



Interchange 51 (Old Exit 61) Improvements – Route 15 (Wilbur Cross Parkway) and SR 707 (Whitney Avenue) Towns of Hamden and North Haven

Public Information and CEPA Scoping Meeting
State Project No. 0061-0156
September 15, 2026

Project Manager: Nicholas A. Ivanoff, P.E.
Project Engineer: Eric T. Smith, P.E.

Question & Answer Session



By Email: DOTProject61-156@ct.gov



By Phone: (860) 594-2020 (voicemail)



Project Webpage: <http://portal.ct.gov/DOTHamden0061-0156>

Note: Comment period is open through September 29, 2026



Meeting Agenda



Meet the Project Team

Civil Rights

**CEPA (Connecticut
Environmental Policy Act)**

Project Presentation

Project Background

Existing Conditions

Purpose & Need

Proposed Design

Rights-of-Way

Construction Schedule and Cost

Connecticut Department of Transportation Representatives

Highway Design

Scott Bushee, P.E.
Principal Engineer
CTDOT



Nicholas Ivanoff, P.E.
Project Manager
CTDOT



Eric Smith, P.E.
Project Engineer
CTDOT



Katie LeClerc
Project Designer
CTDOT



Traffic Design

Ethan Donecker, P.E.
Project Manager
CTDOT



Quinn Becotte
Project Engineer
CTDOT



Rights of Way

Kathleen Ericson
Rights of Way
Coordinator
CTDOT



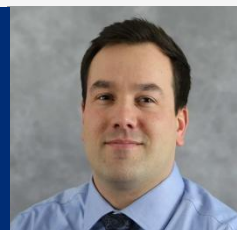
Connecticut Department of Transportation Representatives

Landscape Design

Susan Fiedler
Landscape Architect
CTDOT



Patrick Bibeau
Landscape Designer
CTDOT



Policy and Planning

Kevin Fleming
Supervising Planner
CTDOT



Mark Hood
Transportation Planner
CTDOT



Title VI – Your Civil Rights

No person shall, on the basis of race, color, or national origin, be excluded from participation or subject to discrimination in the development of this project.

- Voluntary Post-Meeting Survey:
 - <https://portal.ct.gov/ctdotsurvey>
- Title VI Information:
 - <https://portal.ct.gov/dot/opportunity-and-business-development/title-vi>



Closed captioning—including non-English translation options—are available on Zoom.



Connecticut Department of Transportation

Title VI Notice to the Public

Individuals and organizations may file a complaint by completing the Title VI complaint form (portal.ct.gov/dot/Opportunity-and-Business-Development/title-vi). Complaints should be signed and include contact information and should be sent to: Office of Civil Rights Federal Railroad Administration 1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE ROA-10, Mail Stop 5 Washington, DC 20590

The Connecticut Department of Transportation (CTDOT) operates its programs and services without regard to race, color, and national origin in accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act. Any person who believes she or he has been aggrieved by any unlawful discriminatory practice under Title VI may file a complaint with the CTDOT.

For more information on the CTDOT's civil rights program, and the procedures to file a complaint, contact the CTDOT Title VI Coordinator at (860) 594-2169, TRS 711; Debra.Goss@ct.gov; or visit our administrative office at 2800 Berlin Turnpike, Newington, CT 06131. For more information, visit www.ct.gov/dot.

A complainant may file a complaint directly with the Federal Transit Administration by filing a complaint with the FTA Office of Civil Rights, Attention: Title VI Program Coordinator, East Building, 5th Floor-TCR, 1200 New Jersey Ave., SE, Washington, DC 20590

A complainant may file a complaint directly with the Federal Highway Administration by filing a complaint with the FHWA Office of Civil Rights, Attention: Title VI Program Coordinator, 8th Floor E81-105, 1200 New Jersey Ave., SE, Washington, DC 20590

如需更多信息或免费语言协助，请致电 (860) 594-2109

Para información adicional, o asistencia lingüística gratuita, por favor llame al (860) 594-2109

Per informazioni aggiuntive o assistenza linguistica gratuita, chiamare il numero (860) 594-2109

Para obter mais informações, ou para auxílio gratuito em outro idioma, ligue para (860) 594-2109

Aby uzyskać dodatkowe informacje lub bezpłatną pomoc tłumacza, proszę dzwonić pod numer (860) 594-2109

Для получения подробной информации или бесплатных услуг перевода звоните по телефону (860) 594-2109

Pou jwenn plis enfòmasyon, oswa asistans ak lang gratis, ranpri rele (860) 594-2109

لمزيد من المعلومات أو للحصول على مساعدة لغوية مجانية، يرجى الاتصال بالرقم (860) 594-2109

Si vous souhaitez en savoir plus ou bénéficier d'une assistance linguistique gratuite, merci de composer le numéro suivant (860) 594-2109

अधिक जानकारी या निःशुल्क भाषा संबंधी सहायता के लिए कृपया (860) 594-2109 पर कॉल करें।

추가 정보가 필요하거나 무료 언어 지원이 필요하시면 (860) 594-2109로 전화하십시오.

Để có thêm thông tin hoặc hỗ trợ ngôn ngữ miễn phí, vui lòng gọi (860) 594-2109



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Departamento de Transporte de Connecticut

Título VI Aviso al Público

El Departamento de Transporte de Connecticut (CTDOT) se compromete a asegurar que ninguna persona sea excluida de participar en, o le sean negados los beneficios de, sus servicios de transporte basándose en la raza, color o país de origen de la persona protegida por el Título VI de la Ley de los Derechos Civiles. Si a usted le parece que ha sido objeto de discriminación en lo que corresponde al Título VI, puede presentar una queja al CTDOT.

Para más información sobre el programa de derechos civiles del CTDOT y el proceso de presentar una queja, comuníquese con el Coordinadora del Título VI del CTDOT al teléfono (860) 594-2169, TRS 711; Debra.Goss@ct.gov. También puede visitar nuestra oficina administrativa en 2800 Berlin Turnpike, Newington, CT 06131. Para más información, visite www.ct.gov/dot.

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Para recibir más información o ayuda gratuita en otros idiomas, llame al (860) 594-2109.

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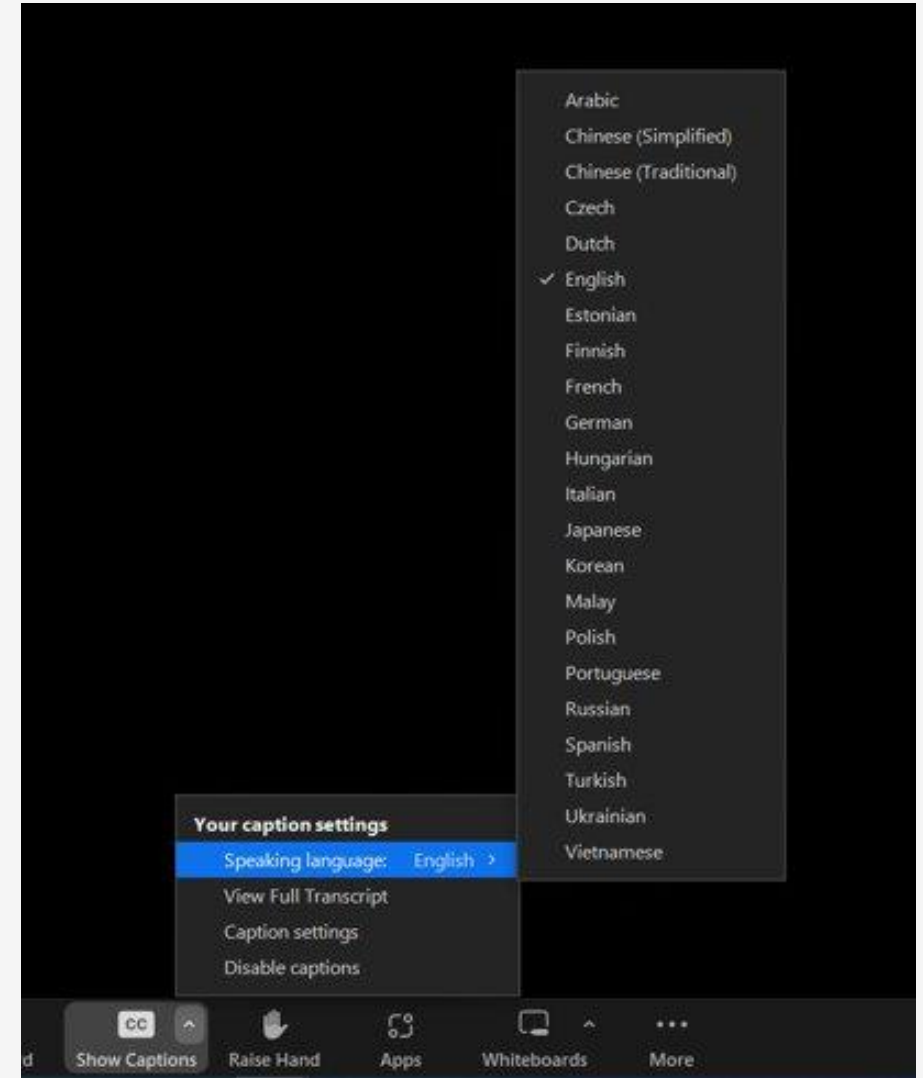
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3. Select the language you would like from the list shown.



Connecticut Environmental Policy Act (CEPA)

CEPA Core Purpose

- Identify and assess potential environmental impacts
 - Evaluate alternatives to avoid or minimize such impacts
 - Public Involvement
-
- CEPA review required for any State action that could have major impact on the environmental, social, and/or economic resources



Connecticut Environmental Policy Act (CEPA)

Physical

- Air Quality & Greenhouse Gas Emissions
- Noise
- Traffic
- Utilities & Services
- Stormwater
- Solid & Hazardous Waste
- Aesthetics & Scenic Resources
- Cultural Resources
- Energy Use

Natural

- Erosion or Sedimentation
- Surface Water
- Groundwater
- Floodplains
- Wetlands
- Fisheries
- Plants & Wildlife/
State Listed Species
- Changing Climate/Resilience

Socioeconomic

- Land Use & Zoning
- State, Regional and Local Land Use Planning
- Public Health & Safety
- Recreational Resources
- Plan of Conservation & Development

National Historic Preservation Act – Section 106

- Reviewed under Section 106 due to Federal funding
- Number of adjoining properties were found to be potentially eligible for the National Register of Historic Places (NHRP)
- None of these resources will be substantively affected by proposed design
- No Native American Tribal concerns reported
- CTDOT's Office of Environmental Planning reached a finding of *no historic properties affected* in association with this undertaking conditional upon avoidance and protection of the stone masonry retaining wall in front of 2155 Whitney Avenue
- Finding achieved under CTDOT's general Section 106 Programmatic Agreement regarding Transportation Programs with Federal agencies and CT SHPO

Connecticut Environmental Policy Act (CEPA)

What is CEPA Scoping??

- Gathering and analysis of information that a state agency will use to establish the breadth of environmental review of a proposed project.

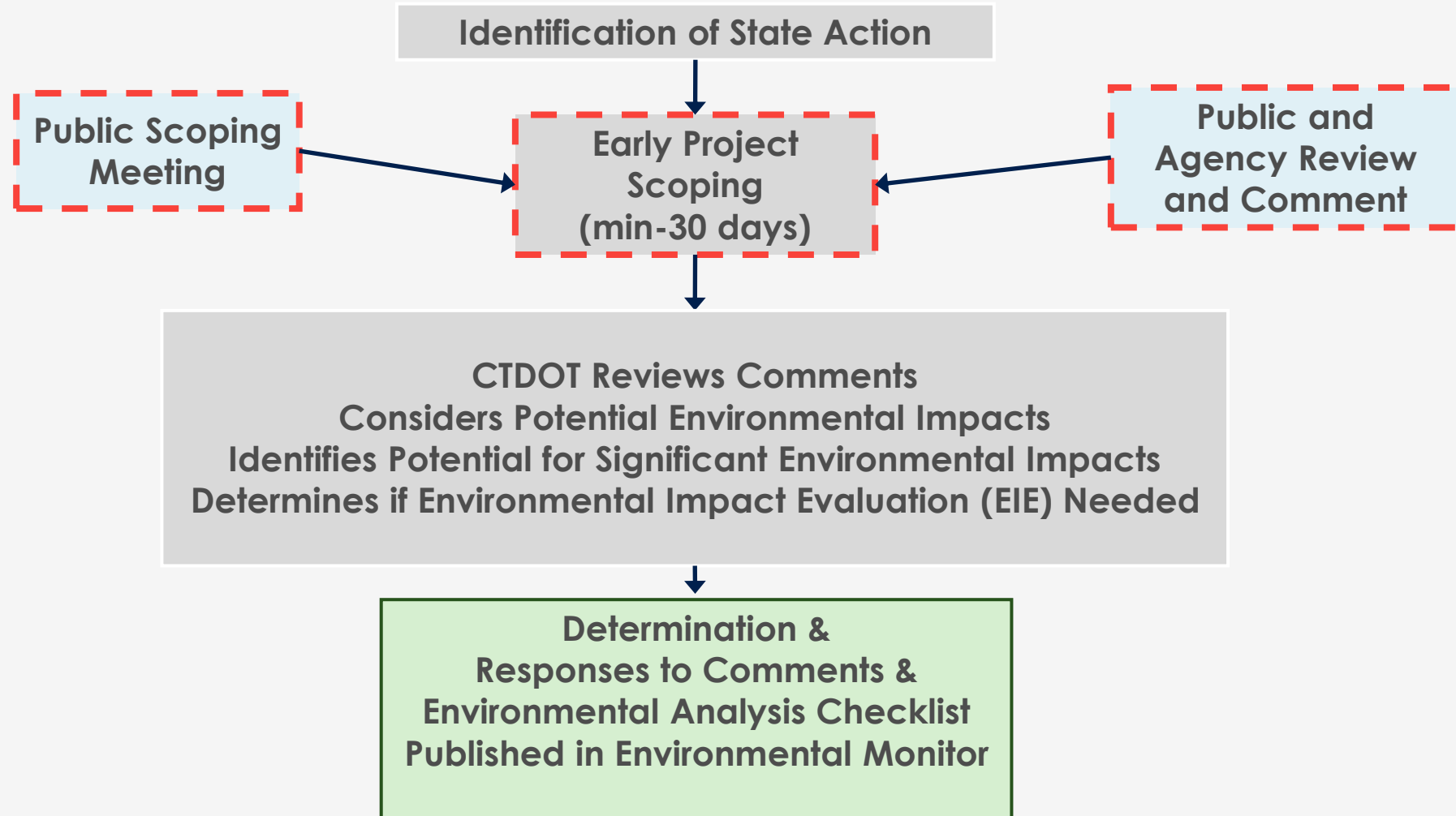
Public Scoping Process

- Publish Notice of Project in *Environmental Monitor*
- Minimum 30-day public comment period
- Identify environmental concerns / potential alternatives
- Public Scoping Meeting
- Determine if an Environmental Impact Evaluation (EIE) is needed

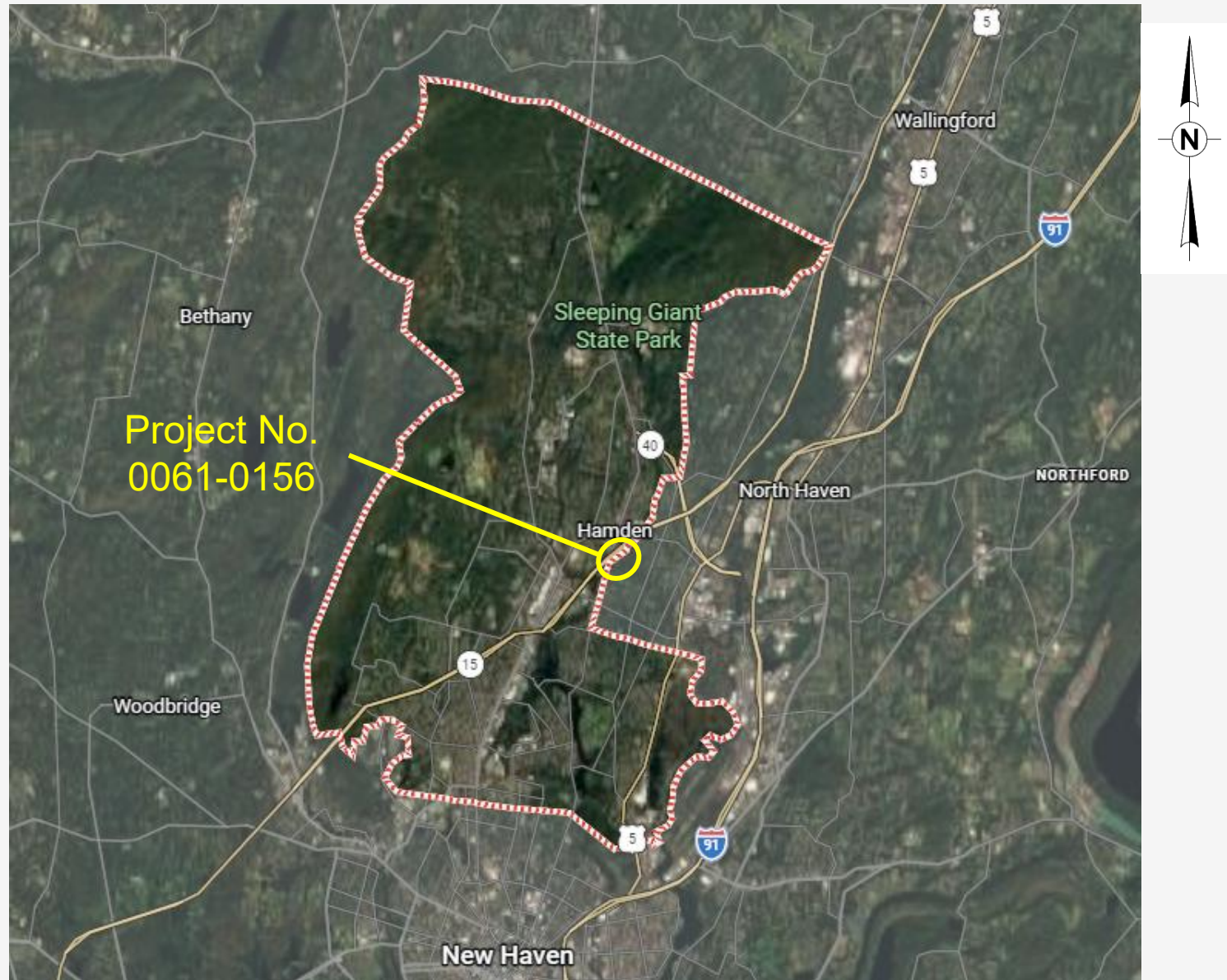
<https://portal.ct.gov/CEQ/Environmental-Monitor/Environmental-Monitor/Environmental-Monitor---Current-Issue>



CEPA Process



Project Location



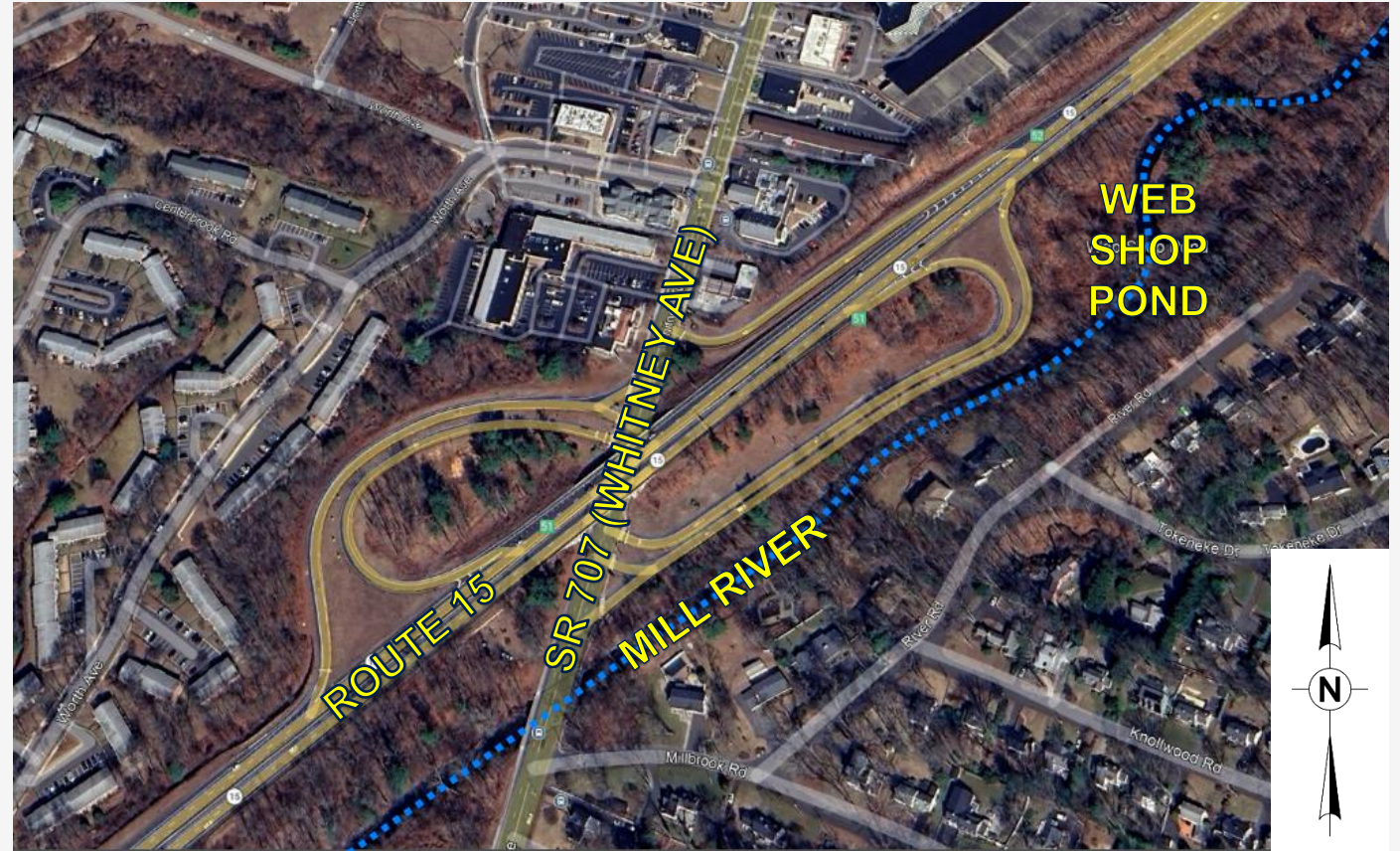
Project Location

Route 15 (Wilbur Cross Parkway)

- MP 51.25 to 51.93 NB
- MP 51.23 to 51.96 SB

State Route 707 (Whitney Avenue)

- MP 2.95 to 3.43
- Wayland St. to Worth Ave.

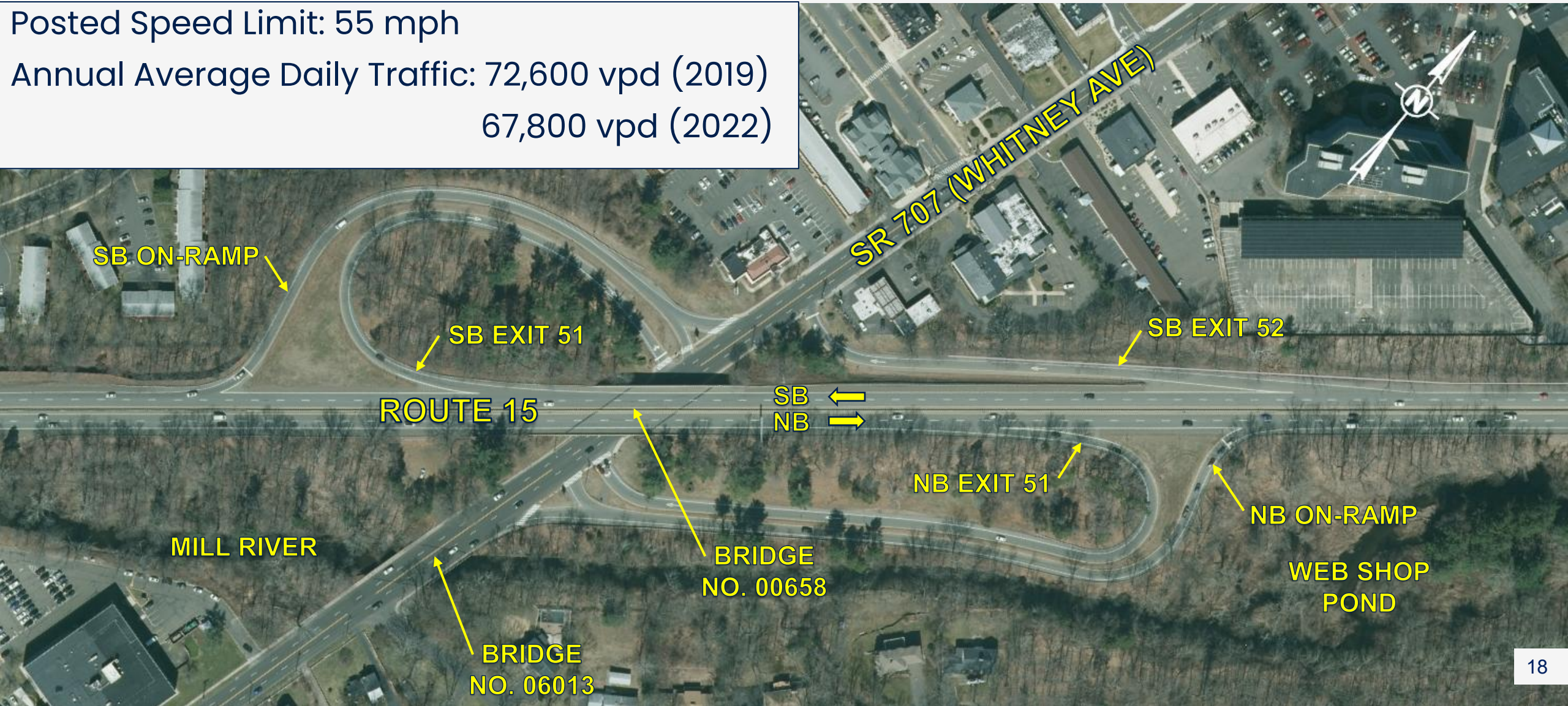


..... Mill River

Existing Conditions – Route 15 (Wilbur Cross Parkway)

Posted Speed Limit: 55 mph

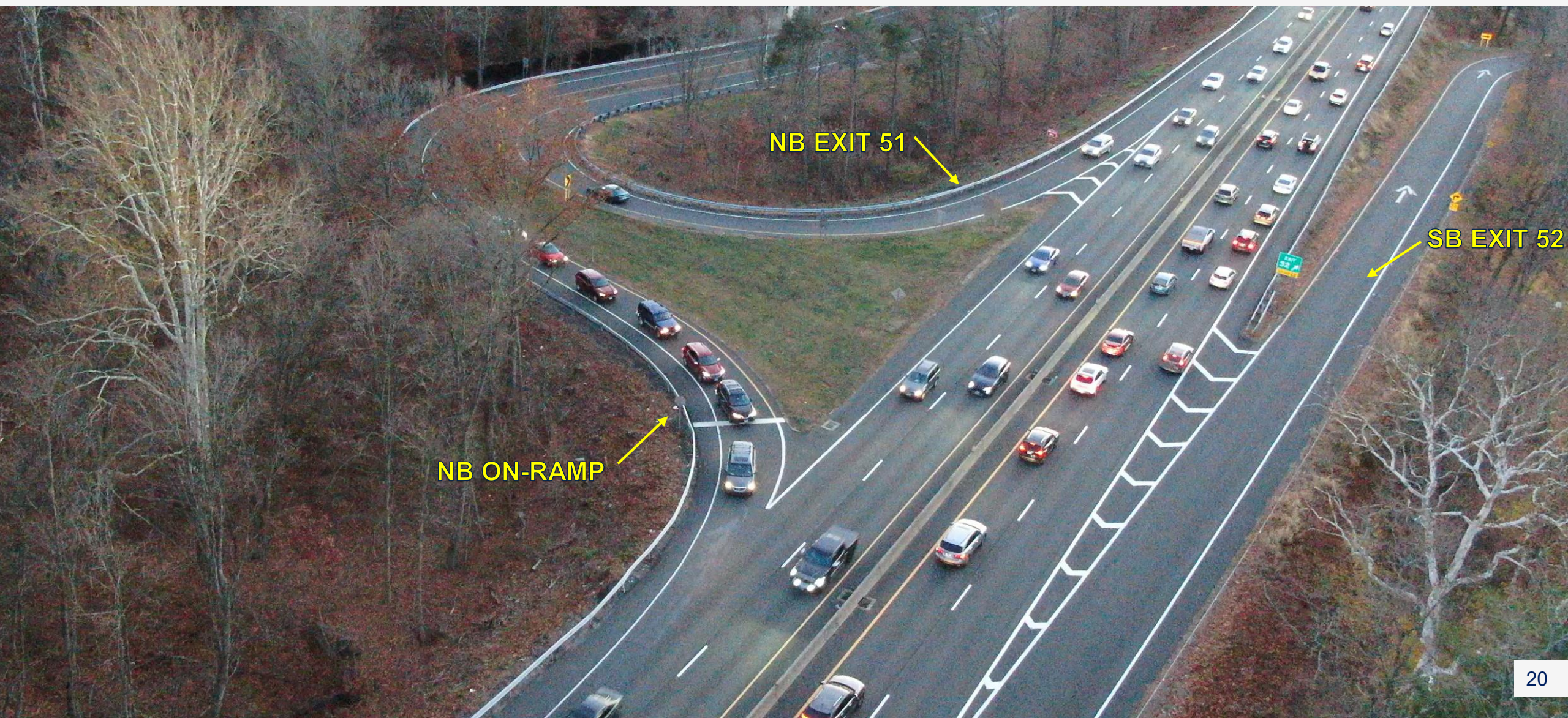
Annual Average Daily Traffic: 72,600 vpd (2019)
67,800 vpd (2022)



Existing Conditions – Route 15 (Wilbur Cross Parkway)



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Existing Conditions – Route 15 (Wilbur Cross Parkway)



Existing Conditions – SR 707 (Whitney Avenue)

Posted Speed Limit: 30 mph
Annual Average Daily Traffic: 14,200 vpd (2023)



Existing Conditions – SR 707 (Whitney Avenue)



Origin, Purpose, and Need

Stop-Controlled On-Ramps



Origin, Purpose, and Need

Inadequate Pedestrian Facilities

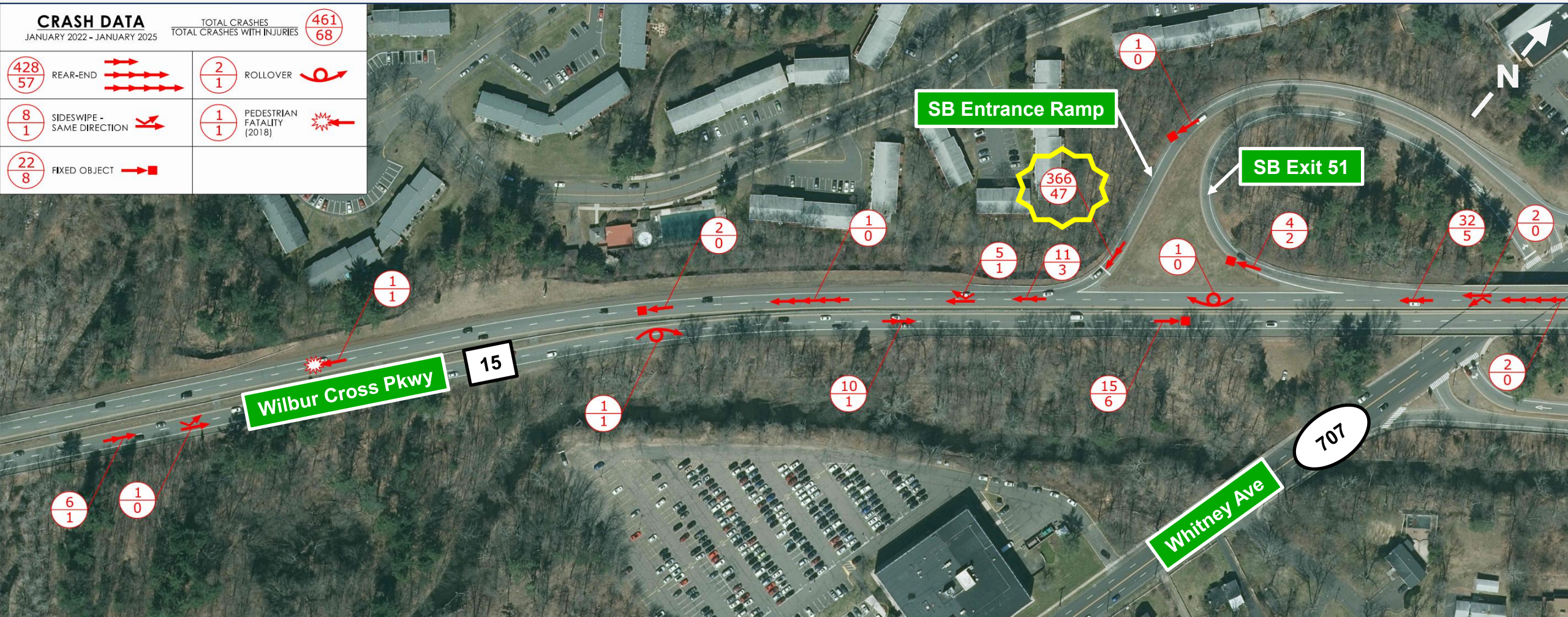


Crash Data – Overall Totals

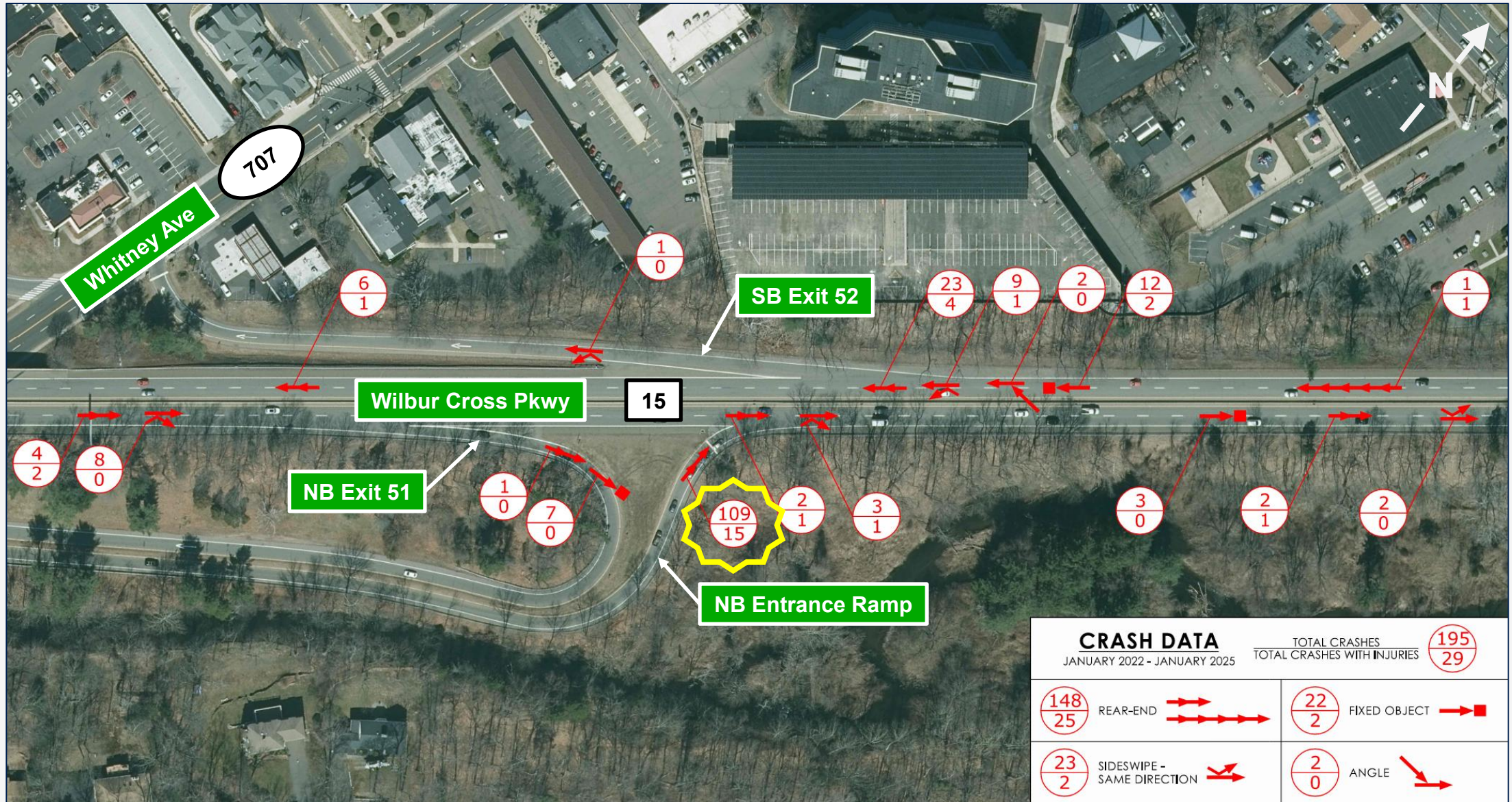
CRASH DATA JANUARY 2022 - JANUARY 2025 TOTAL CRASHES TOTAL CRASHES WITH INJURIES 708 112	
589 85 REAR-END 	1 1 PEDESTRIAN 
16 7 ANGLE/TURNING 	1 0 HEAD-ON 
46 4 SIDESWIPE - SAME DIRECTION 	3 2 ROLLOVER 
1 0 SIDESWIPE - OPPOSITE DIRECTION 	1 1 PEDESTRIAN FATALITY (2018) 
49 11 FIXED OBJECT 	1 1 HEAD-ON FATALITY (2021) 

Crash Data – Route 15 (Wilbur Cross Parkway)

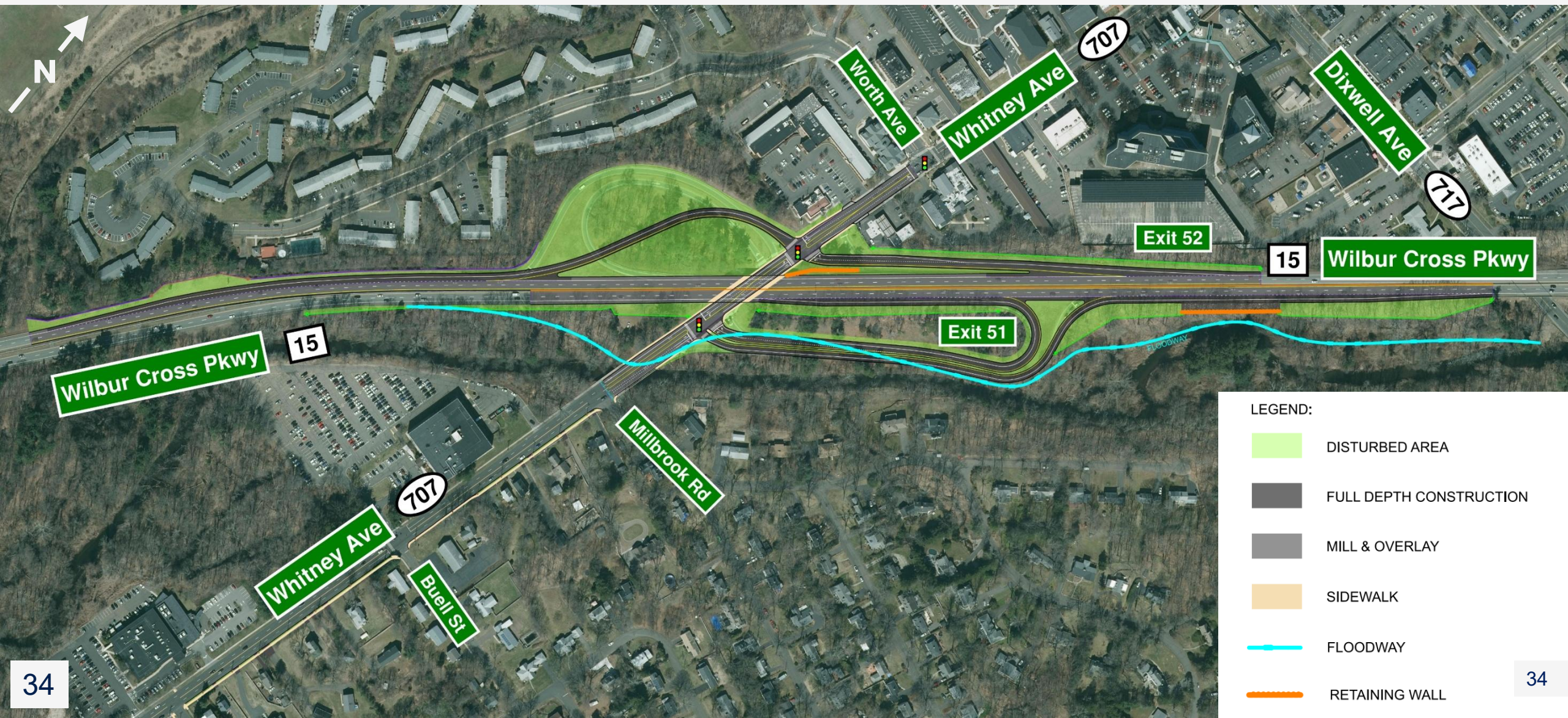
CRASH DATA JANUARY 2022 – JANUARY 2025		TOTAL CRASHES TOTAL CRASHES WITH INJURIES
428 57 REAR-END	2 1 ROLLOVER	461 68
	8 1 SIDESWIPE - SAME DIRECTION	
	22 8 FIXED OBJECT	
	1 1 PEDESTRIAN FATALITY (2018)	



Crash Data – Route 15 (Wilbur Cross Parkway)



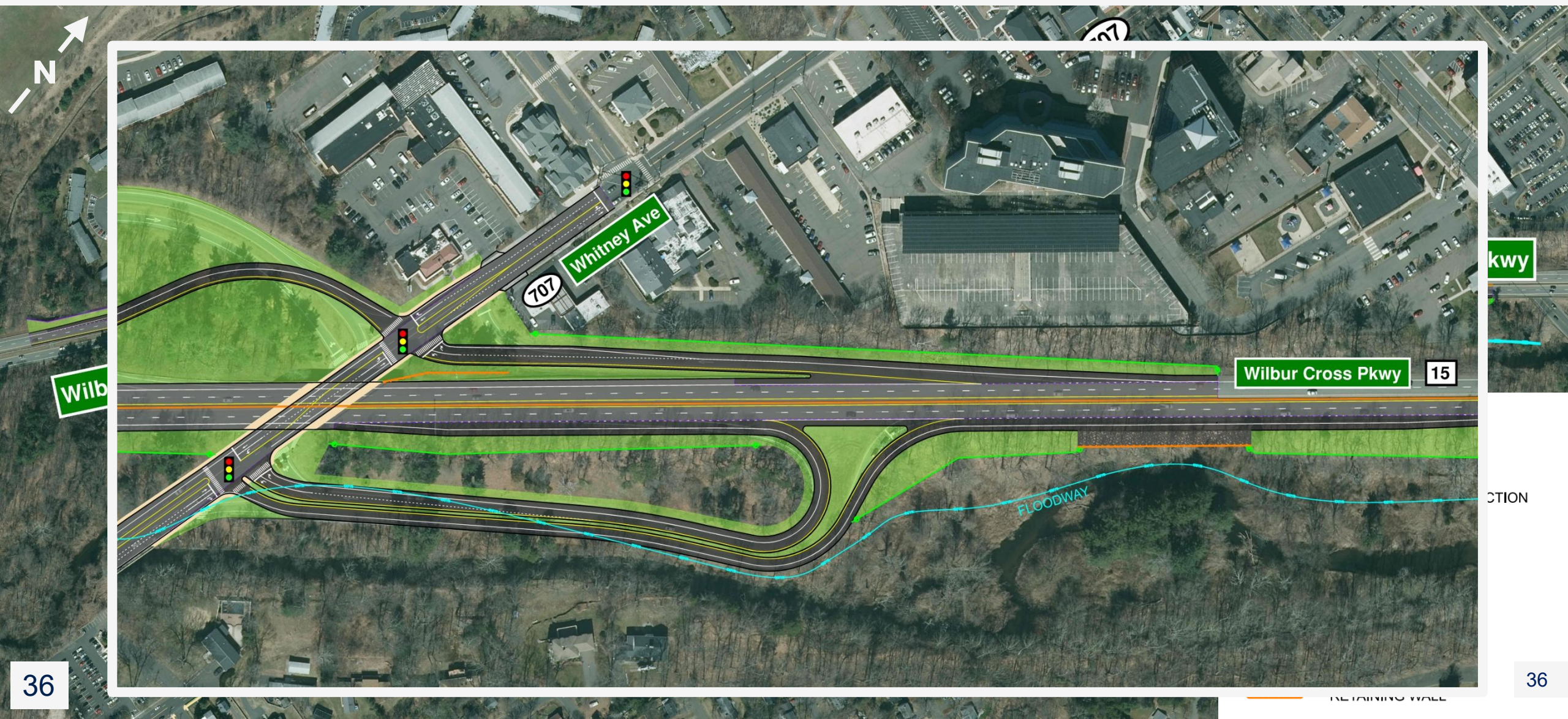
Proposed Improvements – Route 15 (Wilbur Cross Parkway)



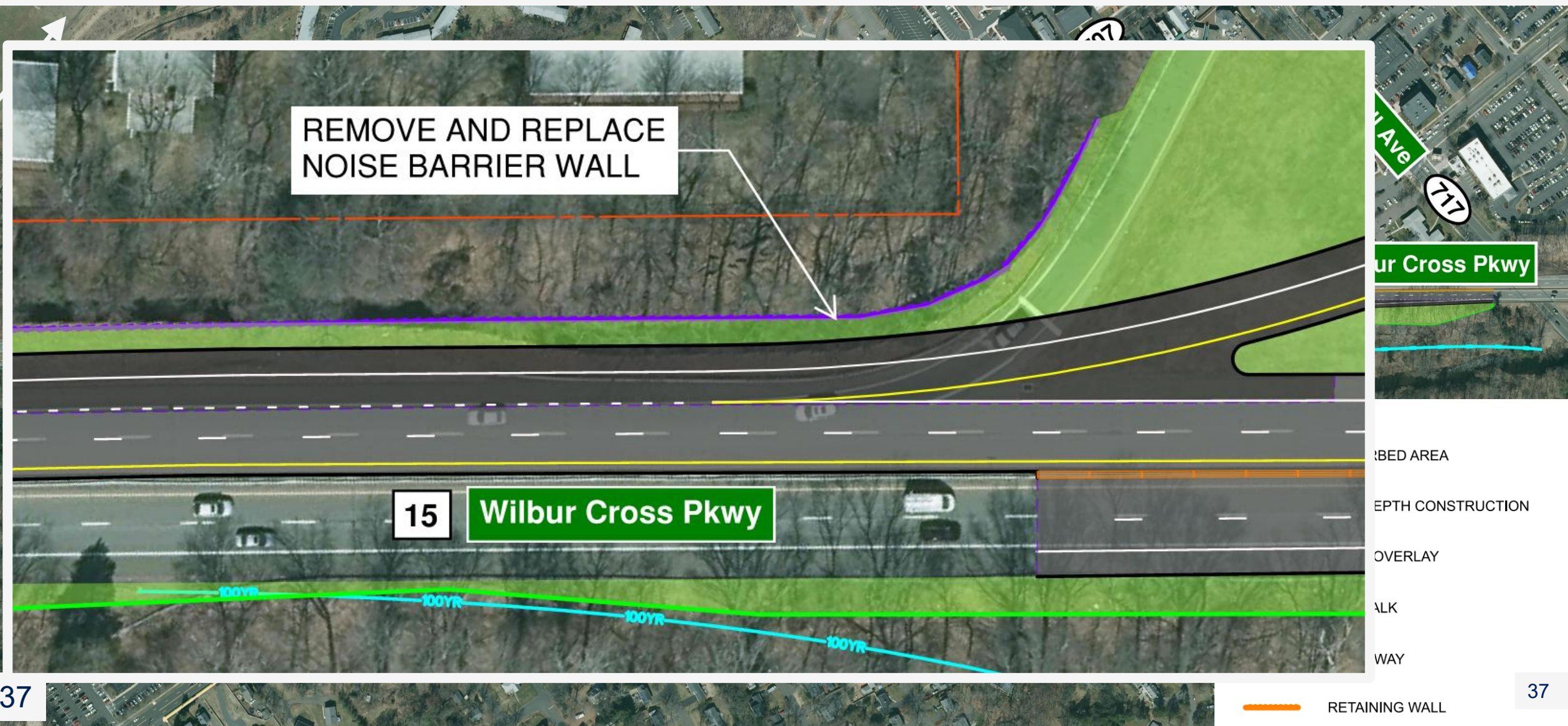
Proposed Improvements – Route 15 (Wilbur Cross Parkway)



Proposed Improvements – Route 15 (Wilbur Cross Parkway)



Proposed Improvements – Route 15 (Wilbur Cross Parkway)



Proposed Improvements – Route 15 (Wilbur Cross Parkway)



Proposed Improvements – Route 707 (Whitney Avenue)

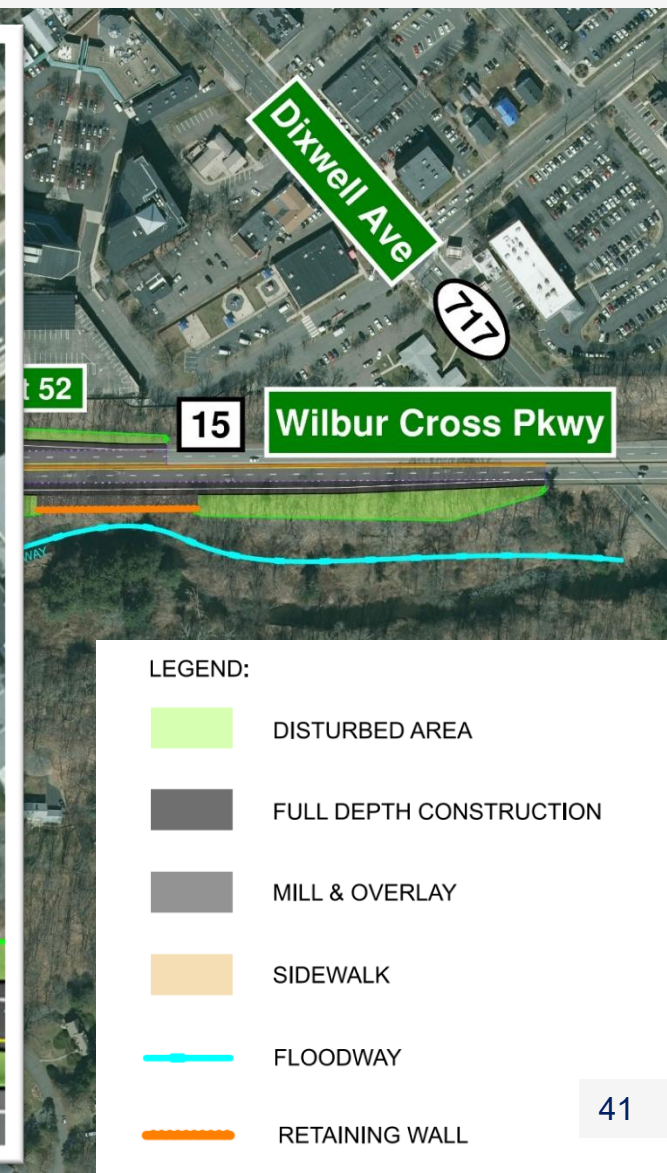
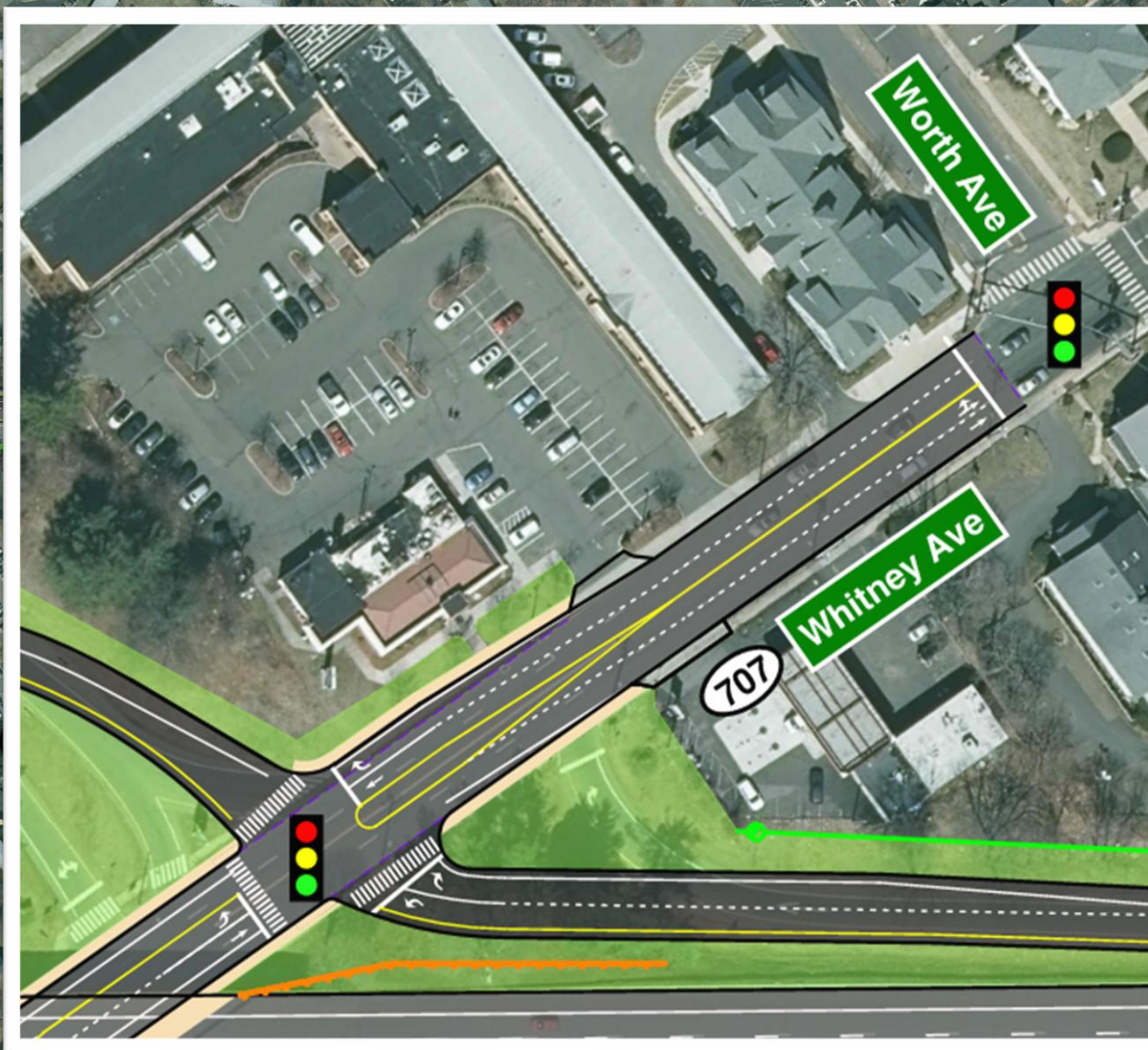


TRUCTION

Proposed Improvements – Route 707 (Whitney Avenue)



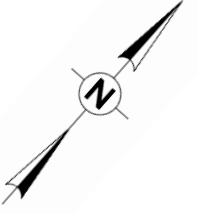
Proposed Improvements – Route 707 (Whitney Avenue)



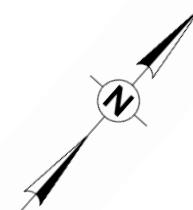
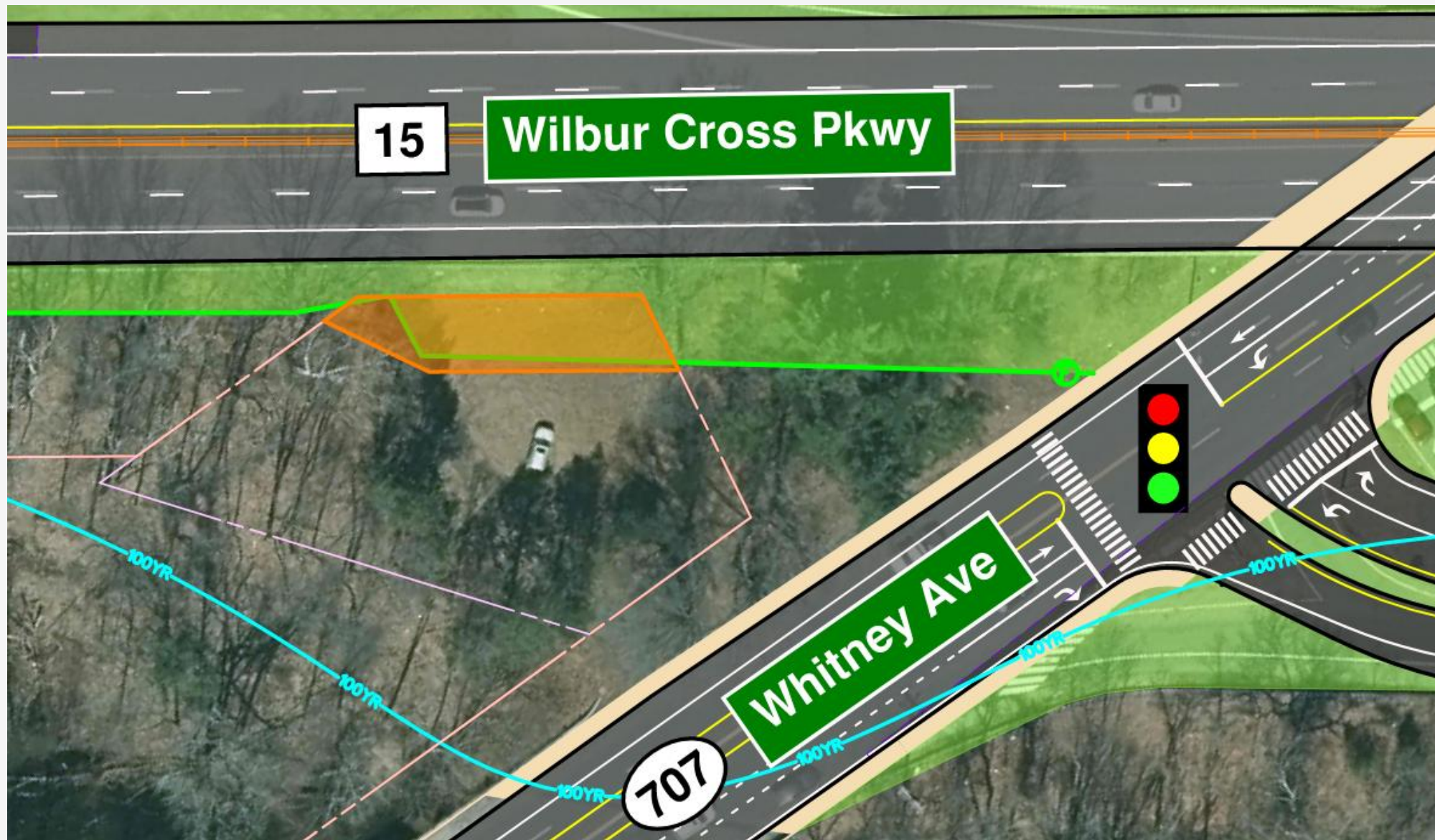
LEGEND:

-  DISTURBED AREA
-  FULL DEPTH CONSTRUCTION
-  MILL & OVERLAY
-  SIDEWALK
-  FLOODWAY
-  RETAINING WALL

ROW Impacts



ROW Impacts



ROW Impacts



ROW Impacts



Right-of-Way Relevant Law

State of Connecticut

- C.G.S. Sections 13a-73 & 13a-98e

Federal

- Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970, as amended.



Right-of-Way Acquisition Process

Letter of Intent to Acquire

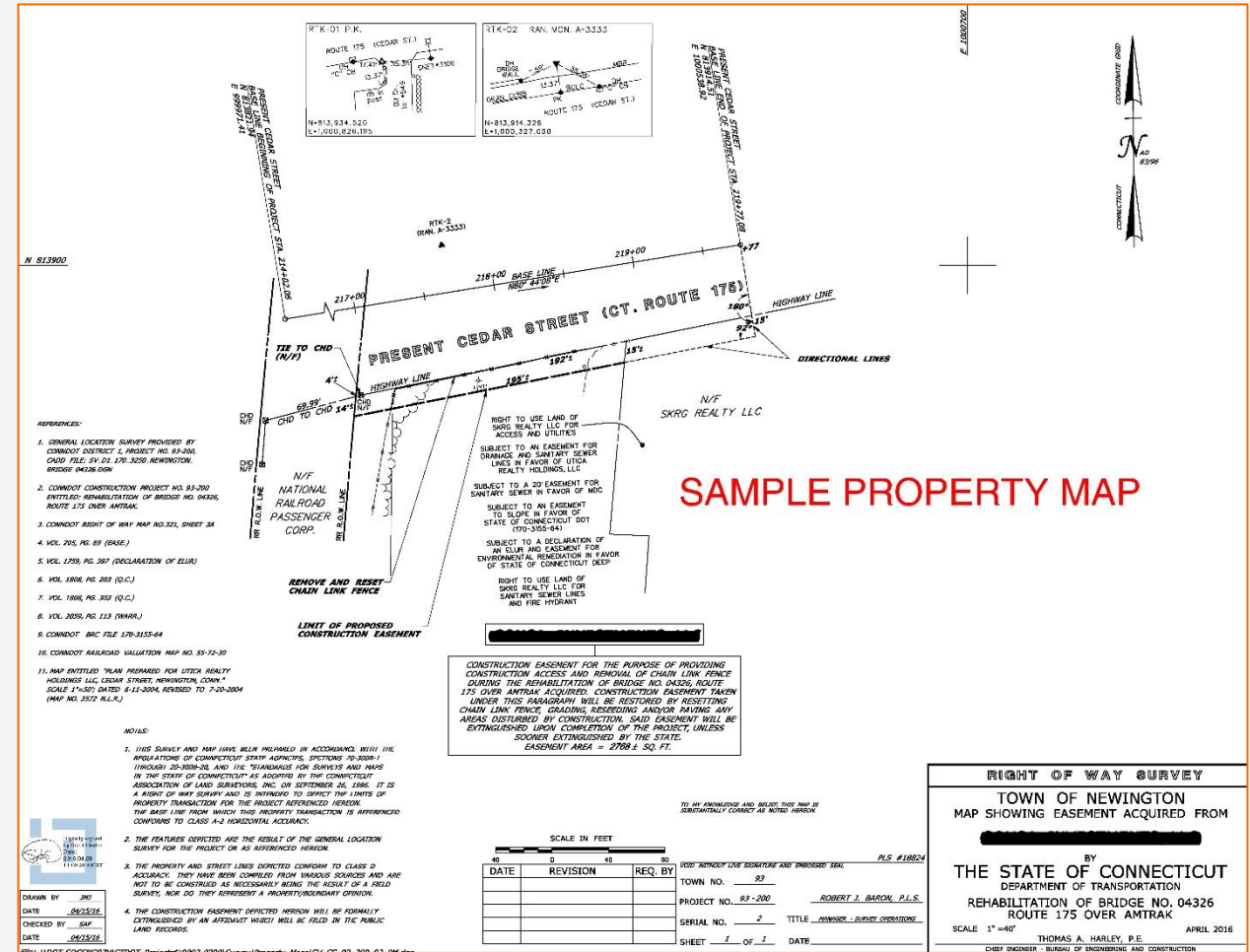
Valuation

Offer of Just Compensation

Negotiation

Acquisition

- Agreement
- Eminent Domain/Condemnation
- 6-month Appeal Period

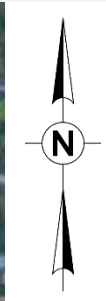


Construction Considerations

Maintenance & Protection of Traffic

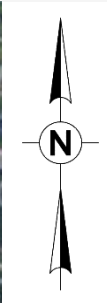
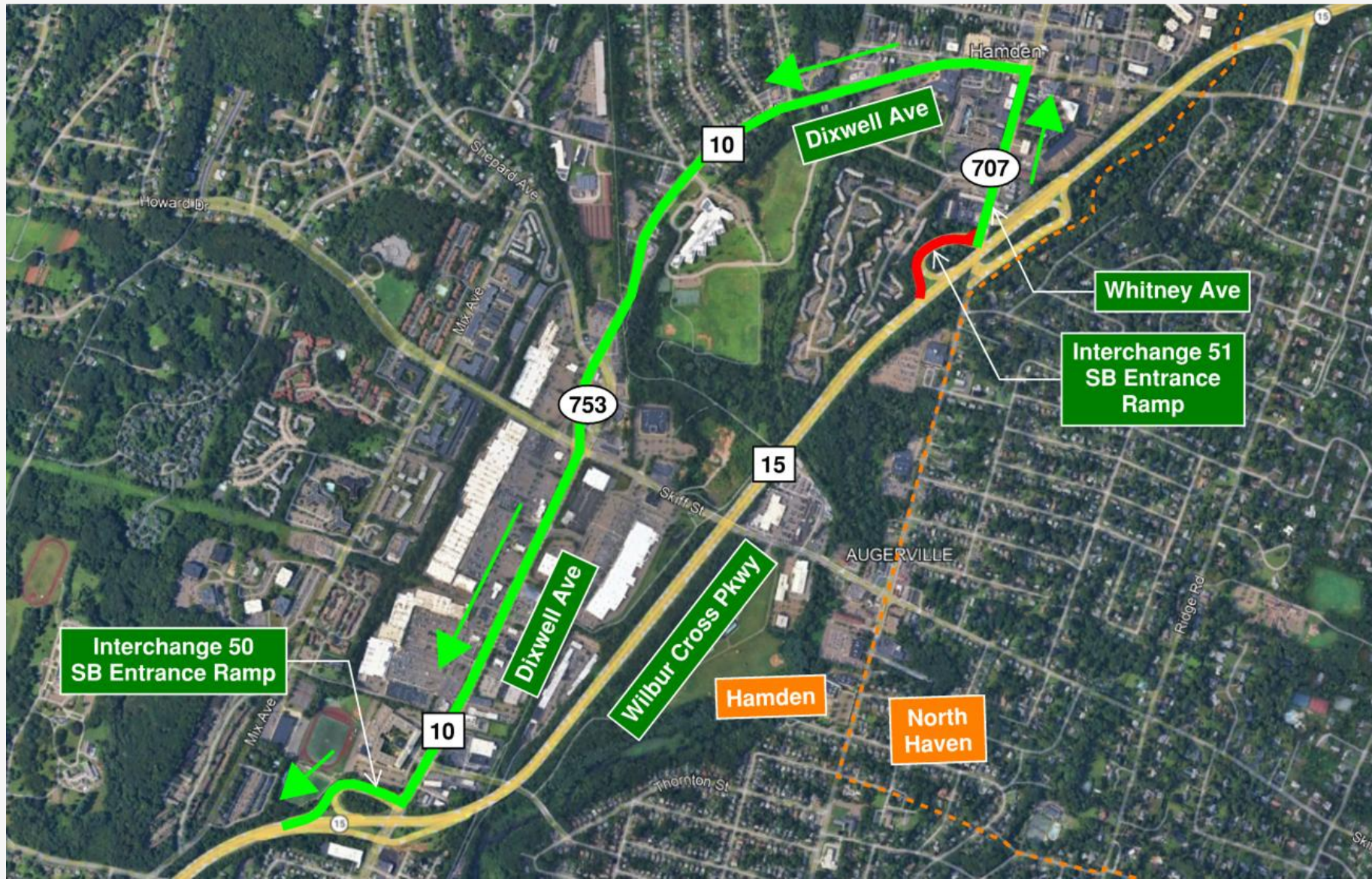
- Detours
- Lane shifts
- Access to residential and commercial driveways will be coordinated during sidewalk construction and paving on Whitney Avenue
- Considerations for night work

Detour Plan – NB Entrance Ramp Closure



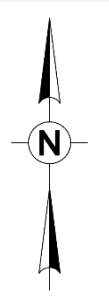
- Ramp Closure
- Detour Route
- Town Line

Detour Plan – SB Entrance Ramp Closure



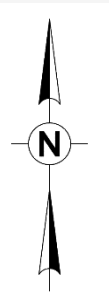
- Ramp Closure
- Detour Route
- Town Line

Detour Plan – SB Exit 51 Ramp Closure



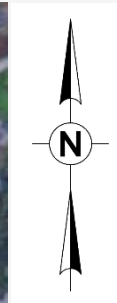
- Ramp Closure
- Detour Route
- Town Line

Detour Plan – SB Exit 52 Ramp Closure



- Ramp Closure
- Detour Route
- - - Town Line

Detour Plan – NB Exit 51 Ramp Closure

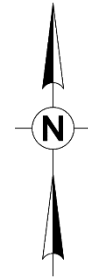


- Ramp Closure
- Detour Route
- Town Line

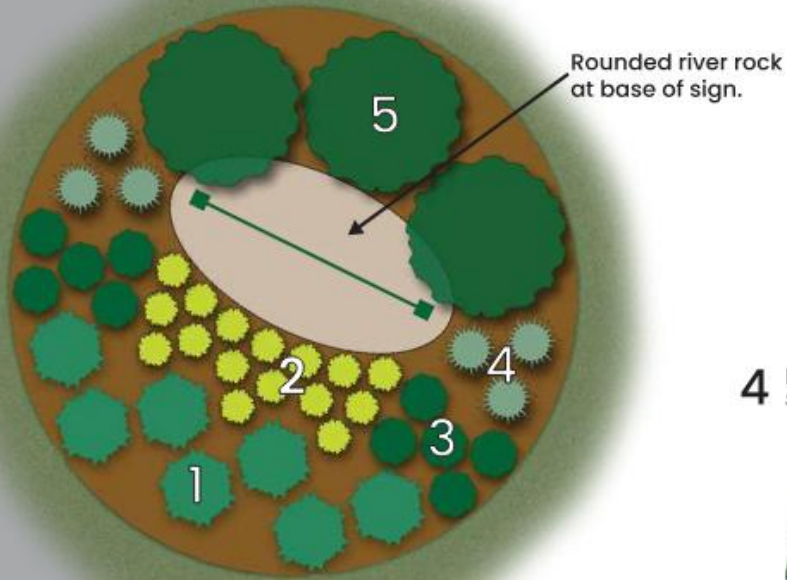
Landscape Design

Project Goals

- Erosion control
- Tree canopy restoration
- Pollinator meadow and conservation areas
- Residential buffer plantings
- Drainage and infiltration areas
- Street trees along pedestrian facilities



PLAN VIEW



Welcome to Hamden Signage Landscape Design Concept



Several "Welcome to Hamden" signs fall within the project work area and could be restored/renovated as part of the project scope. This plan is an example of a potential landscaping redesign.

4 LITTLE BLUESTEM
Schizachyrium scoparium 'Prairie Blues'



5 INKBERRY
Ilex glabra 'Shamrock'



1 CREEPING JUNIPER
Juniperus horizontalis 'Blue Rug'



2 LILY TURF
Liriope muscari 'Variegata'



3 BLACK-EYED SUSAN
Rudbeckia fulgida var. deamii



LANDSCAPE DESIGN UNIT

Cost, Funding, and Schedule

Cost Estimate

Construction Cost \$27.7 million

Total Project Cost \$32 million

Project Funding

Funding Program:

National Highway Performance Program

Construction:

80% Federal / 20% State

Project Schedule*

Start of Construction Spring 2028

End of Construction Fall 2029

*Subject to available funding and permits

Questions or Comments?



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By Phone: (860) 594-2020 (voicemail)



Project Webpage: <http://portal.ct.gov/DOTHamden0061-0156>



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