



# Fort Benton Bridge

## Public Open House

Tuesday, November 19, 2024





# Welcome!

The Montana Department of Transportation (MDT) is replacing the Fort Benton Bridge at the current location and providing a temporary bridge to maintain traffic during construction. The project will widen the current bridge, update the roadway surface, and improve safety.





# Project Team

**Jim Wingerter**

**MDT District Administrator**

**J.R. Taylor**

**MDT Project Manager**

**Jimmy Combs**

**MDT District Traffic Engineer**

**Dustin Hirose**

**HDR Project Manager**

**Riley Lubbers**

**HDR Roadway Engineer**

**Pat Joyce**

**HDR Bridge Engineer**

**Jon Schick**

**HDR Environmental  
Specialist**

**Brittany Cremer**

**HDR Public Involvement**



Eliminate all traffic fatalities and serious injuries.

We need **EVERYONE** to do their part.

Increase safe and healthy mobility for all.

Drive attentive | Drive sober | Wear your seatbelt | Drive to the conditions and do not speed

Learn more about Vision Zero at [mdt.mt.gov/visionzero](https://mdt.mt.gov/visionzero)



# Project Overview

**Fort Benton provides an important connection across the Missouri River. Infrastructure like the Fort Benton Bridge is vital to the local and regional economies.**

Constructed in 1962, the bridge is still safe to use. However, the bridge needs structural repairs, mainly due to the bridge deck (the part you drive on) being in poor condition.

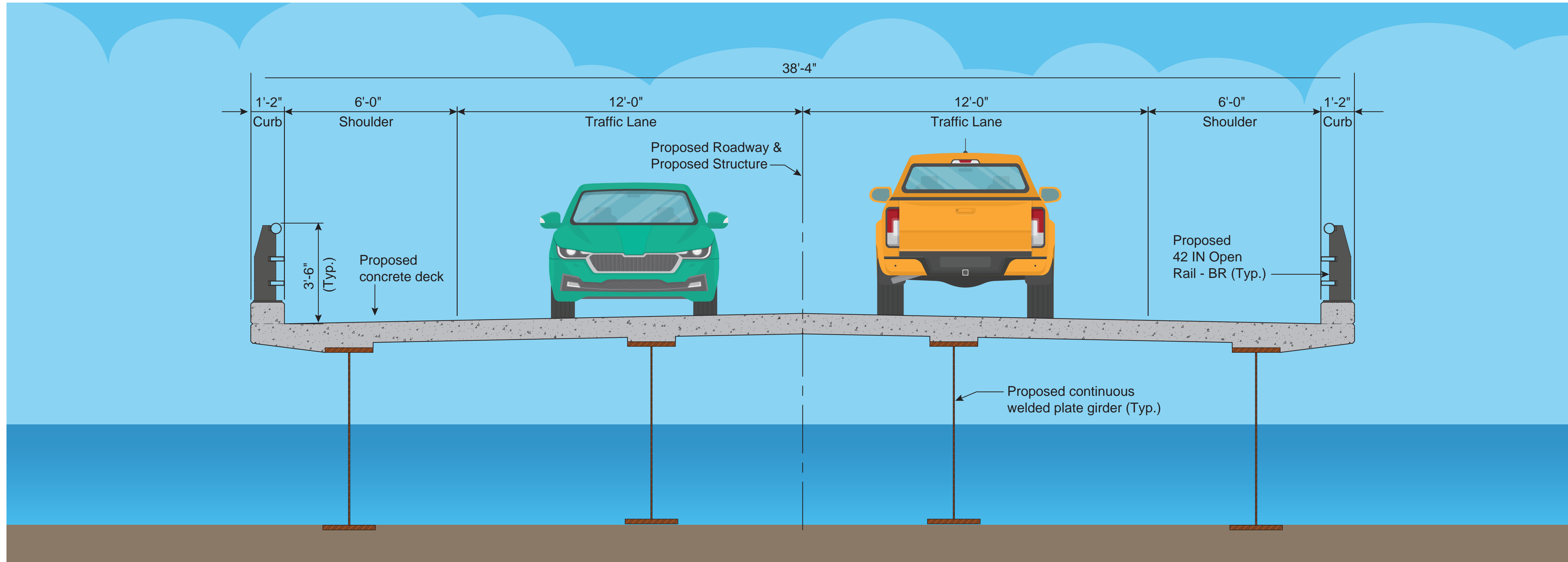
Through alternatives analysis, MDT determined that the most beneficial alternative to improving travel and safety across the Missouri River was to replace the bridge while providing a temporary bridge structure during construction to maintain traffic and access.

**Estimated Construction Cost:**  
\$30 million

**Estimated Construction Timeline:**  
Construction is tentatively planned to begin in 2027, depending on completion of design and availability of funding.

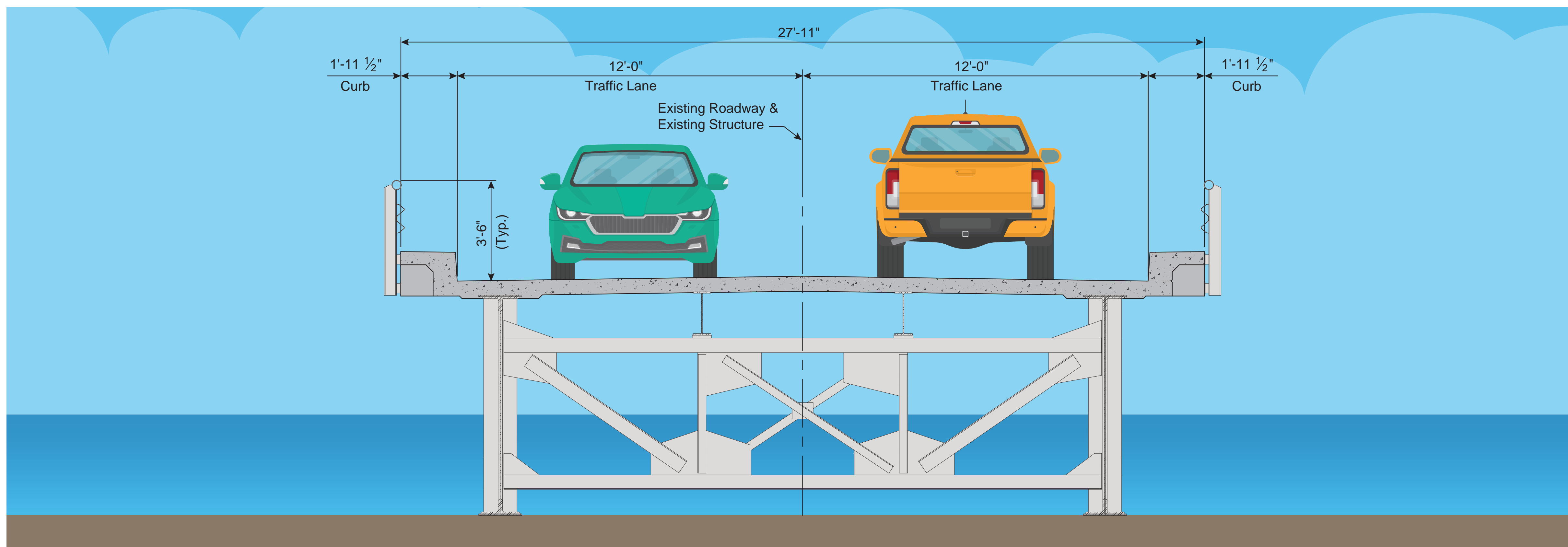


# New Bridge Benefits



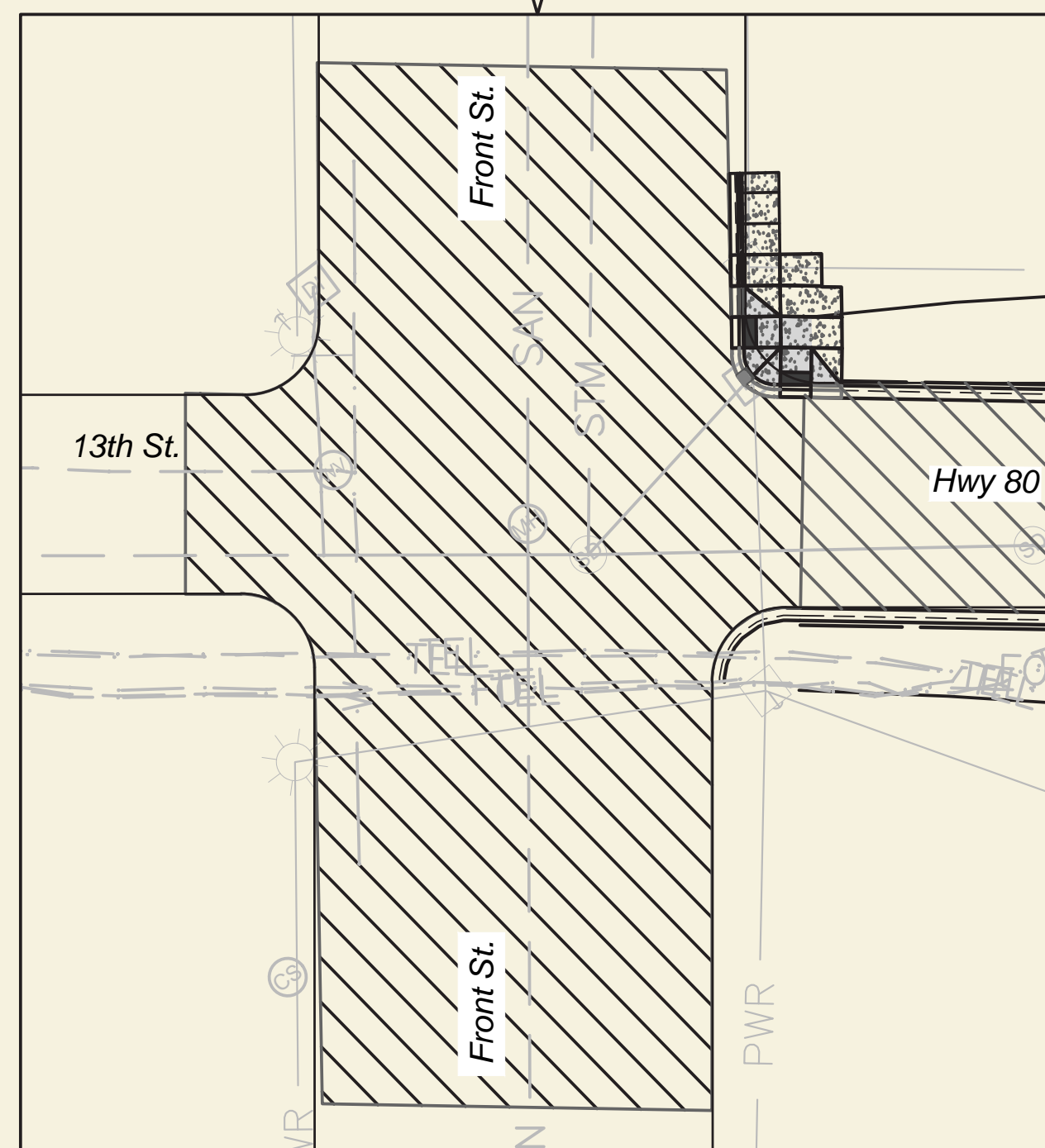
## Proposed bridge replacement

- » Wider shoulders
- » More clearance space for wide loads
- » Enhanced deck surface



## Existing bridge dimensions

# Temporary Bridge

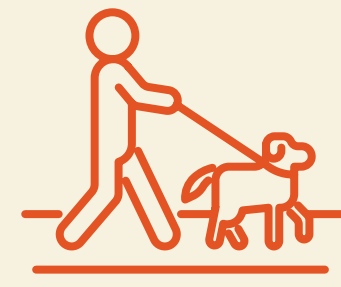


- » Temporary bridge to be constructed adjacent newly-constructed bridge to maintain traffic during construction
- » The temporary bridge will accommodate typical highway traffic
- » Two-way traffic will be available during construction

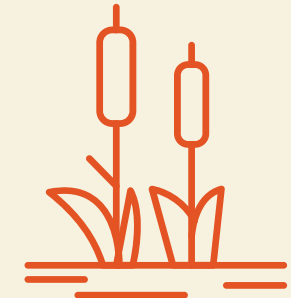
# Environmental Considerations

» Construction of the temporary bridge or the new bridge won't impact water intake to the water treatment plant upstream

» Special attention and consideration to:



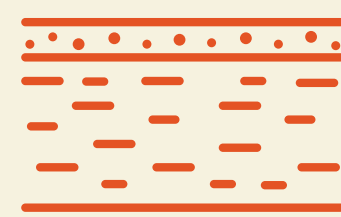
Steamboat Levee Walk (river trail and greenspace)



The Missouri River and adjacent wetlands



Federally endangered pallid sturgeon



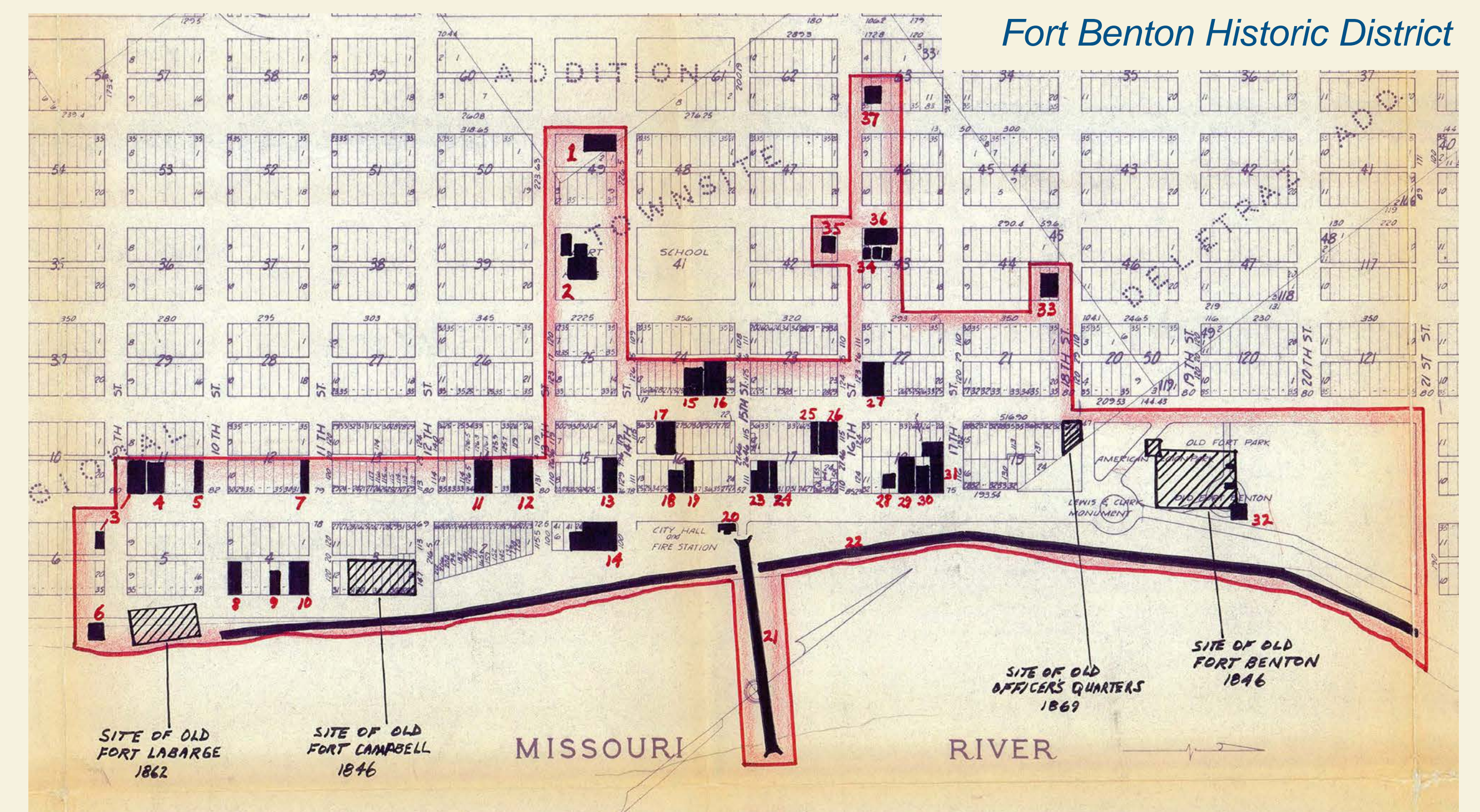
Existing soil contamination near the southeast corner of Front Street and 13th Street.



Historic buildings and district



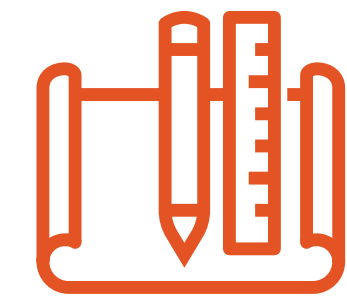
River recreation during construction







# Project Schedule



## DESIGN phase

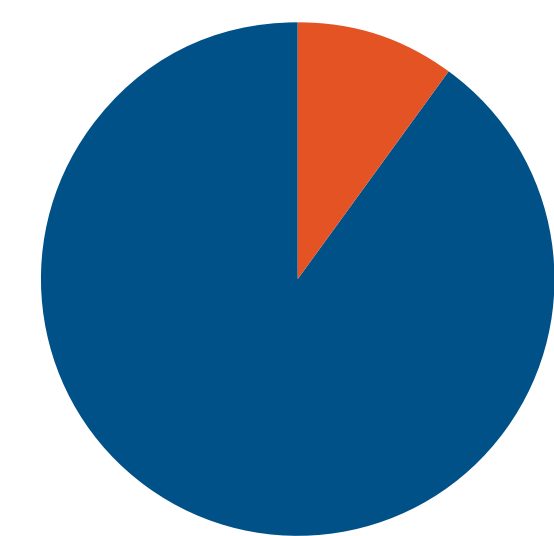
The project is in the design phase.



## CONSTRUCTION phase

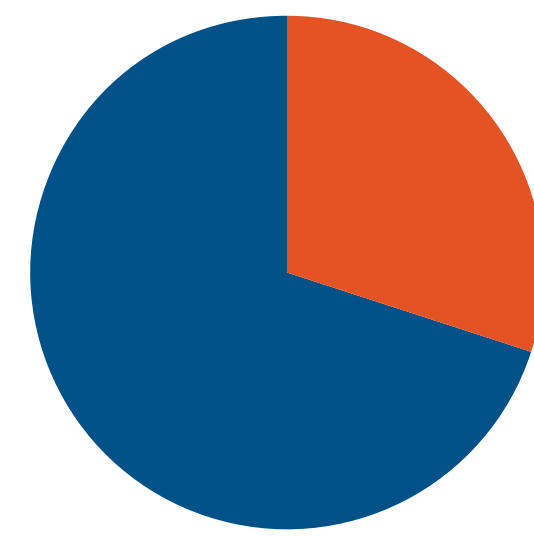
Tentatively planned for 2027

Subject to change depending on available funding and completion of all project development activities.



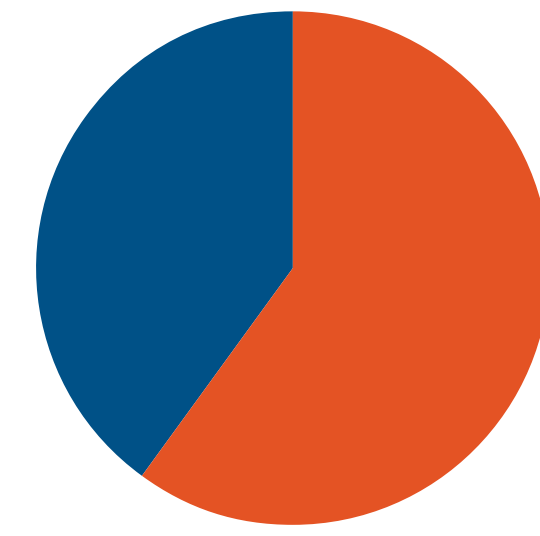
10%

Complete



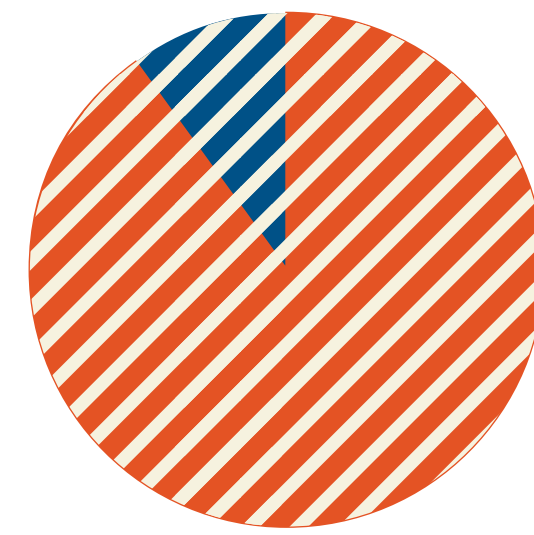
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Complete



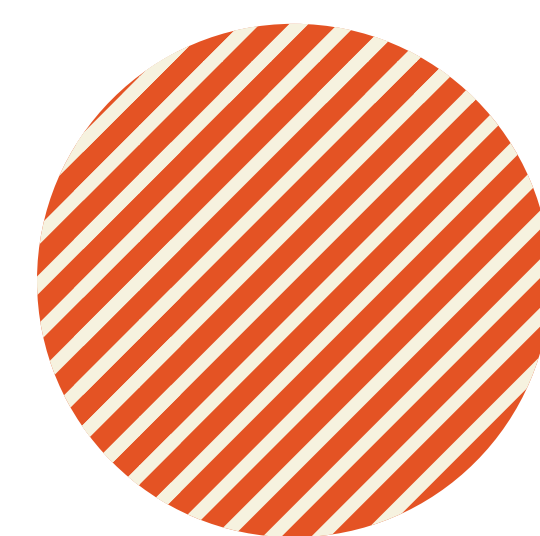
60%

Complete



90%

End of 2025



100%

Spring 2026



# Thank you for participating!

## Contact us for more info:



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**HDR Public Involvement**  
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Visit [mdt.mt.gov/pubinvolve/fortbentonbridge](https://mdt.mt.gov/pubinvolve/fortbentonbridge)  
to stay updated on this project



# Comments Welcome



**We encourage you to share your input.**



Please fill out a comment form and place your feedback in the comment box or scan the QR code to visit the project website to leave a comment.

**[mdt.mt.gov/pubinvolve/fortbentonbridge](https://mdt.mt.gov/pubinvolve/fortbentonbridge)**

