

U.S. Department of  
Homeland Security

United States  
Coast Guard



Commander  
First Coast Guard District

Battery Park Building  
1 South Street  
New York, NY 10004-1466  
Staff Symbol: (dpb)  
Phone: 617-283-1448

March 11, 2025

## **PUBLIC NOTICE D01-212-2025**

### **PROPOSED REPLACEMENT OF THE BRIDGE STREET ROUTE 125 BRIDGE (BASILIERE BRIDGE) ACROSS THE MERRIMACK RIVER IN HAVERHILL, MA**

All interested parties are notified that the Commander, First Coast Guard District, has received application materials dated December 17, 2024 from the Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) for a U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) Bridge Permit for approval of the location and plans for replacement of the Bridge Street Route 125 Bridge across the Merrimack River, a navigable waterway of the United States. The purpose of the project is to replace the existing structurally deficient bridge with a new bridge. The Coast Guard is issuing this Public Notice to solicit information on waterway usage.

**BRIDGE, WATERWAY AND LOCATION:** Bridge Street Route 125 Bridge across Merrimack River, mile 19.0 in Haverhill, Essex County, MA. The center of the proposed bridge is located at N 42°46'27", W 071°04'35".

#### **CHARACTER OF WORK**

MassDOT proposes to replace the existing structurally deficient single leaf bascule bridge with a fixed bridge. The existing bridge, built in 1925, was originally designed as a moveable bridge, however, it was subsequently determined that a movable span was not necessary thus the mechanical and electrical components were never installed or made operational.

The bridge will be replaced by a fixed highway bridge in the same location as the existing bridge. The out-to-out width of the bridge will be increased from 68 feet to 78 feet wide. The increase in width is due to the addition of a 2-foot-wide shoulder along the entire span, and improved pedestrian and bicycle accommodations with separate bike lanes and sidewalks included on both sides of the bridge. The proposed bridge will include four 11-foot-wide lanes, two for northbound travel, and two for southbound travel. These lanes will be located in the same footprint as the existing single travel lanes, which are 22-foot wide in either direction.

The bridge will be reconstructed in four (4) stages. The majority of the work will be completed in Stages 2 and 3, during which the bridge will be replaced in two halves, for the purpose of maintaining traffic flow over the bridge during construction and allowing utility connectivity.

During the four stages, vehicle, bicycle, and pedestrian traffic will be compressed to either side of the bridge.

A temporary wharf and/or temporary work trestle extending part way across the river will be constructed to provide work access to the river for reconstruction of the bridge. It is anticipated that the temporary wharf will be located at the southeast corner of the bridge while temporary work trestles would extend from the east and west banks south of the bridge and would extend partway across the river, leaving the two center river spans open for navigation. The temporary wharf and/or trestle will allow for bridge work to occur on the river via spud type barges and/or directly from the trestle, as well as provide a means to transport equipment and materials to the waterway.

During construction and demolition activities, some equipment may partially block the navigation channel. MassDOT and the Coast Guard will coordinate with the effected maritime community to minimize impacts. The Coast Guard will issue a Local Notice to Mariners and Broadcast Notice to Mariners to advise the maritime community of these impacts.

The existing bridge is proposed to be removed to a depth of at least two feet below the mudline.

A full description of the project is available at the MassDOT website for the project: [Basiliere Bridge project - Haverhill | Mass.gov](#)

#### **MINIMUM NAVIGATIONAL CLEARANCES:**

The proposed replacement bridge will have clearances as described in the table below. These clearances are a decrease from current clearances through the existing bridge. Vertical clearance is from low member elevation to mean high water.

	<b>Horizontal Clearance</b>	<b>Vertical Clearance</b>
<b>Existing Bridge</b>	69 ft	23.5 ft MHW 28.3 ft MLW
<b>Proposed Bridge</b>	60 ft	20.0 ft MHW 24.8 ft MLW

North American Vertical Datum (NAVD) 1988, based on mean 4.8 ft tidal range.

#### **ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS:**

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) is the lead federal agency for satisfying the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The FHWA is acting on behalf of the USCG for all environmental control laws. A Categorical Exclusion (CATEX) was issued and signed by the FHWA on December 09, 2024, pursuant to NEPA, as amended. The USCG has tentatively determined that the proposed action will not have a significant impact for purposes of NEPA.

The existing and proposed bridges are located in the floodplain. The FEMA 100-year Base Flood Elevation (BFE) (NAVD88) at the bridge is 22.33 feet. The low chord elevation at Span 3 within the navigable opening is approximately 25.6 feet.

A Water Quality Certification in accordance with Section 401 of the Clean Water Act, was issued by the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection on December 20, 2024. Under the Clean Water Act, the project also received a Section 404 authorization under the Department of the Army General Permits for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts available at [New England District > Missions > Regulatory > State General Permits > Massachusetts General Permit](#) and the 2022 Construction General Permit issued by the EPA which is available at [2022 Construction General Permit \(CGP\) | US EPA](#) .

The project site lies outside of any designated Coastal Zone Management areas.

### **SOLICITATION OF COMMENTS:**

Mariners are requested to comment on the proposed navigational clearances and other navigational safety issues, including the need for clearance gauges; a bridge protective system; and extent of nighttime navigation to determine the need for bridge lighting. Interested parties are requested to provide information about their vessels including type of vessel, length overall, draft, beam, and height from the waterline to the highest fixed point and to appurtenances (e.g., tuna towers, flying bridges, fixed antennas and radar units).

Interested parties are requested to express their views in writing on the proposed bridge project, giving sufficient detail to establish a clear understanding of their reasons for support of or opposition to the proposed work. Comments will be received for the record at the address above or by e-mail to [SMB-D1Boston-Bridges-PublicNotices@uscg.mil](mailto:SMB-D1Boston-Bridges-PublicNotices@uscg.mil) through April 11, 2025.

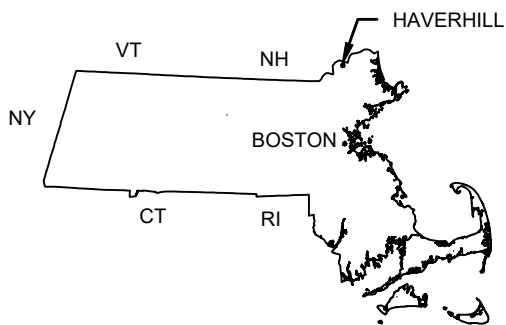
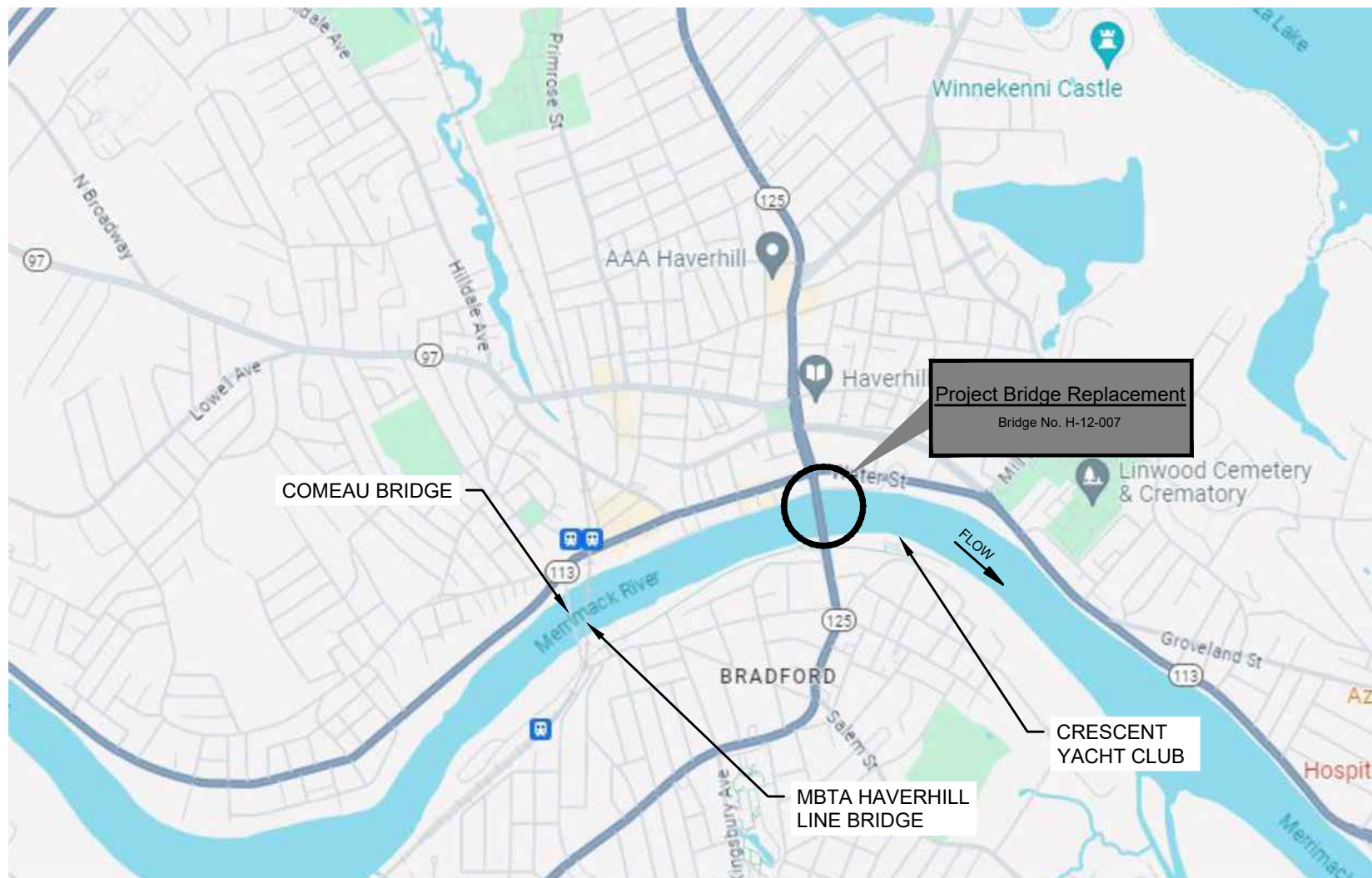
We will forward comments of an environmental nature such as those regarding wildlife refuges, waterfowl refuges, public parks, historic sites, wetlands, floodplain issues, air, water quality, etc. to the FHWA for appropriate handling.

It is requested that this information be brought to the attention of any person having an interest who may not have received a copy of this public notice.

Concept plans of the proposed project and a location map are included in this public notice.

G.P. Hitchen  
Bridge Program Manager  
U.S. Coast Guard  
By direction

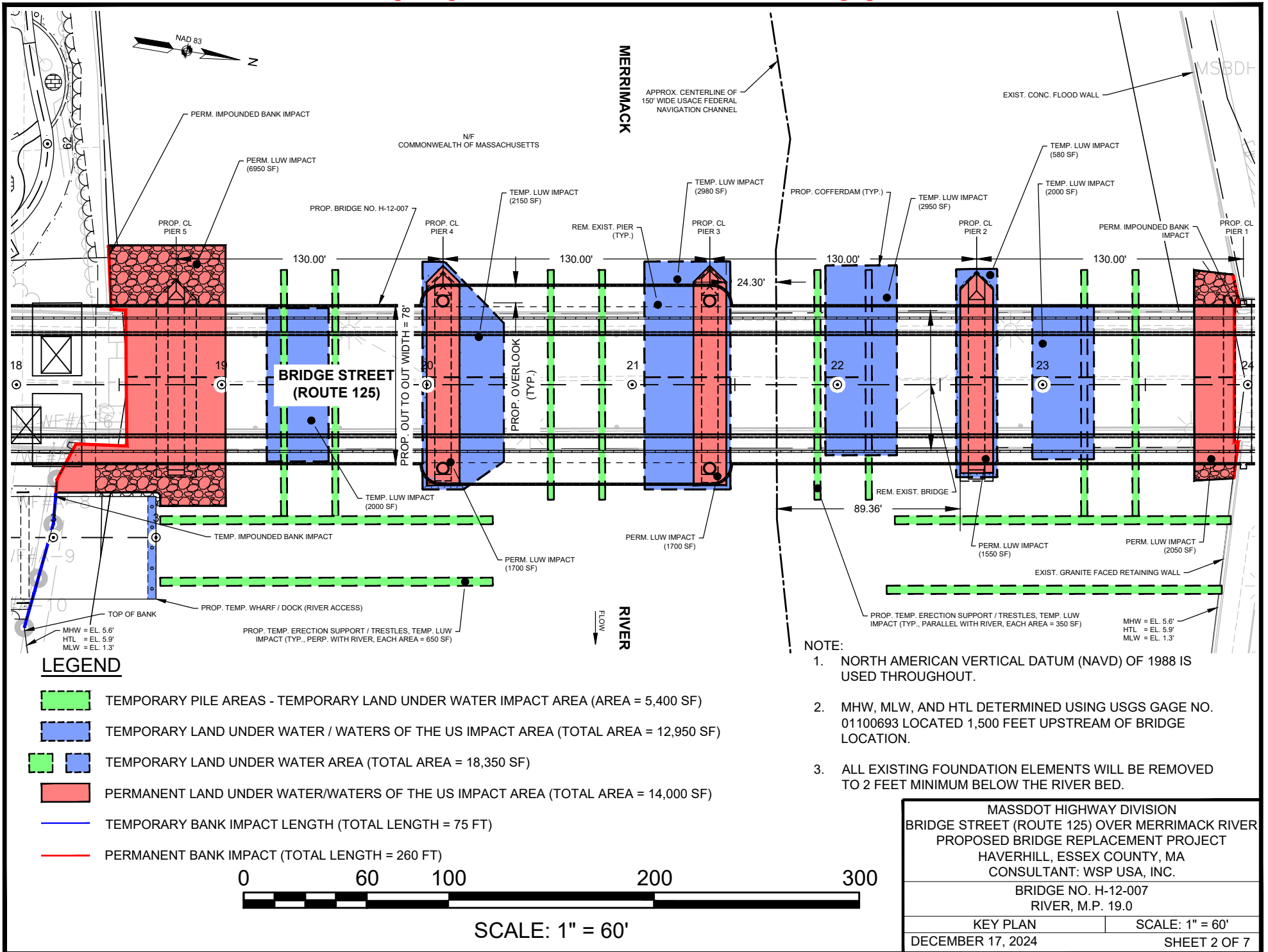
Conceptual plans utilized to obtain Coast Guard bridge permit.

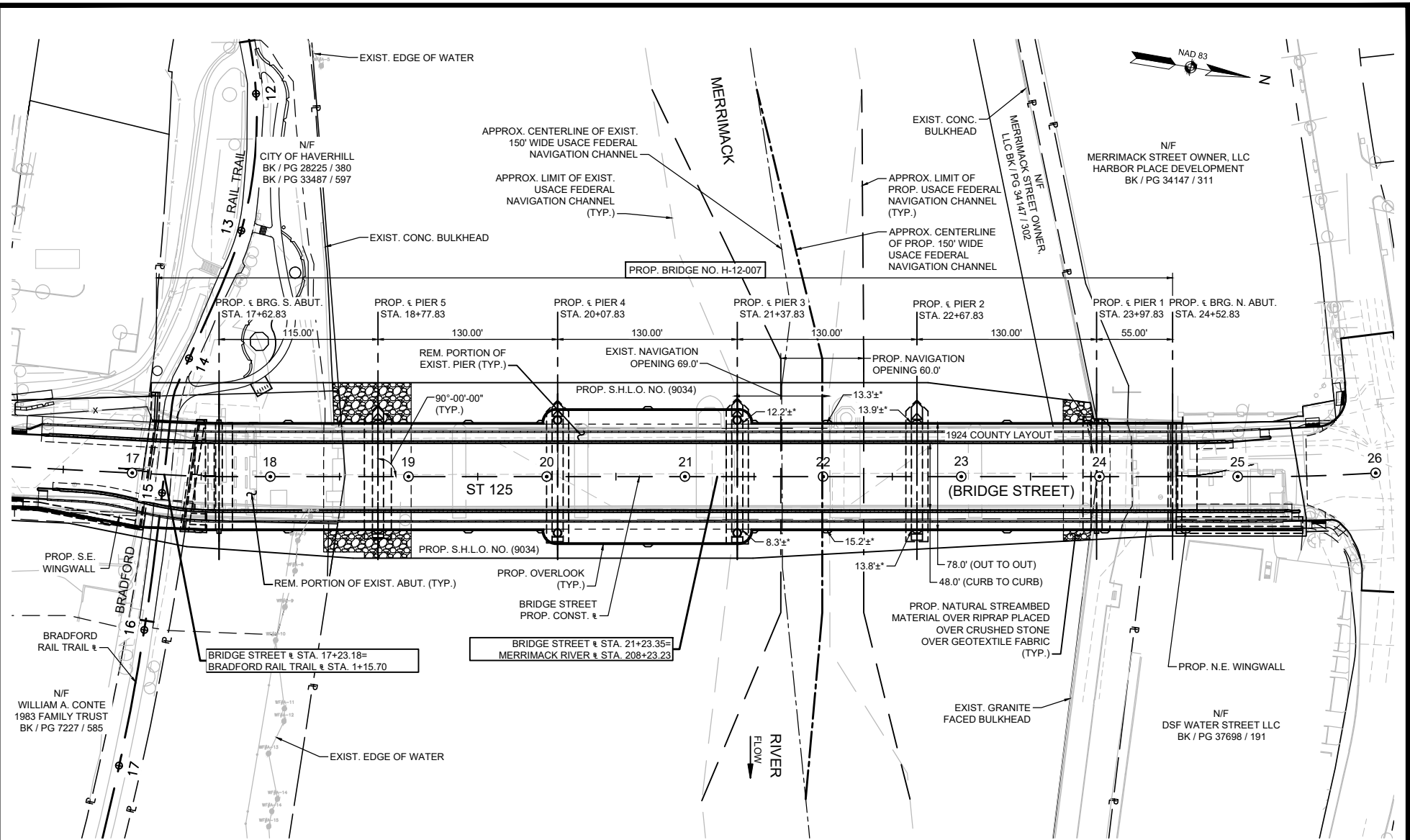


SCALE: 1" = 2000'

MASSDOT HIGHWAY DIVISION BRIDGE STREET (ROUTE 125) OVER MERRIMACK RIVER PROPOSED BRIDGE REPLACEMENT PROJECT HAVERHILL, ESSEX COUNTY, MA CONSULTANT: WSP USA, INC.	
BRIDGE NO. H-12-007 RIVER, M.P. 19.0	
VICINITY MAP	SCALE: 1" = 2000'
DECEMBER 17, 2024	SHEET 1 OF 7

# Conceptual plans utilized to obtain Coast Guard bridge permit.





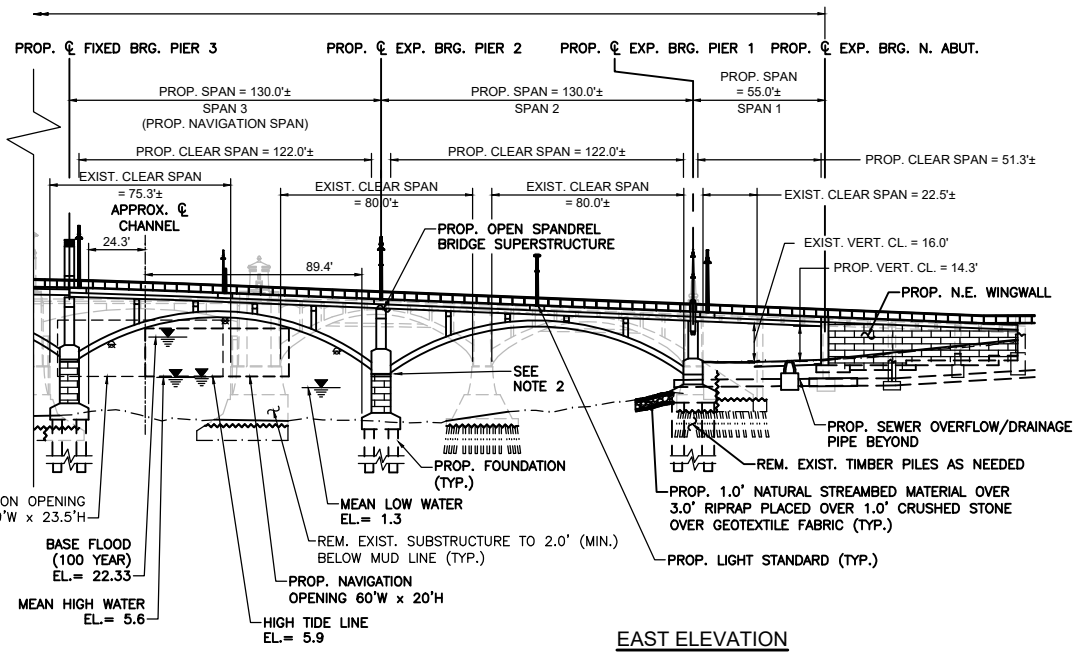
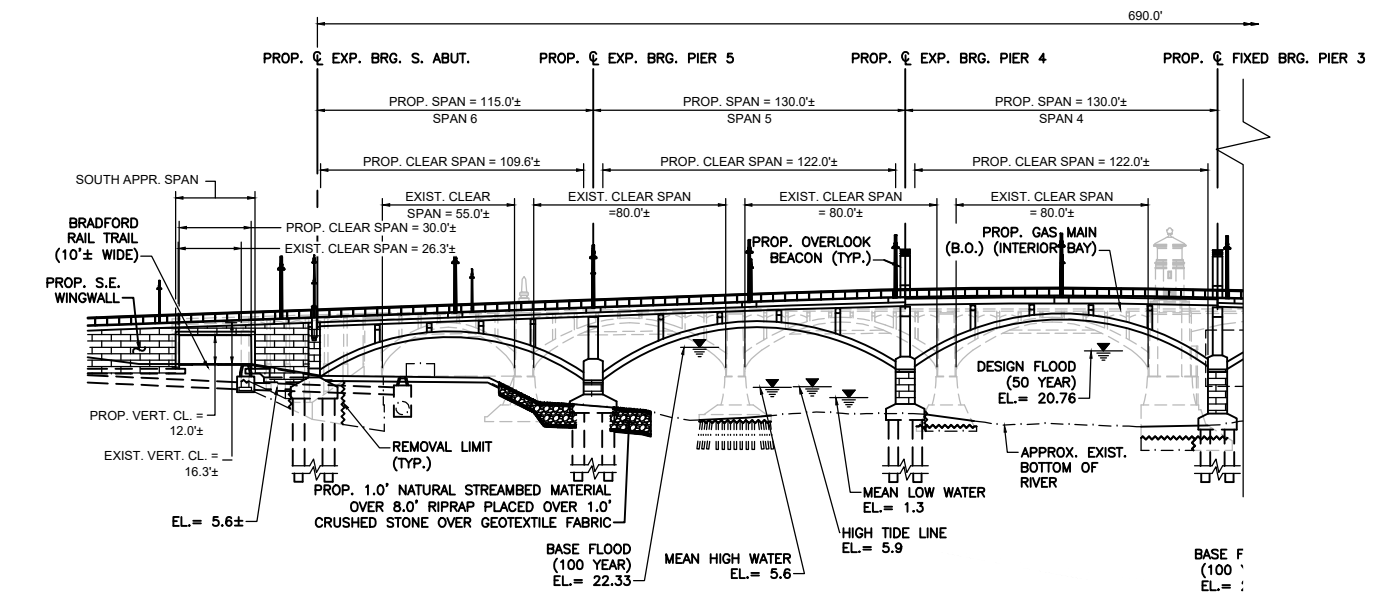
**NOTE:**

1. NORTH AMERICAN VERTICAL DATUM (NAVD) OF 1988 IS USED THROUGHOUT.
- \* - DENOTES DEPTH TO RIVER BOTTOM MEASURED FROM MLW.



SCALE: 1" = 100'

MASSDOT HIGHWAY DIVISION BRIDGE STREET (ROUTE 125) OVER MERRIMACK RIVER PROPOSED BRIDGE REPLACEMENT PROJECT HAVERHILL, ESSEX COUNTY, MA CONSULTANT: WSP USA, INC.	
BRIDGE NO. H-12-007 RIVER, M.P. 19.0	
BRIDGE PLAN	SCALE: 1" = 100'
MARCH 7, 2025	SHEET 3 OF 7



EAST ELEVATION  
(LOOKING UPSTREAM)



SCALE: 1" = 80'

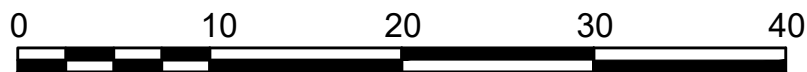
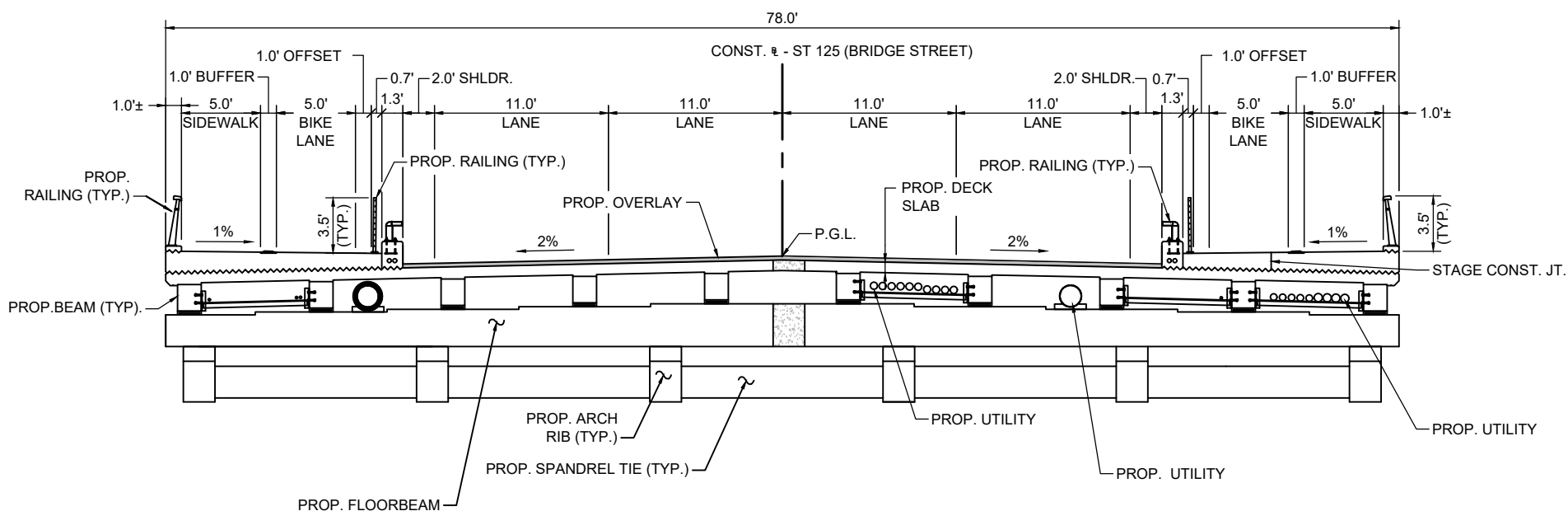
**NOTES:**

1. NORTH AMERICAN VERTICAL DATUM (NAVD) OF 1988 IS USED THROUGHOUT.
2. UNDER BRIDGE DECORATIVE LIGHTING PROPOSED. A MULTI-COLOR CHANGEABLE SYSTEM WILL BE USED. COLOR TONES WILL BE SET SUCH THAT THERE IS NO CONFLICT WITH ANY PROPOSED NAVIGATION LIGHTING AS REQUIRED.

MASSDOT HIGHWAY DIVISION BRIDGE STREET (ROUTE 125) OVER MERRIMACK RIVER PROPOSED BRIDGE REPLACEMENT PROJECT HAVERHILL, ESSEX COUNTY, MA CONSULTANT: WSP USA, INC.	
BRIDGE NO. H-12-007 RIVER, M.P. 19.0	
BRIDGE ELEVATION MARCH 7, 2025	SCALE: 1" = 100' SHEET 4 OF 7



Conceptual plans utilized to obtain Coast Guard bridge permit.

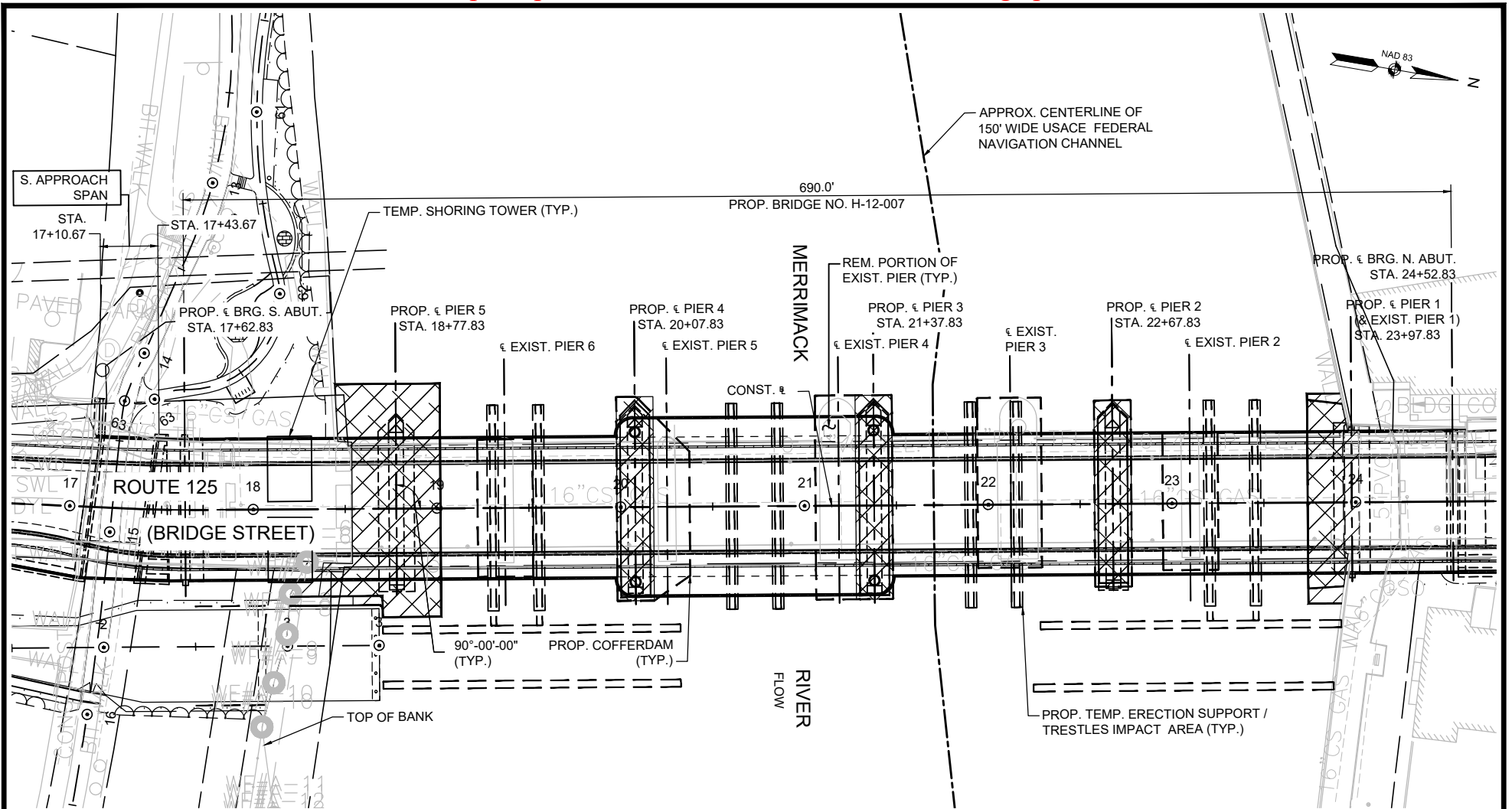


SCALE: 1" = 10'

MASSDOT HIGHWAY DIVISION BRIDGE STREET (ROUTE 125) OVER MERRIMACK RIVER PROPOSED BRIDGE REPLACEMENT PROJECT HAVERHILL, ESSEX COUNTY, MA CONSULTANT: WSP USA, INC.	
BRIDGE NO. H-12-007 RIVER, M.P. 19.0	
TYPICAL BRIDGE SECTION	SCALE: 1" = 10'
DECEMBER 17, 2024	SHEET 5 OF 7



Conceptual plans utilized to obtain Coast Guard bridge permit.



**LEGEND**

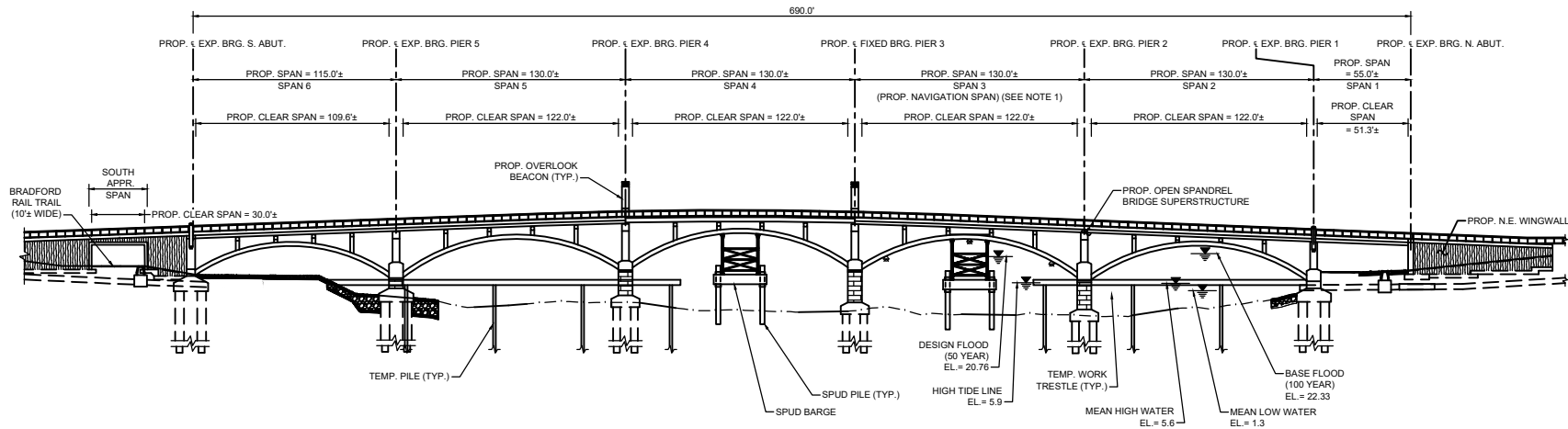
 PROP. DREDGING AREA (TOTAL AREA = 15,600, TOTAL VOLUME = 6,500 CY)



SCALE: 1" = 80'

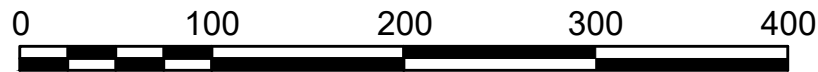
MASSDOT HIGHWAY DIVISION BRIDGE STREET (ROUTE 125) OVER MERRIMACK RIVER PROPOSED BRIDGE REPLACEMENT PROJECT HAVERHILL, ESSEX COUNTY, MA CONSULTANT: WSP USA, INC.	
BRIDGE NO. H-12-007 RIVER, M.P. 19.0	
DREDGING PLAN	SCALE: 1" = 80'
DECEMBER 17, 2024	SHEET 6 OF 7

# Conceptual plans utilized to obtain Coast Guard bridge permit.



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SCALE: 1" = 100'

MASSDOT HIGHWAY DIVISION BRIDGE STREET (ROUTE 125) OVER MERRIMACK RIVER PROPOSED BRIDGE REPLACEMENT PROJECT HAVERHILL, ESSEX COUNTY, MA CONSULTANT: WSP USA, INC.	
BRIDGE NO. H-12-007 RIVER, M.P. 19.0	
TEMPORARY WORKS LAYOUT	SCALE: 1" = 100'
DECEMBER 17, 2024	SHEET 7 OF 7