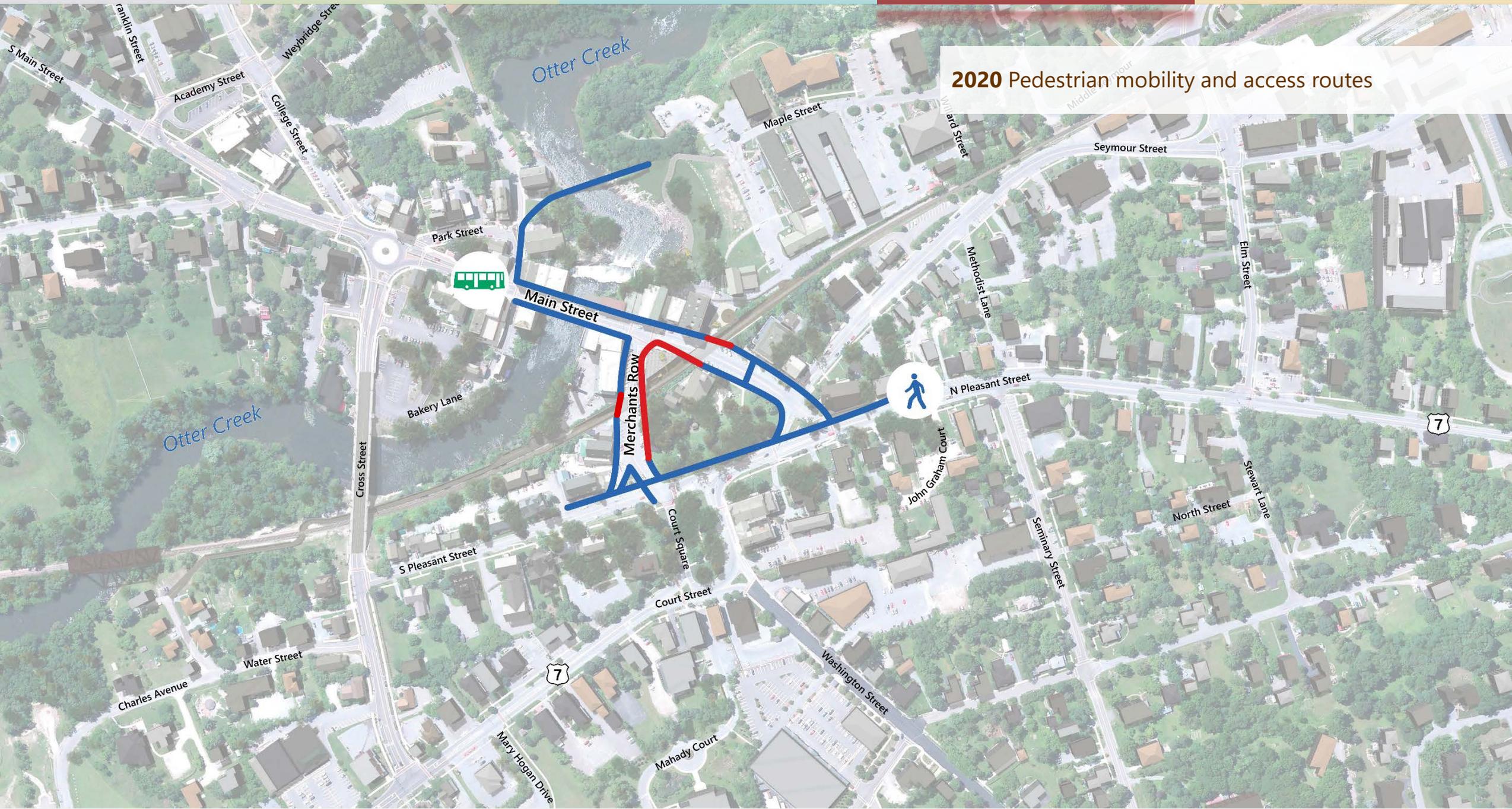
Village Green

Vermont Western Rail Corridor



- Temporary Traffic Impact
- VHD Waterbody
- Parcel Boundary
- Railroad

2020 Pedestrian mobility and access routes



2020 Closure Project Impacts (10 weeks)

- Traffic, parking, and pedestrian impacts
 - Main Street and Merchants Row closed at bridge crossings
 - Printer's Alley closed
- Working hours
 - 24 hours per day, 7 days per week



Middlebury Bridge & Rail Project

2017

2018

2019

2020

2021

2021 Construction Activity

- Printers Alley
- Landscaping & Park Construction
- Final Punch List Items

2017

2018

2019

2020

2021

2021 Project completion

Printer's Alley reconstruction

Improved vehicular and pedestrian access



2017

2018

2019

2020

2021



Renderings by LandWorks, 2013

2021 Project Impacts

- Traffic, parking, and pedestrian impacts
 - Phased lane and sidewalk closures
- Working hours
 - Anticipated 7:00am–5:00pm



Approach to Community Outreach

- Continuous Information – Daily Project Updates
 - Town Email List
 - Project Blog
- Project Information Booth
- Coordination with Community Groups
 - Neighbors Together
 - Better Middlebury Partnership
- Community Outreach Success!





Approach to Regional Outreach

- Open and continuous communication
 - Project phone number (802) 272-1248
 - E-alerts/project updates
 - Public Meetings—large and small
 - Project website
- Identify opportunities to collaborate
 - Collaboration with Jim and Tim
 - Collaboration with VTrans “On the Road”



vtrans.vermont.gov/projects/middlebury

http://vtrans.vermont.gov/projects/middlebury

VERMONT OFFICIAL STATE WEBSITE



STATE OF VERMONT

Agency of Transportation

 SEARCH**CONTACT**

About the Project

Schedule

Documents Library

FAQs

Contact Us



Middlebury Bridge & Rail Project

ABOUT THE PROJECT

The Vermont Agency of Transportation (VTrans), in collaboration with the Town of Middlebury, is undertaking a project to replace two nearly 100 year old rail bridges in the center of Middlebury with a tunnel by the summer of 2020. The two bridges are about 300 feet apart, with one located on Main Street/VT 30 and the other on Merchants Row.



Project Status Update

November:

Public Meeting: November 17th at Town Hall Theater, Middlebury

December:

Tree clearing along rail line scheduled.



Why we love Middlebury!

