Planning for the I-95 Stamford Improvements and Metro-North / Myrtle Ave Bridge Reconstruction

Project Advisory Committee Meeting #3

February 1, 2024

I-95 Stamford

Planning and Environment Linkages Study

The term "PEL Study" represents a Planning and Environment Linkages analysis that follows Federal Highway Administration guidance. The study transitions from long-range planning to the upcoming environmental review process by assessing local conditions and developing alternatives. The Connecticut Department of Transportation may adopt or incorporate Planning Products from this PEL Study into a federal or state environmental review process, pursuant to Title 23 U.S.C to Title 23 U.S.C. § 168(d)(4).

General Meeting Info

- Meeting is recorded and will be posted on website
- Presentation is posted to project website at www.i95stamford.com/pac
- Participants can video conference in or call in via phone
- Two ways to communicate during discussion periods:
  - Raise your hand to verbally state question / comment
  - Type question / comment into the chat to be read and answered aloud by study team

CTDOT Study Team

Mike Calabrese, PE
Division Chief

Nilesh Patel, PE
Principal Engineer

Jonathan Dean, PE
Project Manager

Joe Belrose, EIT
Project Engineer

Today's Presenters

Jonathan Dean, PE

Project Manager, CTDOT

Emily Valentino, PE, PTOE, RSP

Project Manager,
Stantec Consulting

Najmeh Jami, PE

Traffic Engineering Lead,
Stantec Consulting

Ralph DeNisco

Multimodal Mobility Lead,
Stantec Consulting

Marcy Miller, AICP

Community Engagement Lead,
FHI Studio

PAC Members

- Stamford Traffic
- Stamford Mayor's Office
- Cove Neighborhood Association
- East Side Partnership
- West Side Neighborhood Revitalization Zone
- Western CT Council of Governments
- Glenbrook Neighborhood Association
- Stamford Chamber
- Mill River Park Collaborative
- American Automobile Association
- UConn Stamford
- Motor Transport Association of Connecticut
- Stamford Americans with Disabilities Act Advisory Council
- South End Neighborhood Revitalization Zone
- People Friendly Stamford
- Charter Communications
- Downtown Stamford
- Empire Reality Trust
- Stamford Hospital
- Stamford Historical Society

Agenda

1. Study Update
2. Draft Preliminary Purpose & Need Review
3. Universe of Alternatives
4. Conceptual Mainline Solutions
5. Local Roadways Approach
6. Next Steps / Study Schedule
7. Discussion
8. Adjourn

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Planning and Environment Linkages Study

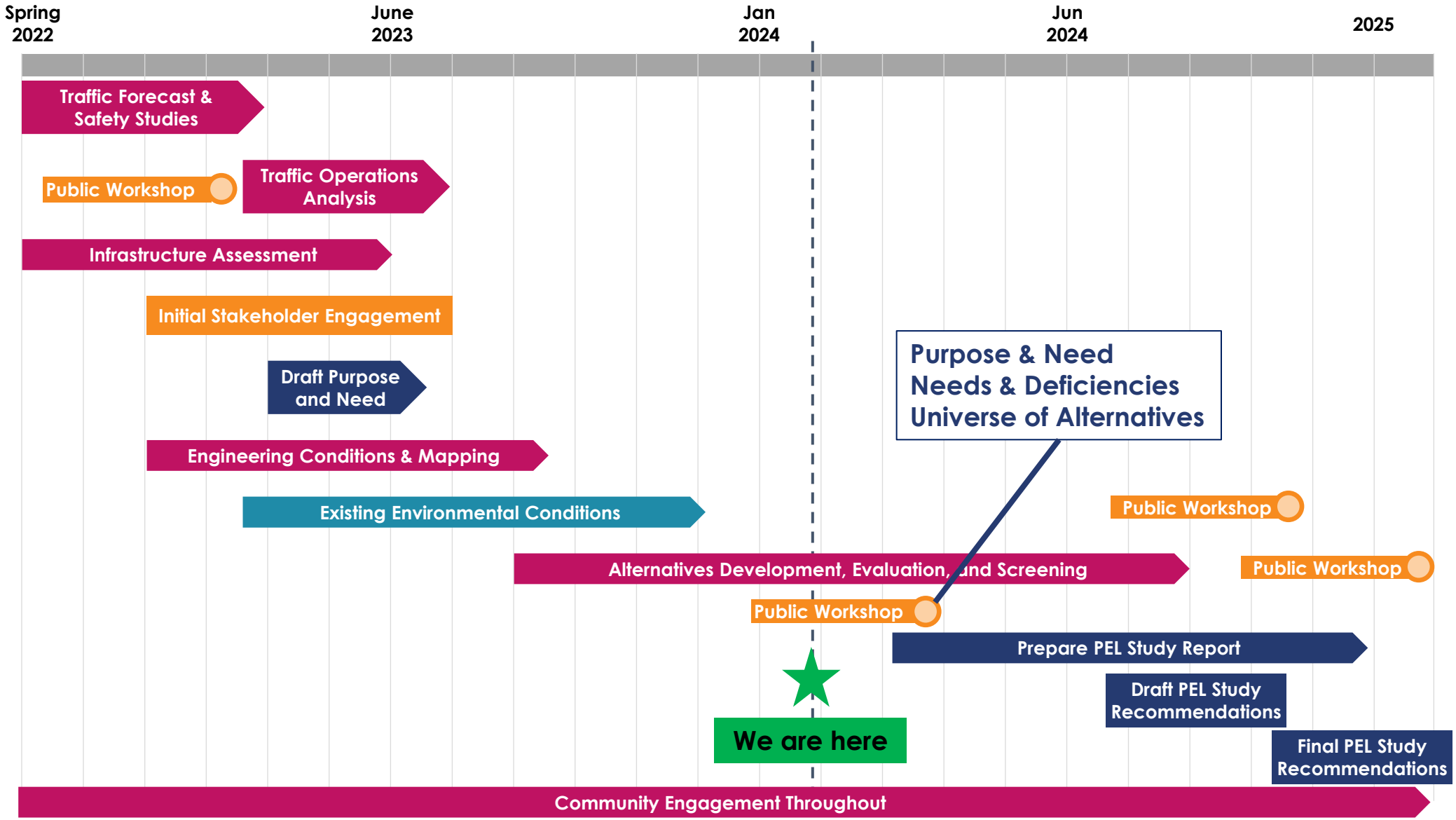
Study Update

I-95 Stamford
Planning and Environment Linkages Study

Since Our Last Meeting

- Pop up event
- On-going study analysis
  - Refine Purpose and Need
  - Needs & Deficiency Report
  - Collaboration on local roads
  - Site visit
  - Universe of Alternatives
  - Conceptual solutions development

I-95 Stamford PEL Study: Major Components



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Conceptualization only:
Task start/finish dates are not exact

Study Corridor

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Study Approach

Step 1 Identify existing conditions, resources, and project challenges/constraints.

Step 2 Establish Draft Preliminary Purpose & Need (the project justification)

Step 3 Establish a high-level, reasonable Universe of Alternatives to consider

Step 4 Consider project studies and input, then develop Conceptual Solutions for each of the various problems or needs identified

Steps 5-8 Combine Conceptual Solutions to form Project Alternatives, refine and screen alternatives, recommend final alternatives

Draft Preliminary Purpose & Need Review

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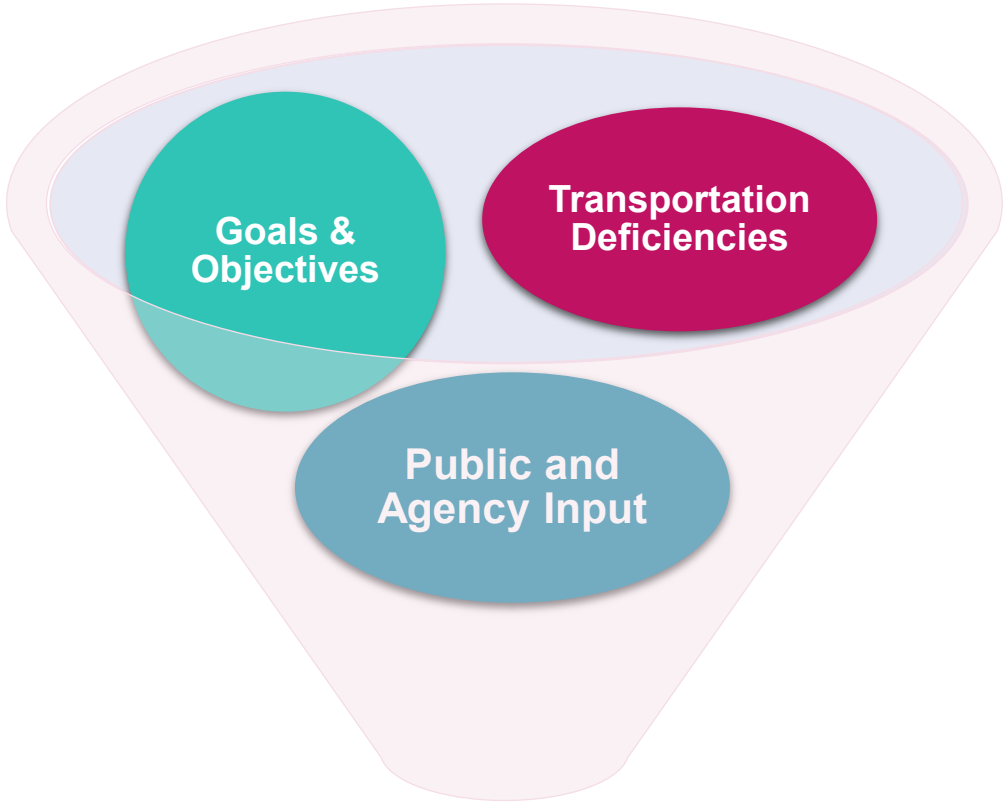
Planning and Environment Linkages Study

Draft Preliminary Purpose and Need



Purpose and Need Statement

Draft Preliminary Purpose and Need

Primary Purposes of project include:

- Improve mobility along 3.2-mile section of I-95 within study area between Interchanges No. 7 & 9
- Improve crossing of I-95 over Metro North Railroad and Myrtle Avenue such that crossing is in state of good repair

All developed Alternatives must satisfy primary Purpose and Need to advance through study.

Draft Preliminary Purpose and Need

Other desirable outcomes include:

- Increase mobility for all users underneath I-95 and along local roadway network immediately adjacent to I-95 in study area
- Enhance cross-connection of communities adjacent to I-95
- Improve transportation facilities to provide increased opportunities for transportation choice and ease of use for local communities, including traditionally underserved communities
- Reduce impact to local and regional community by minimizing construction duration and disruption

Draft Preliminary Purpose and Need

Primary

I-95 mainline

- Improve I-95 bridge crossings
- Improve mainline operations
- Improve connections to / from local roads
- Safety

Complementary

Local Roadway

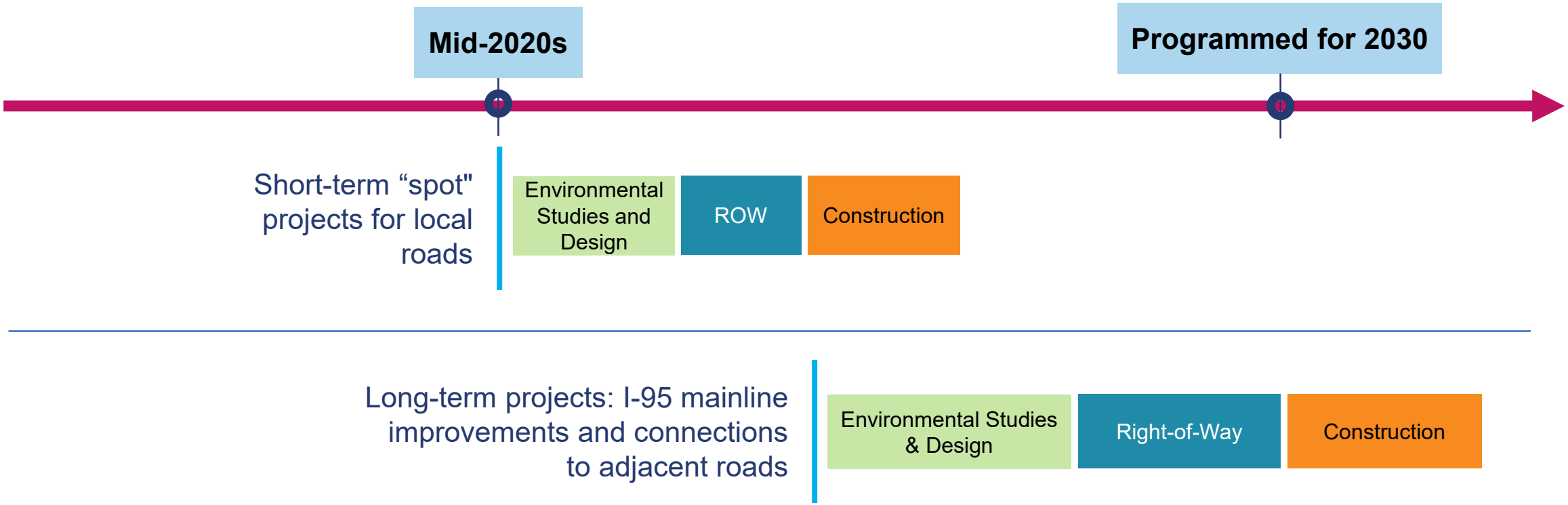
- Community connectivity
  - Enhanced underpasses
    - Lighting and clearances
    - Bike / ped path(s) and safe connection to / from local roads
  - Transit accommodation
- Safety

Draft Preliminary Purpose and Need

Short-Term Projects
Smaller "spot" improvements to local roads and intersections

Long-Term Projects
I-95 mainline improvements and connections to adjacent roads

Draft Preliminary Purpose and Need



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Universe of Alternatives

Universe of Alternatives

What is Universe of Alternatives?

- High-level concepts viewed as potentially feasible
- Required for NEPA (National Environmental Policy Act)

Several options listed in initial Universe of Alternatives may not satisfy Purpose and Need

Universe of Alternatives

01	02	03	04	05
No Build	**Transportation Demand Management**	**Transportation System Management**	**Mass Transit**	**Improve Existing Corridor**
Project does not proceed	Viable alternatives to reduce personal vehicle use and decrease overall demand	Technology to manage traffic operations, such as Intelligent Transportation Systems to optimize freeway and roadway performance	Infrastructure improvements to facilitate fast, reliable, comfortable public transit	Enhancement to existing corridor to increase efficiency, safety, and capacity

Several options listed in initial Universe of Alternatives may not satisfy Purpose and Need but could be considered as complementary features

Universe of Alternatives

01 **NO BUILD**

- Do nothing

02 **TRANSPORTATION DEMAND MANAGEMENT**

- Park & Ride
- Alternative mode sharing
- Non-motorized mode support
- Vanpool
- High-occupancy-vehicle (HOV) lanes
- Express lanes
- Access priority / restriction

North Pointe Park and Ride Lot Improvements Calgary, Canada

Universe of Alternatives

Transportation System Management

TSM 03

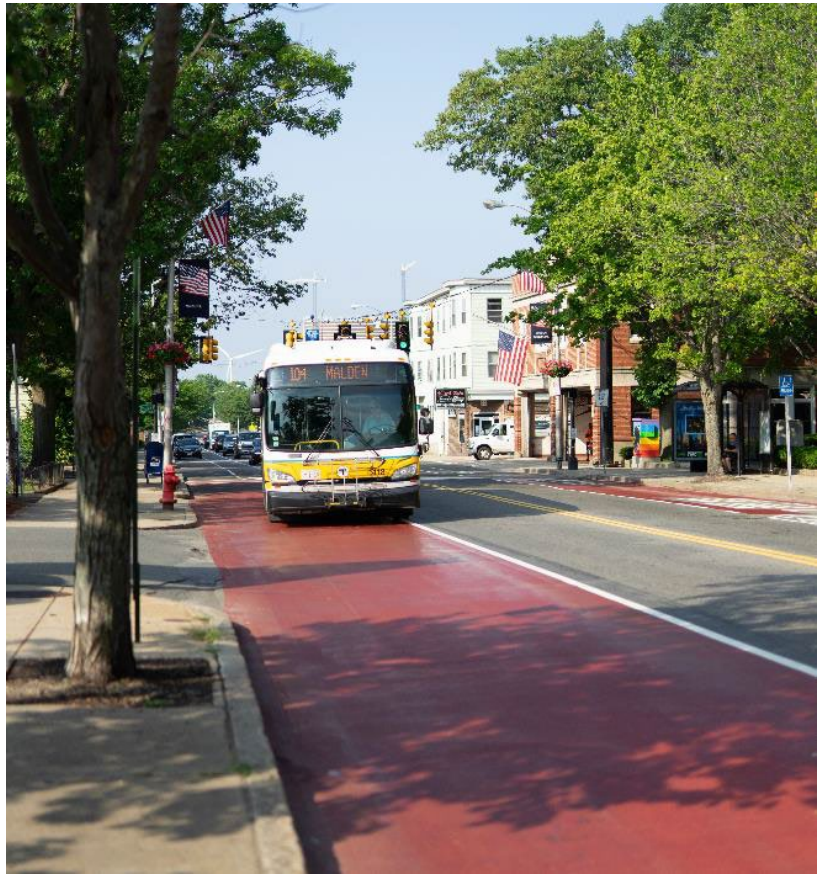
- Ramp metering
- Variable speed limits
- Traffic signal optimization
- Traffic control

I-12 Ramp Metering – Baton Rouge, LA

Universe of Alternatives

Mass Transit

- Bus, streetcar, rail
- Bus lanes
- Bus stops



Bus Rapid Transit Pilot Program – Boston, MA

Dexter Ave Bus Stop Improvements – Seattle, WA

Universe of Alternatives

I-95 Mainline

IMPROVE EXISTING CORRIDOR 05

- Modify or replace existing bridges (Bridge 00032)
- Reconstruct portions of the I-95 corridor in Stamford
- Modify the existing I-95 configuration:
  - Add lanes and widen shoulders
  - Improve highway curvature and sight-distance
  - Improve interchange configurations and local road connections to ramp termini
  - Consider innovative concepts

Universe of Alternatives

Express Lanes

Elevated Expressway – Tampa, Florida

Express Lanes – Los Angeles, California

Universe of Alternatives

Tunnel

I-93 "Big Dig" Tunnel – Boston, Massachusetts

Universe of Alternatives

Local Roadways

- Ramp termini intersections
- Underpass enhancements to improve community connectivity
  - Bicycle / pedestrian
  - Bus
  - Improved lighting and clearances
- Seek opportunities for transportation choice and ease of use for local communities
  - Attention toward traditionally underserved communities
- Safety improvements
- Traffic calming measures

1. Mast arm and backplates for signals
2. Dedicated turn lanes
3. Pedestrian refuge island
4. Turn guide striping
5. Large alternate material crosswalk for major pedestrian movement

Complete Street, Meridian Ave – Tampa, Florida

1. Additional pedestrian signal head in median
2. Warning sign
3. Pedestrian signal at curb
4. Additional push button at median
5. High visibility crosswalk
6. Pedestrian refuge island with raised curb

Pedestrian Crossing – Worcester, Massachusetts

1. Dual-sided lighting
2. Bicycle signals
3. Yield reminder and No Turn on Red signs
4. Large physical barrier between bicycle lane and roadway
5. Separated bicycle lane
6. Bicycle intersection crossing markings

Cycle Track – Redondo Beach, California

1. Street lighting
2. Trees for shade and separation
3. Alternative material turn lane
4. Alternative material parking lane
5. Curb extension

Complete Street, Water Street – Tampa, Florida

Conceptual Mainline Solutions

Conceptual Mainline Solutions

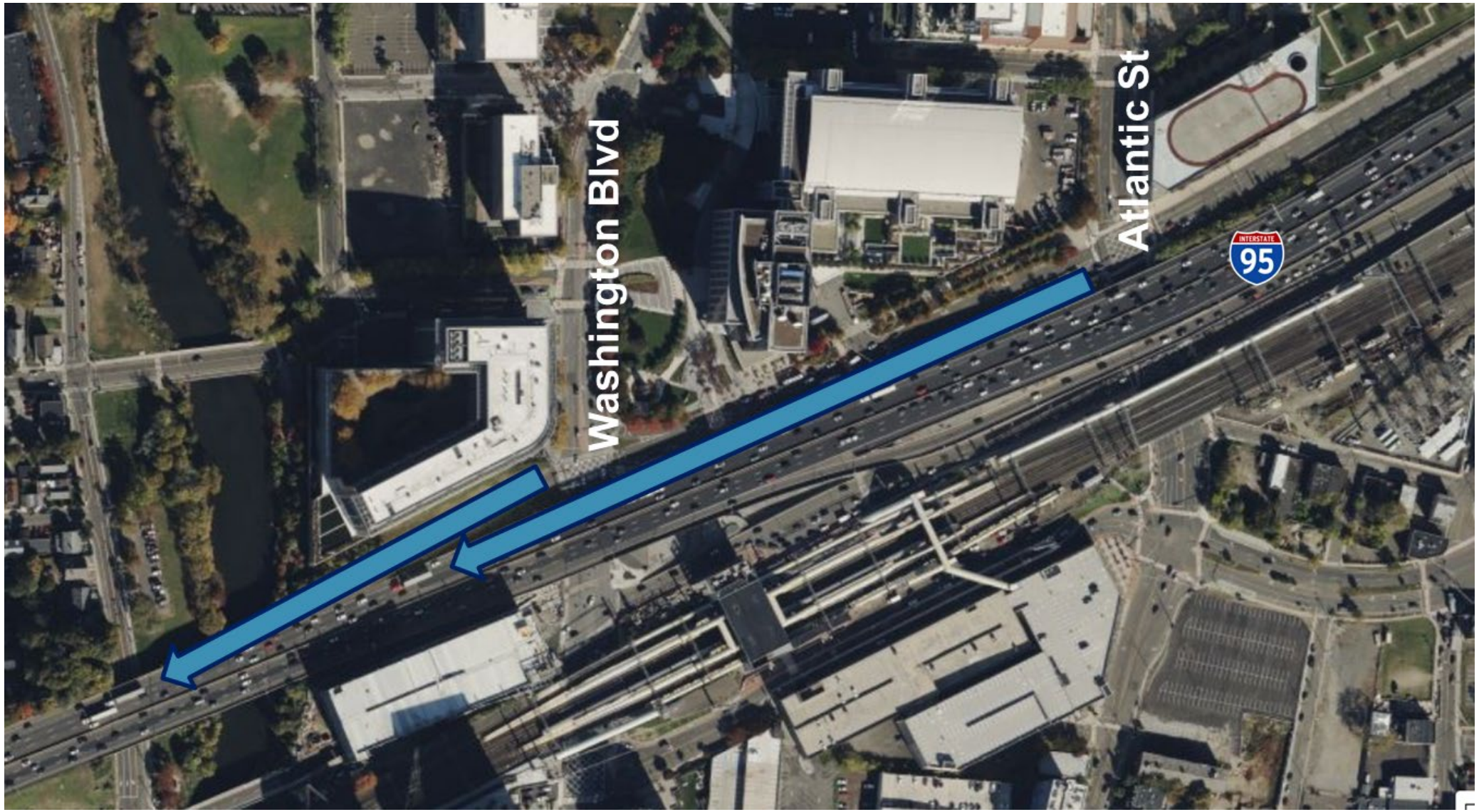
A Conceptual Solution represents a highway or bridge design feature that resolves a **specific need** at a **specific location.**

Examples might include:

- Bridge rehabilitation/replacement
- Adding additional lanes and/or widening shoulders
- Reconfigurations to I-95
- Shifting entrance and exit ramp locations
- Improving loop ramp design
- Improving connections to North and South State Street

Conceptual Mainline Solutions

Existing On-ramp Layout



Conceptual Mainline Solutions

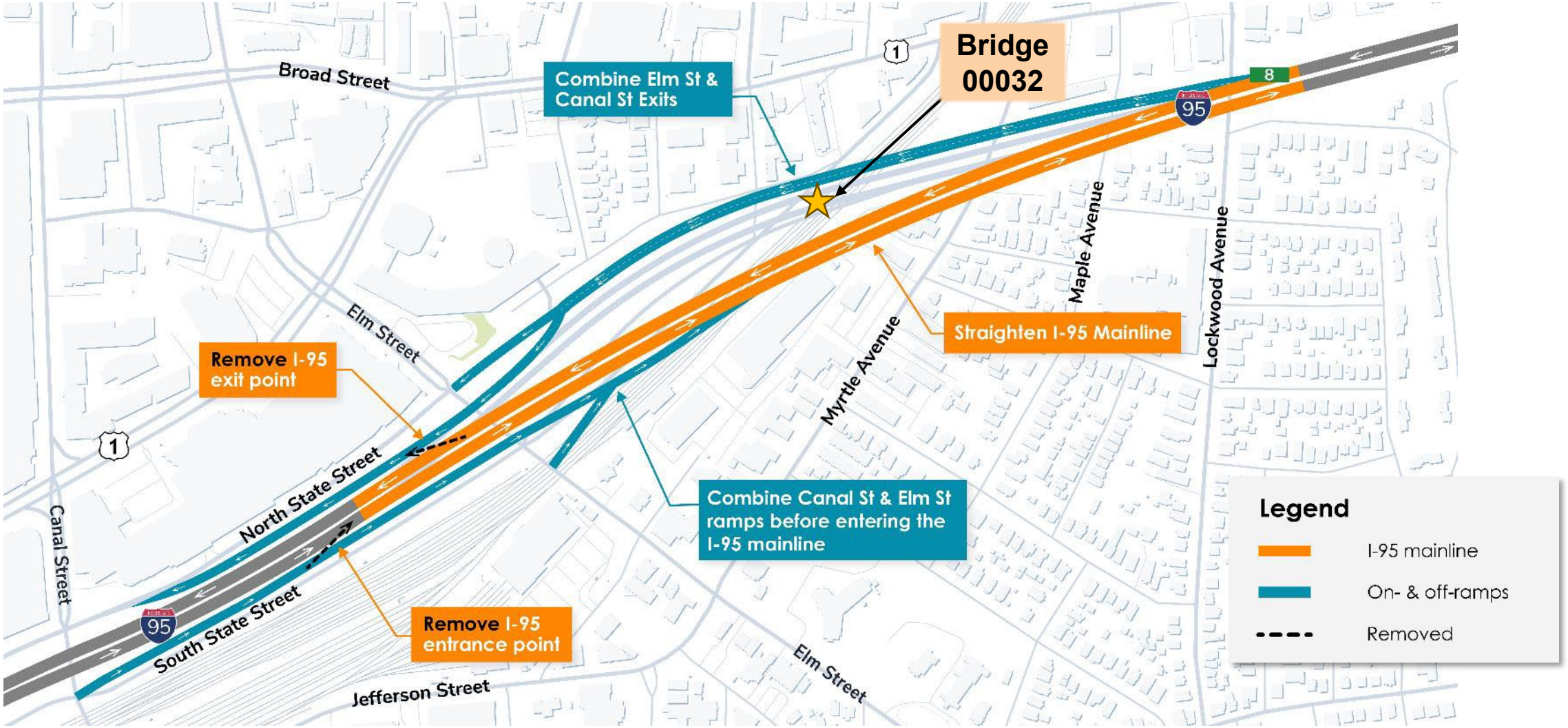
Combine On-ramps Prior to Entering I-95 Mainline

Conceptual Mainline Solutions

Combine Southbound Exits 7 & 8 On-Ramps

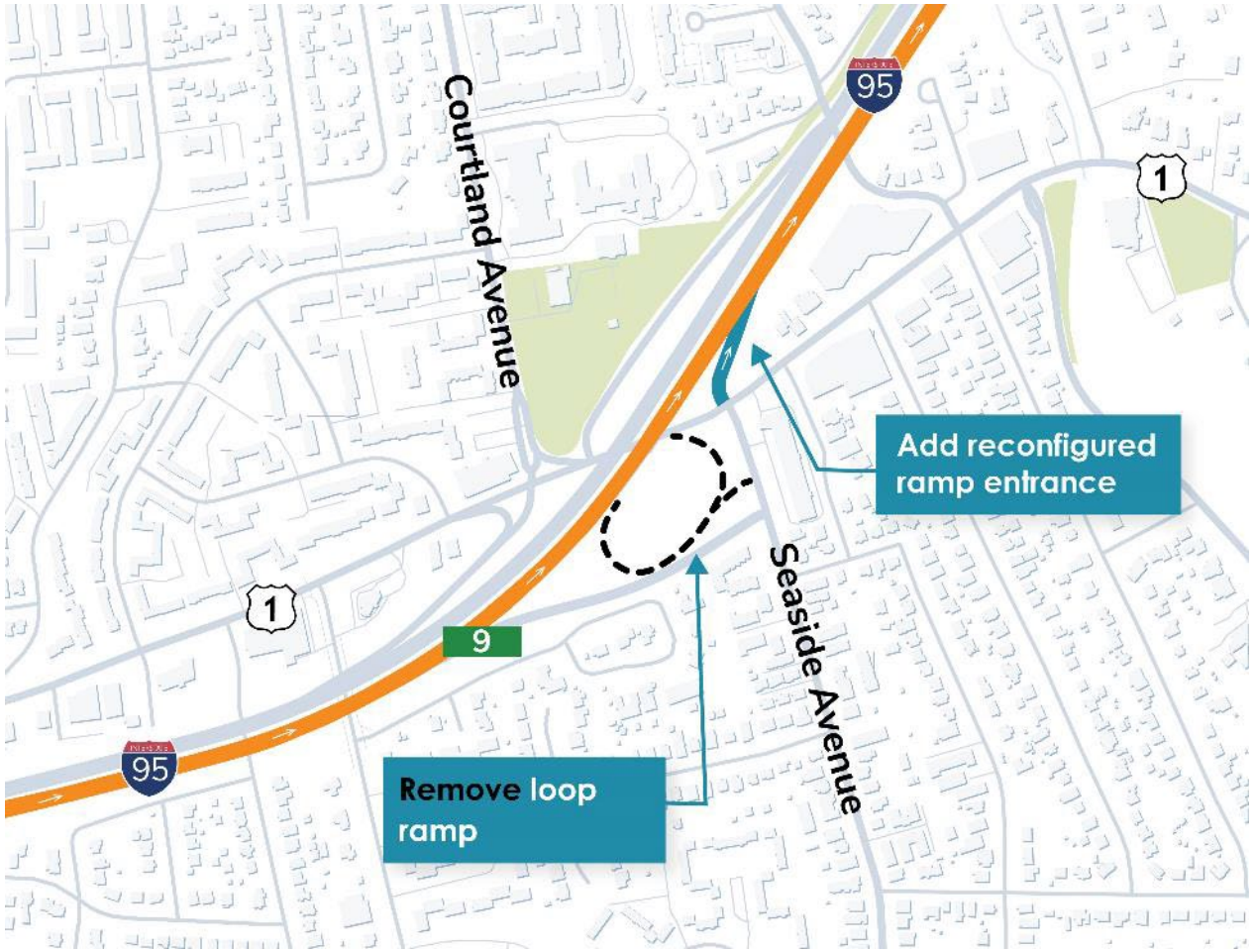
Conceptual Mainline Solutions

Combine Ramps, Realign Mainline



Conceptual Mainline Solutions

Interchange Reconfiguration



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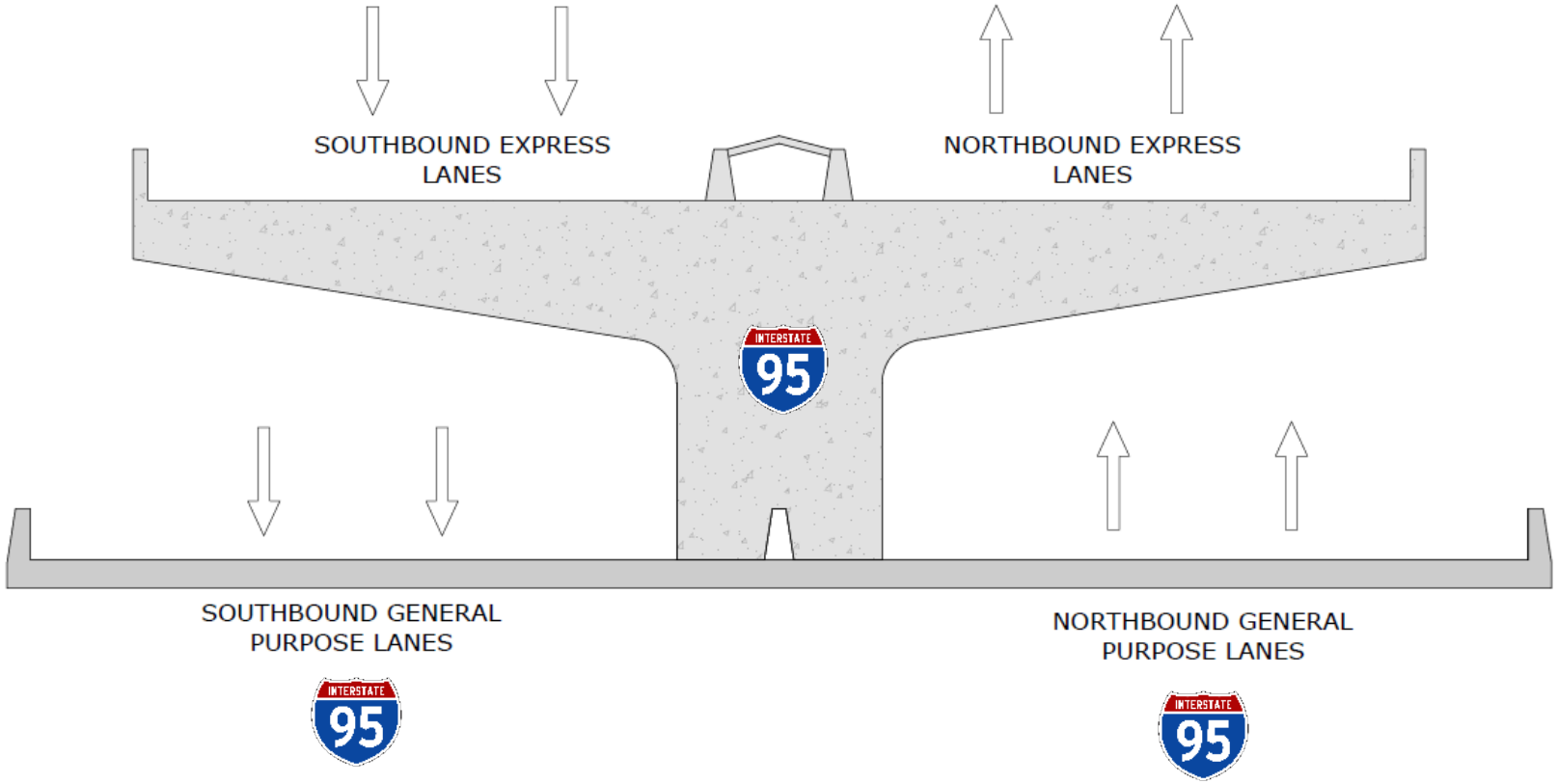
Conceptual Mainline Solutions

Elevated Express Lanes



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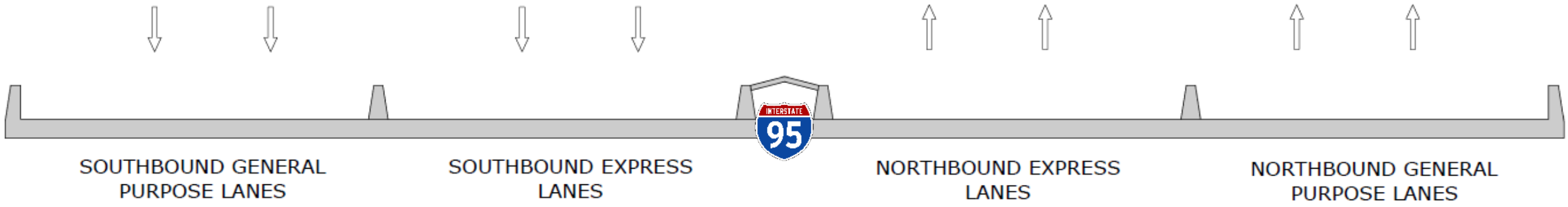
Conceptual Mainline Solutions

Traditional Express Lanes



Local Roadways Approach

Local Roadways Approach

Plans & Designs

1

Ongoing Improvements

Examine planned projects by City of Stamford, CTDOT, and others

2

Short-term Projects

Specific Corridor Recommendations

- Tresser Blvd
- Exit 9 Interchange
- East Main St
- Elm St
- Washington Blvd connections

Develop bike, pedestrian, and transit maps

3

Network Plans

Develop multimodal network maps

Goals & Policy

4

Goals – Local Roadway

- City of Stamford goals
- CTDOT goals
- Feedback throughout PEL process

5

Policy Recommendations

- Develop in parallel with network plans
- Provide a larger context to individual plans
- Adopt process

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Local Roadway Approach

1 Ongoing Improvements

Examine planned projects by City of Stamford, CTDOT, and others

- I-95 Exit 6 to 7 auxiliary lanes
- N State St multimodal gateway improvements
- Stamford Transportation Center (STC) Master Plan
- Washington Blvd Road Safety Audit
- Stamford Wayfinding Implementation Plan
- State St Green Path (The Lafayette)
- Greenwich Ave Corridor Improvements
- City of Stamford signal upgrades
- Mill River Park Master Plan

- Strawberry Hill Bike Lanes
- Prospect Street Improvements
- E Main St Crosswalk Enhancements
- Garden St Reconstruction
- Pacific Street Streetscape

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Planning and Environment Linkages Study

Local Roadways Approach

Short-Term Projects

Specific Corridor Recommendations

2

- Tresser Blvd
- Exit 9 Interchange
- East Main St
- Elm St
- Washington Blvd connections

Develop bike, pedestrian, and transit maps

5 Focus Areas:

- Tresser Blvd
- East Main St
- Exit 9 Interchange
- Elm St
- Washington Blvd connections

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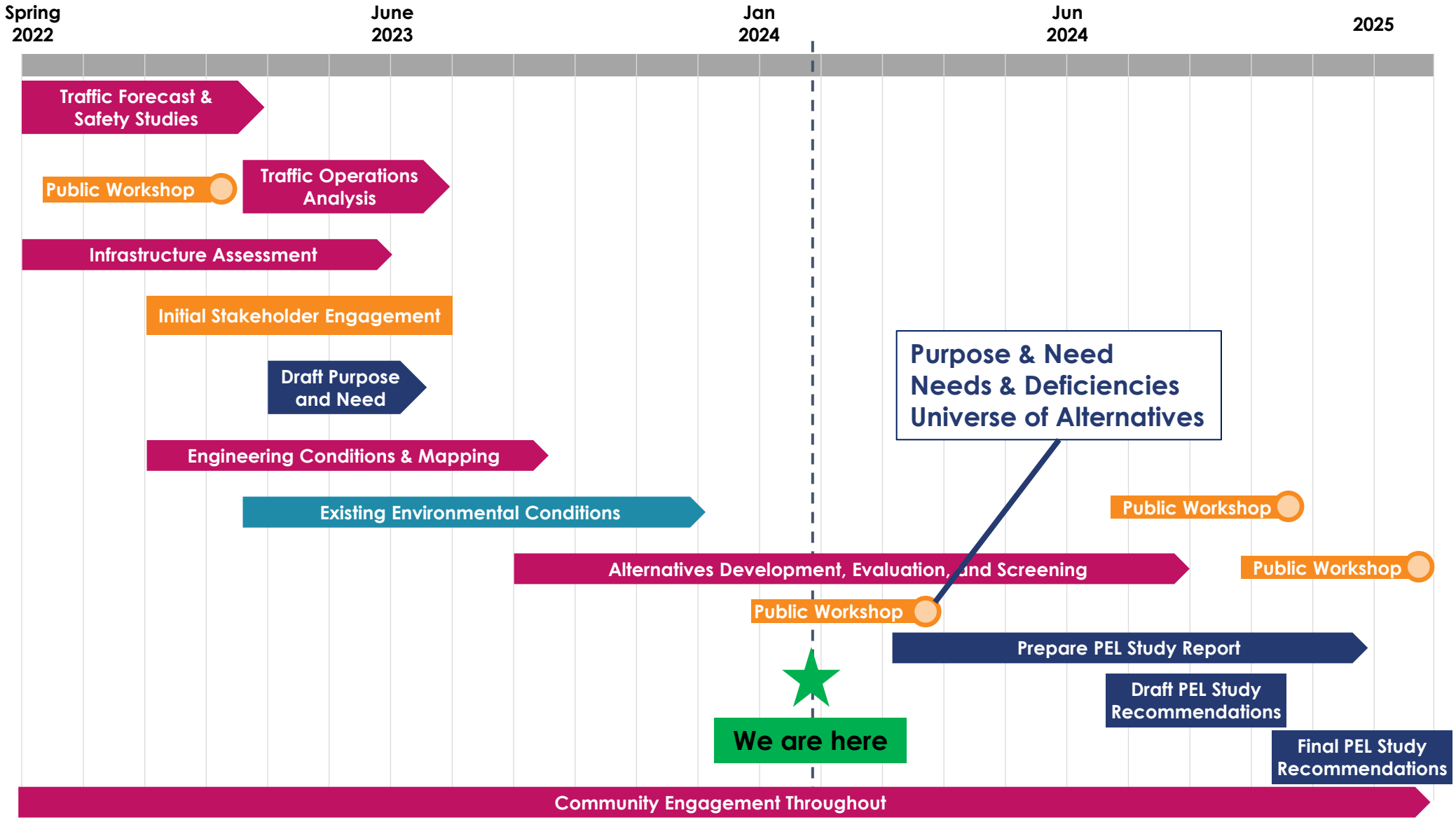
Next Steps / Study Schedule

I-95 Stamford PEL Study: Major Components



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Engagement Next Steps

- Public meeting (February 2024)
- Continued stakeholder outreach
- Website www.i95stamford.com
- Social media notifications (4 platforms)
- E-bulletins
- Comments, responses, and contact distribution lists

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February 2024 Public Meetings

- Discussion will include:
  - Purpose and Need
  - Universe of Alternatives development
  - Local roads
- Two virtual meetings, same content
- How to participate:
  - Wed, Feb 21 at 6 PM
  - Thu, Feb 22 at 12 PM
  - www.i95stamford.com/get-involved

Discussion

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Thank you for your time!

Follow us on **social media** at

I95StamfordPEL @95stamfordpel @I95StamfordPEL

Call us at 203-993-6529

Attend future **meetings**!

Visit our **website** and provide comments at i95stamford.com

Email Jonathan Dean, PE
CTDOT Project Manager,
at: Jonathan.Dean@ct.gov

I-95 Stamford
Planning and Environment Linkages Study

High-Level Schedule

PEL Study

- Links transportation planning and environmental / community concerns
- Will identify a **Range of Reasonable Alternatives**

Today to Early 2025

Preliminary Design and NEPA

- The Environmental Review Process for compliance with environmental laws
- Will identify a **Preferred Alternative**

2 years

Final Design, ROW, and Permitting

- Advanced design of the *Preferred Alternative* and associated break out projects
- Rights-of-Way Acquisitions
- State and Federal Permit Procurement

2-3 years

Construction

Anticipated completion in early 2030s

3-5 years