



Long Bridge Project

December 5, 2025

MWCOG TPB Technical Committee Meeting

Shirlene Cleveland, PE

Senior Director



Agenda

1. Virginia Passenger Rail Authority (VPRA)
2. Long Bridge Project Overview
3. Rail Service Changes
4. Traffic Management Plan – DC side
5. Questions



Virginia Passenger Rail Authority

Who is Virginia Passenger Rail Authority (VPRA)?

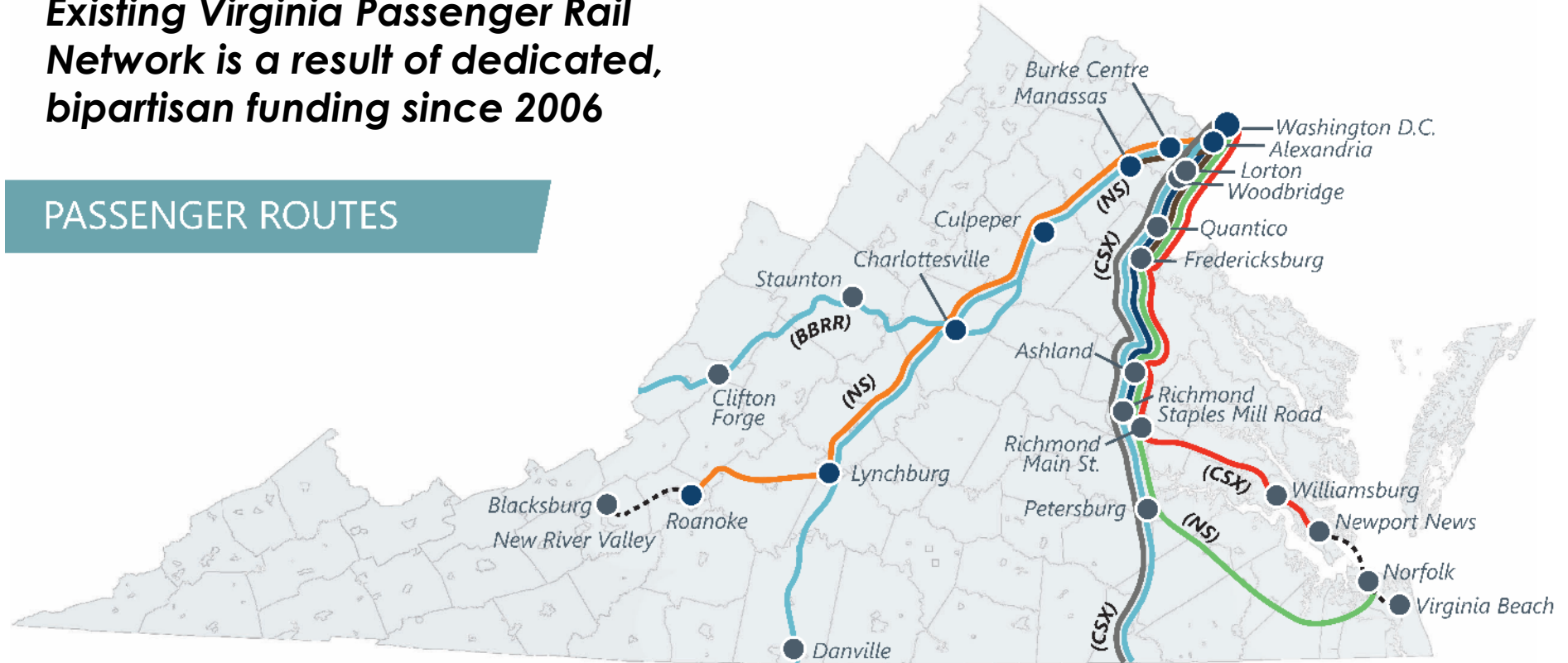
- Created in 2020 by the Virginia General Assembly
- Responsible for expanding and promoting passenger and commuter rail
 - State-sponsored Routes and Marketing
 - Capital Program



Virginia Passenger Rail Network 2025

Existing Virginia Passenger Rail Network is a result of dedicated, bipartisan funding since 2006

PASSENGER ROUTES



Virginia State-Supported Services

- Washington-Roanoke (Route 46)
- Washington-Newport News (Route 47)
- Washington-Norfolk (Route 50)
- Washington-Richmond (Route 51)

Host Railroads

- CSX - CSX Transportation
- NS - Norfolk Southern
- BBRR - Buckingham Branch
- Passenger Station

Other Services

- Other Amtrak State-Supported
- Amtrak Long-Distance
- VRE Commuter Rail
- Thruway Bus

Four State-Supported Amtrak Routes:

8 daily roundtrips

- Roanoke: 2
- Richmond: 1
- Newport News: 2
- Norfolk: 3

Five Amtrak Long-Distance Roundtrips

One NC State-Supported Roundtrip

Two Virginia Railway Express (VRE) Commuter Routes:

16 daily roundtrips

- Manassas: 8
- Fredericksburg: 8

Transforming Rail in Virginia Program

Virginia Passenger Rail Authority (VPR) was formed in 2020

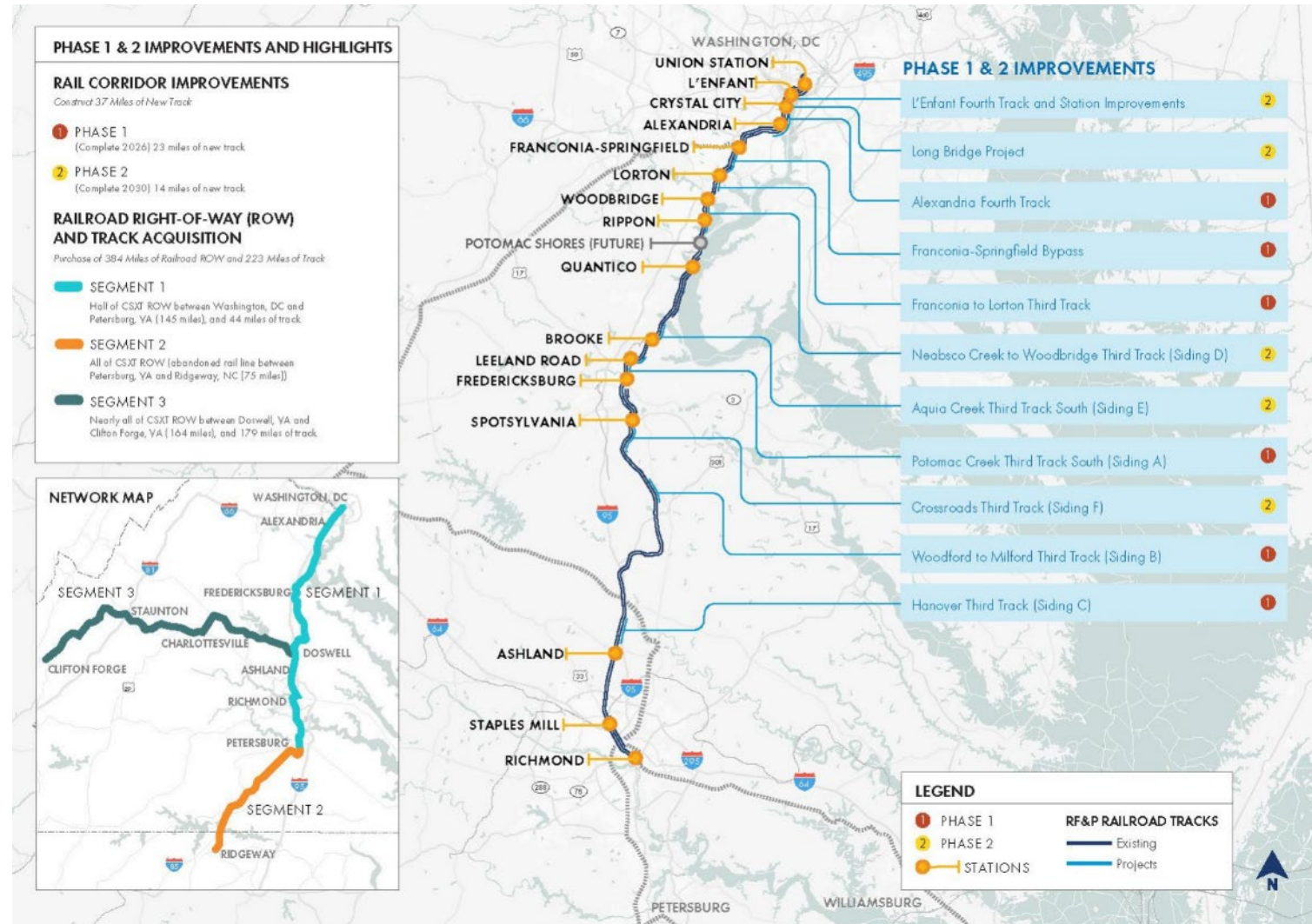
- responsible for promoting, sustaining, and expanding passenger and commuter rail service
- partner with others to operate passenger and commuter rail service

TRV Program will double state-supported Amtrak service into Union Station and increase VRE service by 75%

Acquisition of abandoned S-Line to NC

- Raleigh to Richmond Project

Acquisition of CSXT ROW



7

7

- 7**



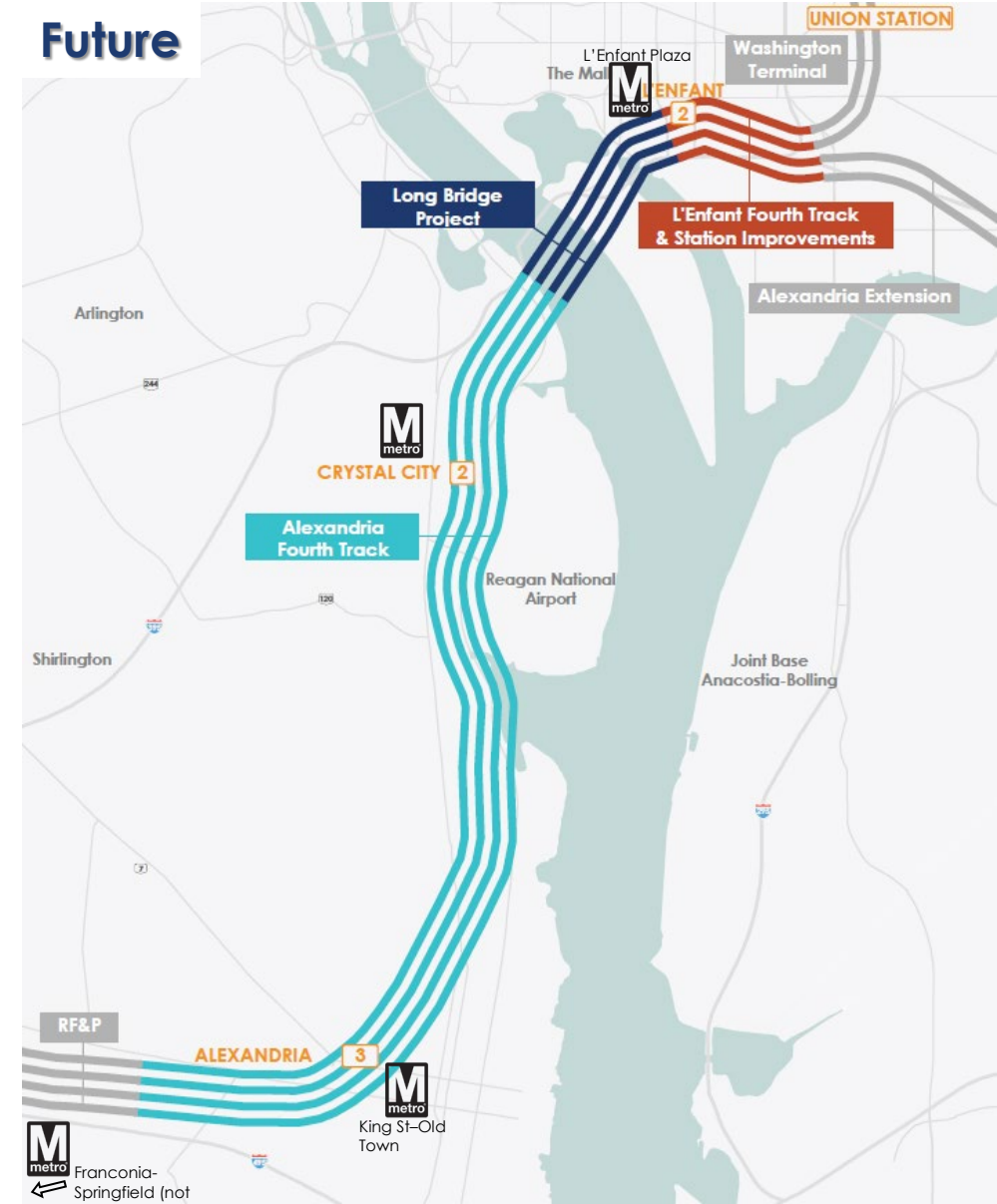
TRV Projects in and near DC



L'Enfant 4th Track
2030
(3 to 4 tracks)

Long Bridge
2030
(2 to 4 tracks)

Alexandria 4th Track
Late 2027
(3 to 4 tracks)

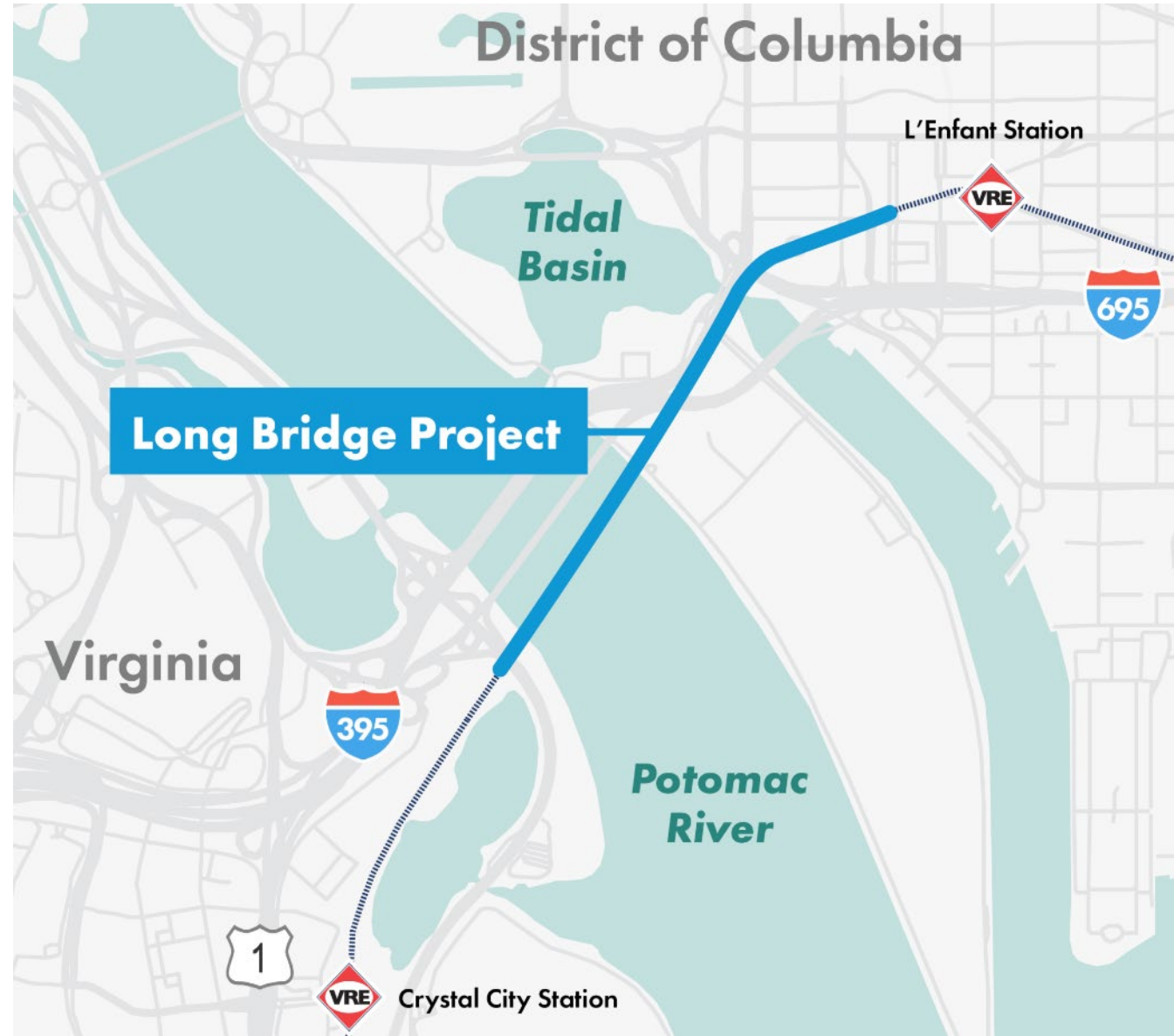


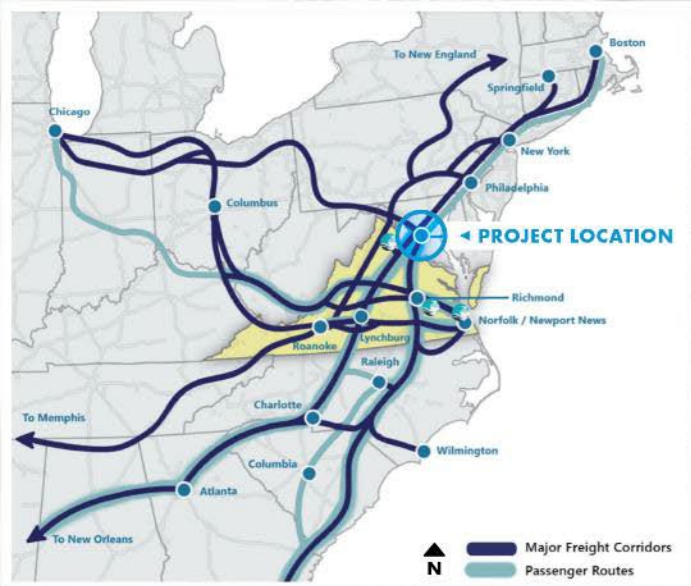


Long Bridge Project Overview

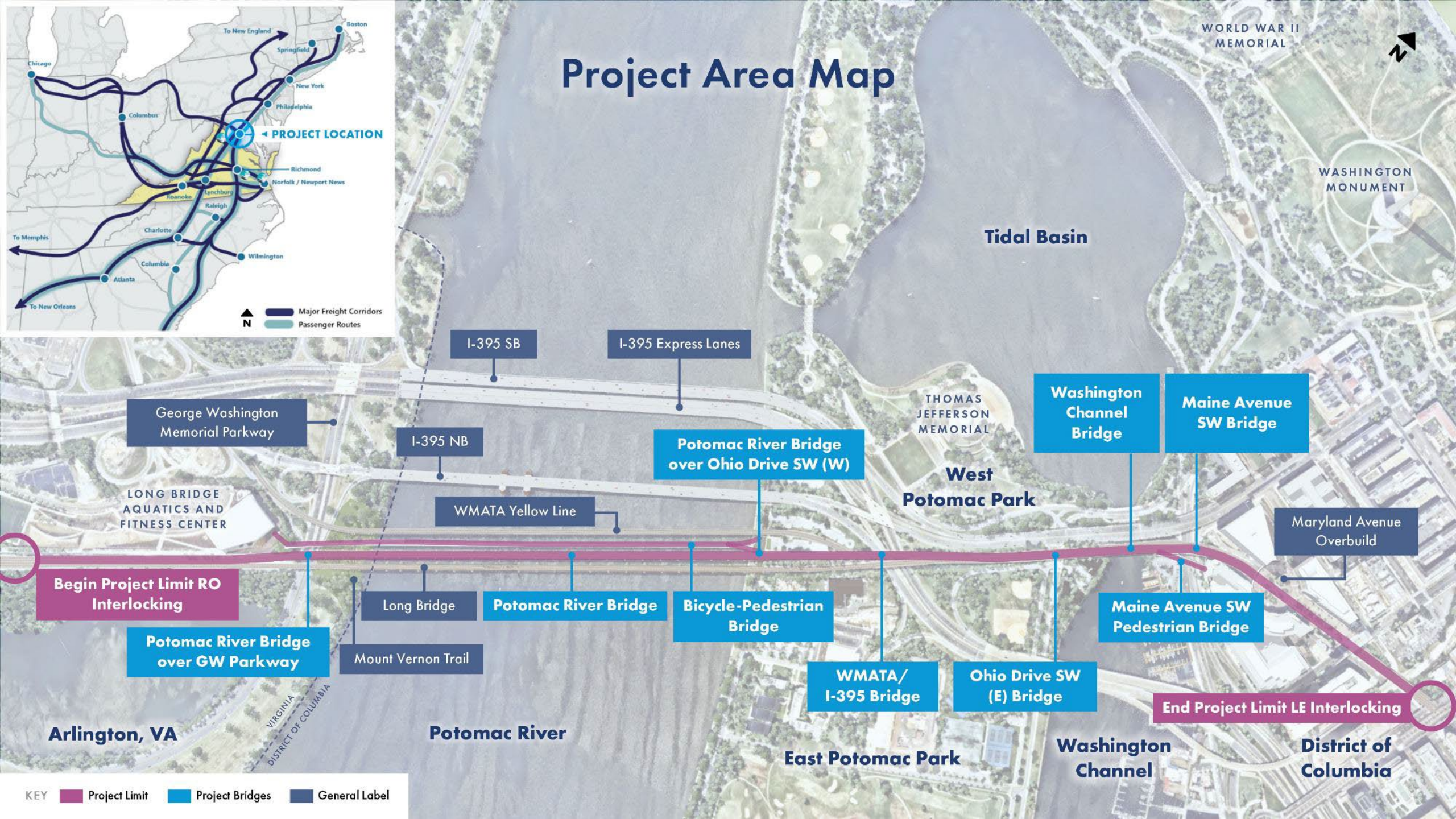
Long Bridge Project Overview

- The existing two-track rail bridge is owned and operated by CSXT and operates at 98% capacity with nearly 80 CSXT, Amtrak, and VRE trains crossing daily
- The existing bridge will remain and continue to be owned/operated by CSXT
- The new Long Bridge will add two additional tracks, doubling rail capacity
- The 1.8-mile project corridor includes five rail bridges and two pedestrian bridges





Project Area Map



KEY
Project Limit
Project Bridges
General Label

Project Overview



Rendering of bridges looking from Virginia

1.8 mile

Project

20,000

Feet of Track

6,500 ft

Rail Bridges

3

Rail Operators

2,800 ft

Potomac River Bike
-Pedestrian Bridge

2

New Tracks
VA to DC

3,500 ft

Retaining/
Crashwalls

5

New Rail
Bridges

70

Daily
Trains

1

New Potomac River
Bike/Ped Bridge

37 +

Stakeholders

1

Maine Ave Pedestrian Bridge



North and South Packages



South Package

- Constructs a rail bridge and bike/ped bridge over the George Washington Memorial Parkway & Potomac River
- Construction estimated mid-2026 through 2030

North Package

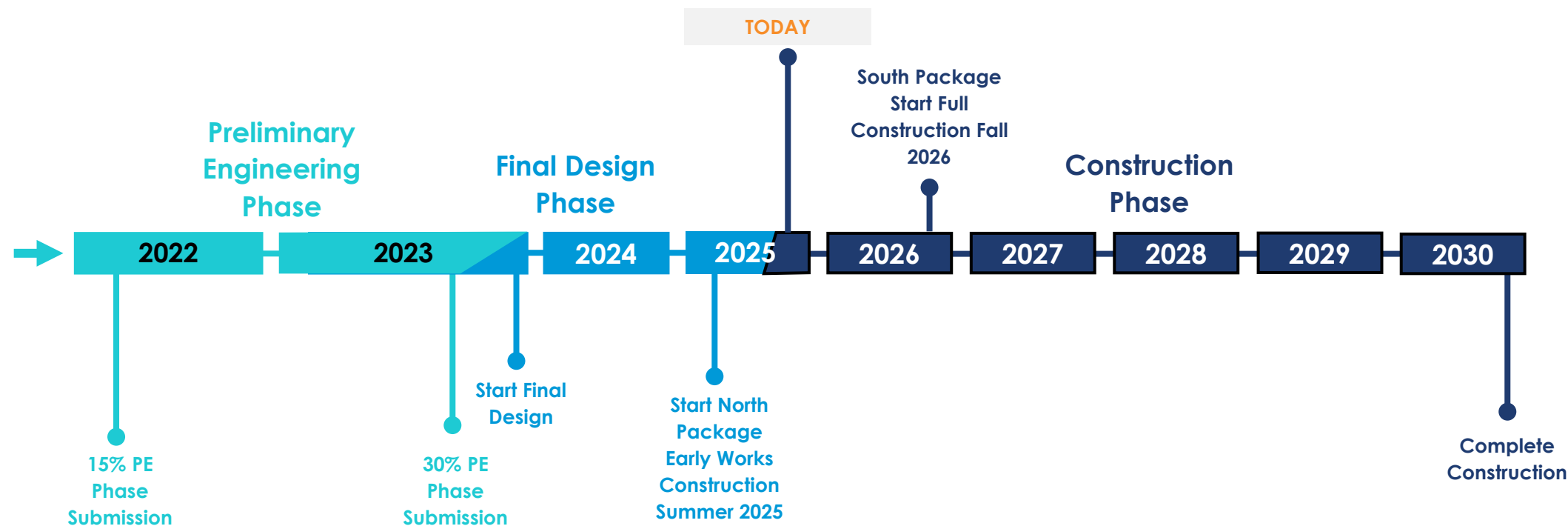
- Constructs new bridges in the District north of the Potomac River, as well as retaining walls, embankments, ground improvements & crash walls
- Construction Spring 2025 through 2030

Project Timeline



Design & Construction Timeline

Combined North and South Packages



Potomac River Bike/Pedestrian Bridge



- Mitigation for the project's parkland impacts
- New recreational connection between Long Bridge Park and East Potomac Park with a link to the Mt. Vernon Trail
- DC to own and maintain
- More than double the width of the existing bike/pedestrian path on the 14th Street Bridge



Major Stakeholders



US Army Corps
of Engineers®



REPUBLIC
PROPERTIES CORPORATION



U.S. Department of Transportation
Federal Railroad Administration



WABA
WASHINGTON AREA
BICYCLIST ASSOCIATION



The Washington Marina
Yacht Basin One



... and more





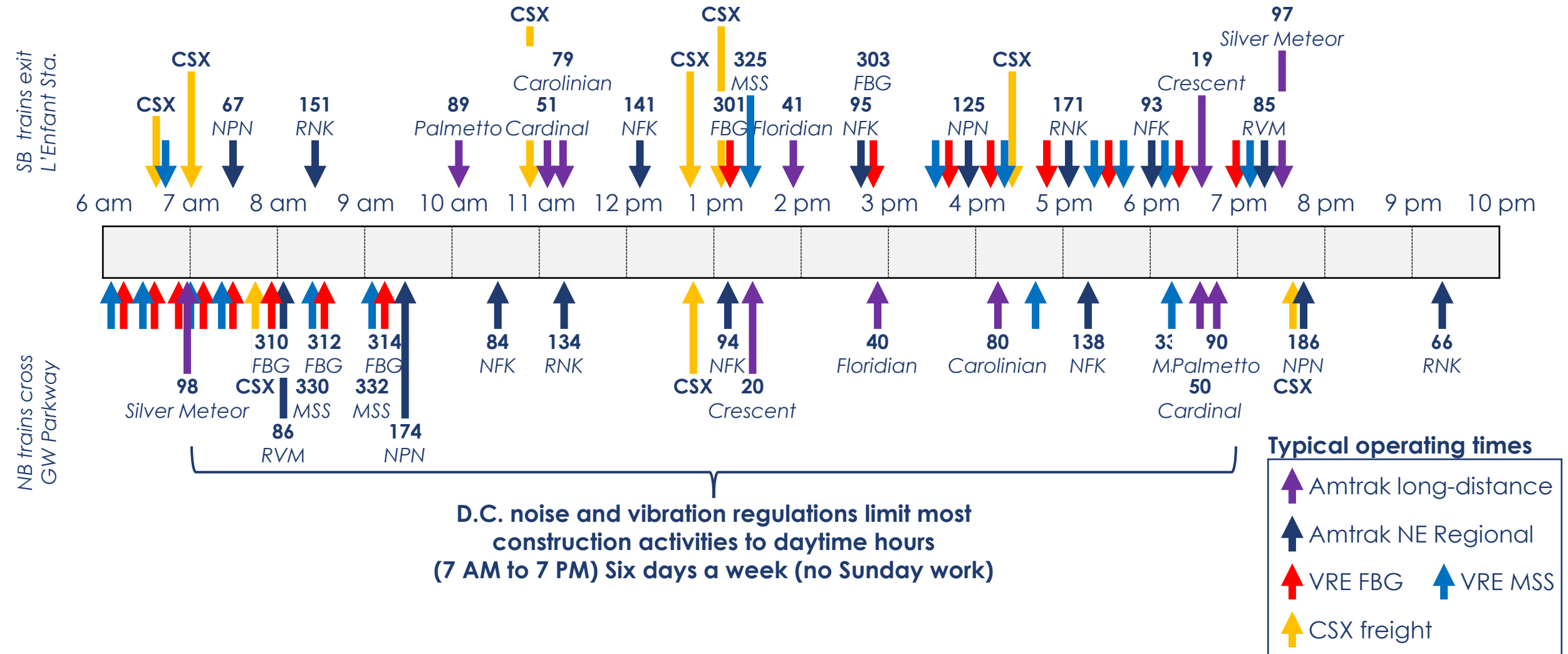
Rail Service Changes

Long Bridge Work Windows & Service Impacts

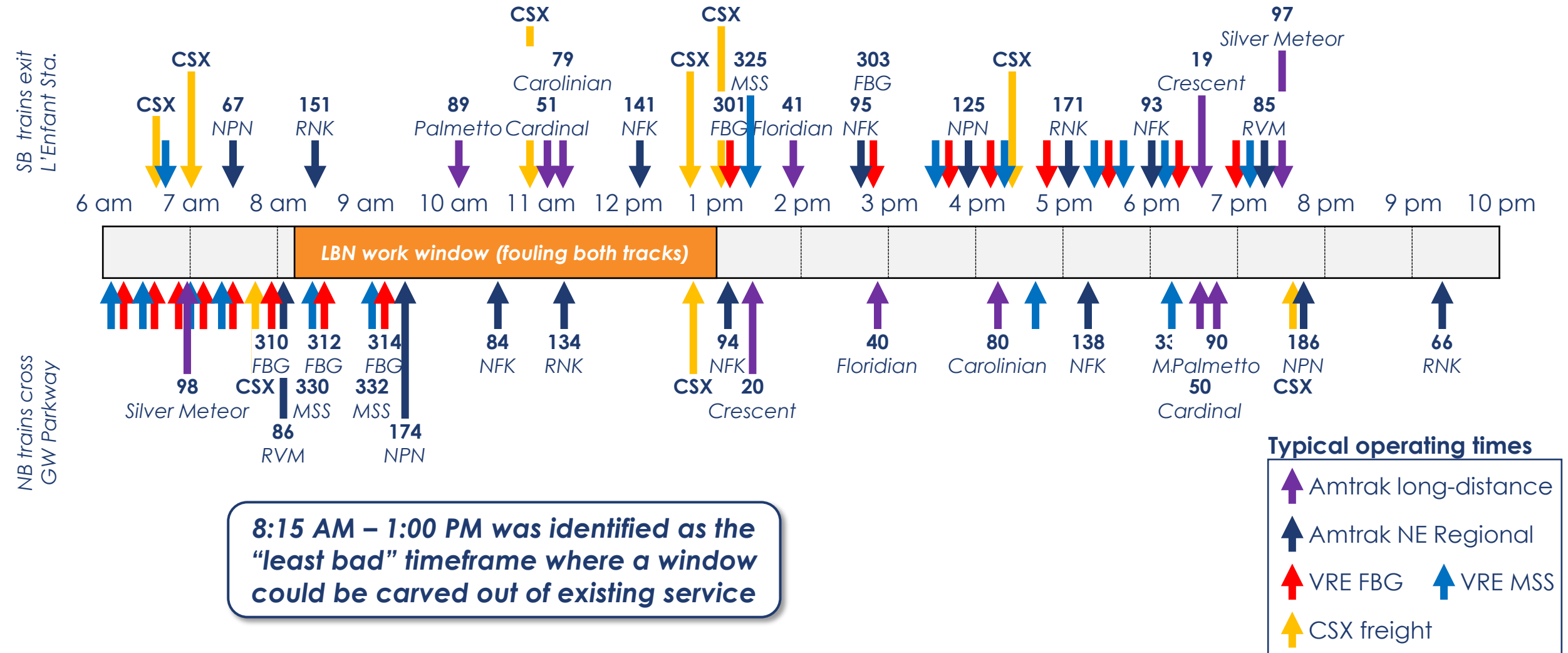
- **Problem:** Sensitive noise receptors (hotel and apartment building) adjacent to Maine Avenue Rail Bridge work, the critical path for the Long Bridge Project
- **Objective:** a service plan to facilitate a work window at Long Bridge for up to five years starting **January 2026**.
 - Maintain maximum service and optimize performance for Amtrak, VRE, and CSX
 - Maximize work window productivity
 - Utilize the work window opportunity created by Long Bridge – North for all projects when feasible
- **Constraints:**
 - **DC Noise and Vibration laws restrict significant work to daytime hours (Mon – Sat) for the Long Bridge – North project.**
 - VRE “AM Peak” and “PM Peak” are the highest ridership times of day
 - Significant work on the NEC and at WAS also requires service adjustment considerations
 - WAS is most congested in the afternoon
 - Service Impacts affect Amtrak Virginia, Amtrak Long Distance, Carolinian, and VRE (FBG and Manassas Line)



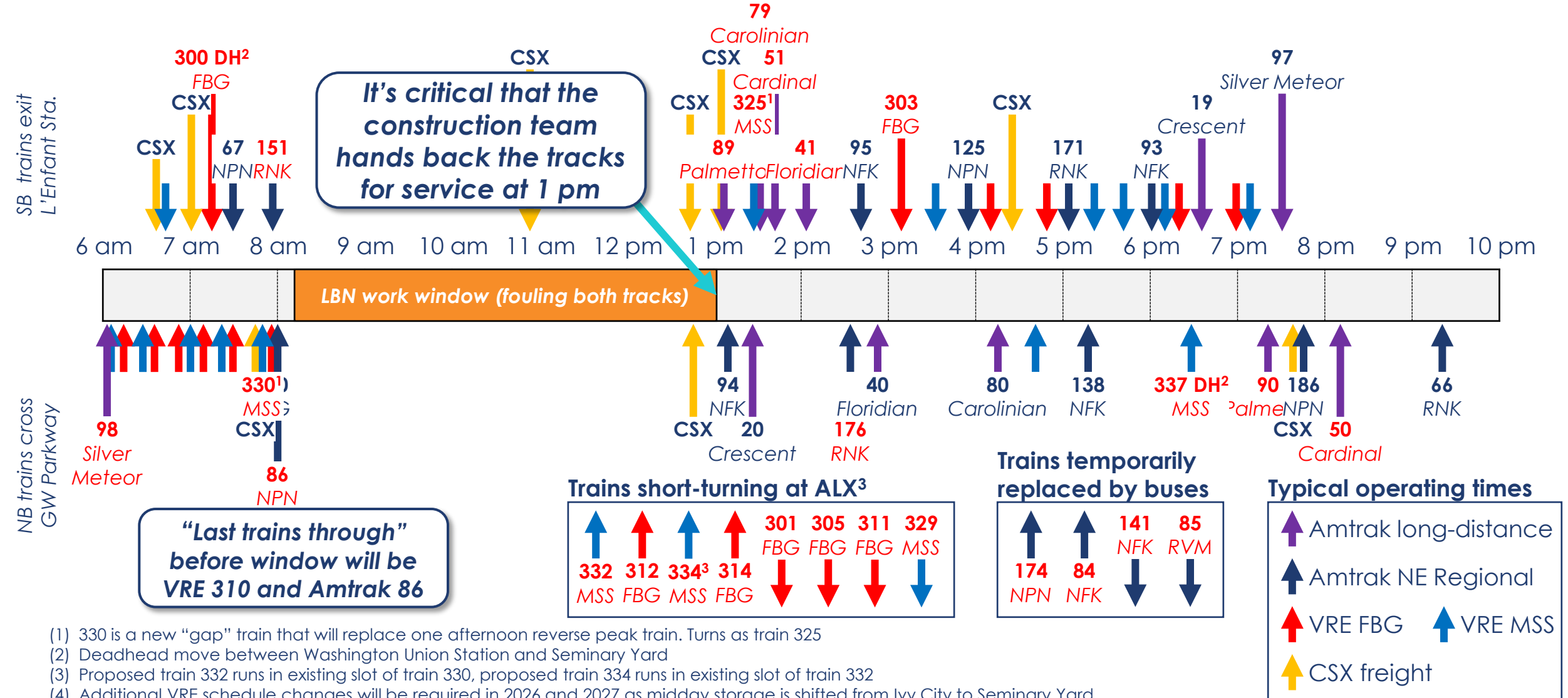
Current weekday service pattern in proximity to Long Bridge



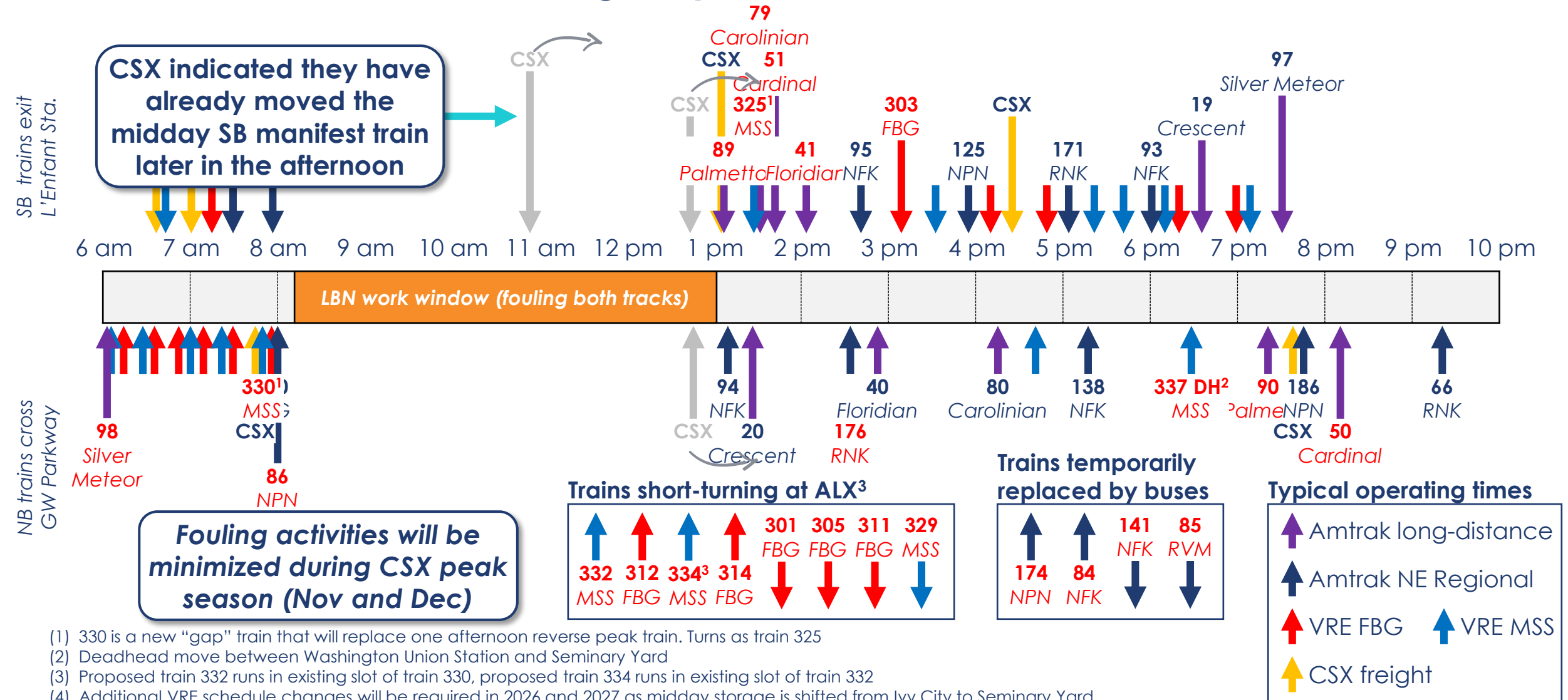
Current weekday service pattern in proximity to Long Bridge



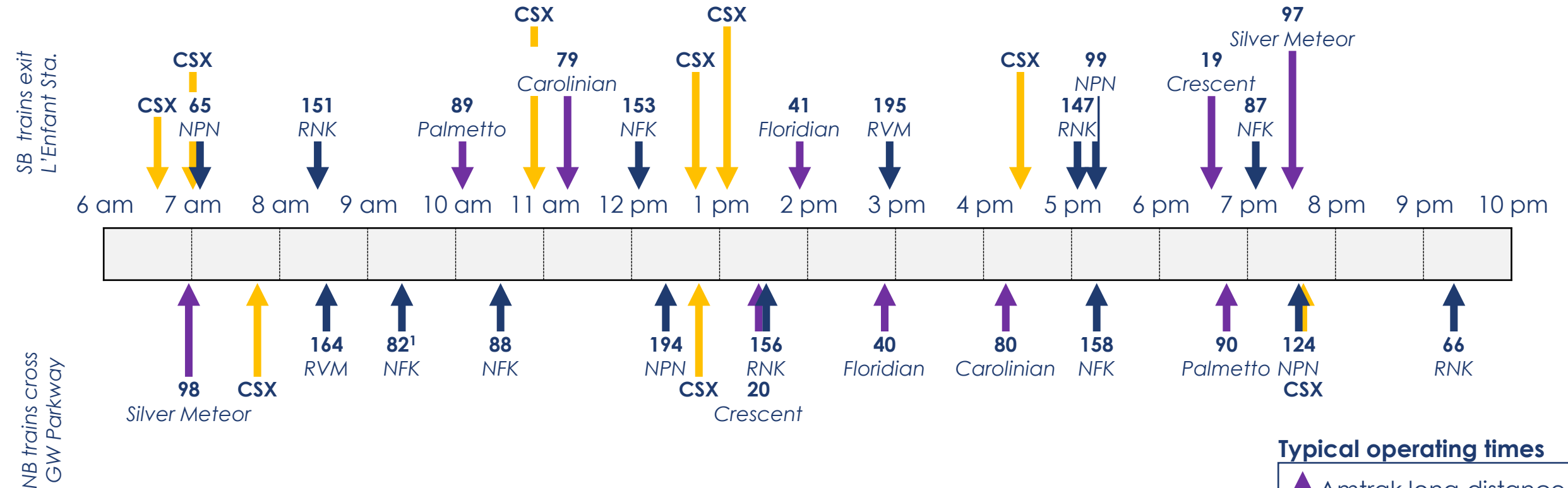
Proposed changes to passenger service on weekdays



Modifications to CSX freight operations



Current Saturday service pattern in proximity to Long Bridge



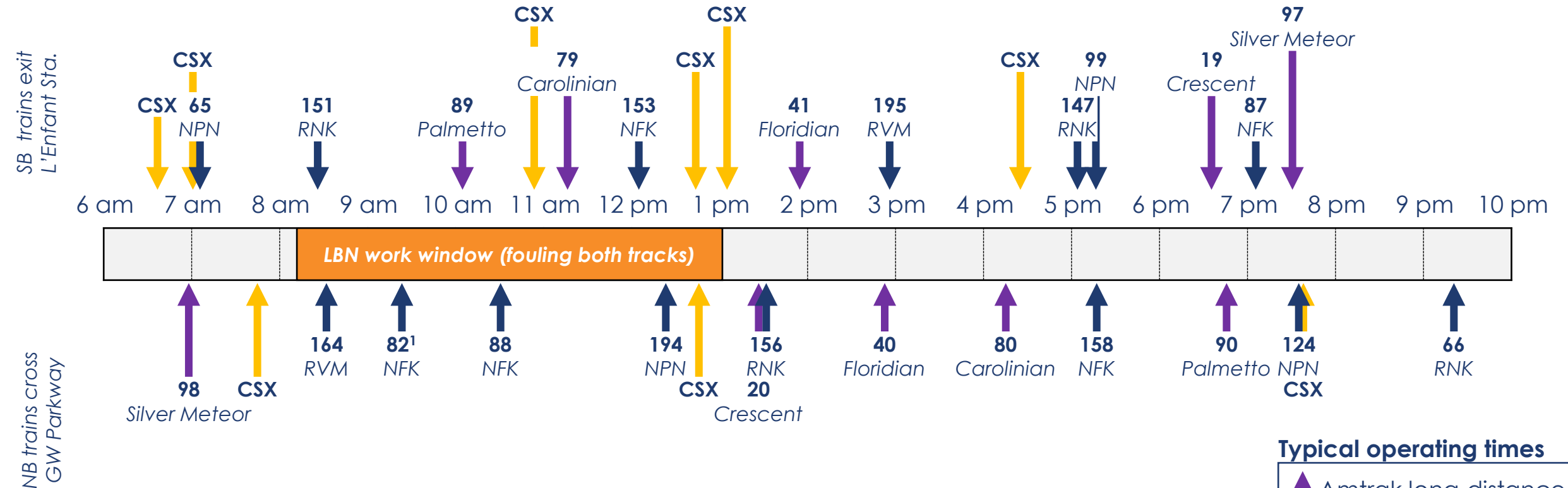
Construction work is generally not allowed on Sundays in D.C. (no outages required). Amtrak aiming to run a consistent schedule on both days.

VRE Step-Up program will be implemented on all Amtrak VA trains, including on weekends

Typical operating times

- Amtrak long-distance
- Amtrak NE Regional
- VRE FBG
- VRE MSS
- CSX freight

Current Saturday service pattern in proximity to Long Bridge



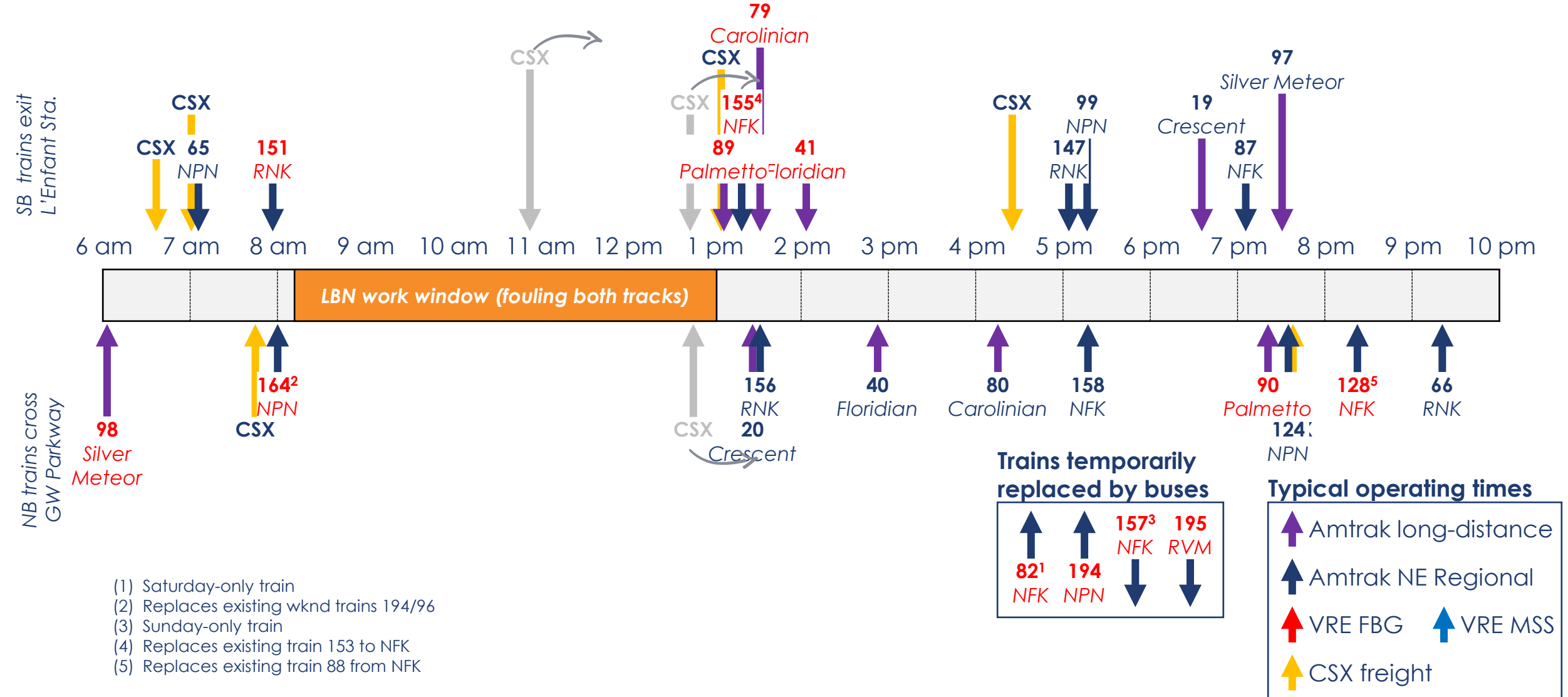
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Typical operating times

- Amtrak long-distance
- Amtrak NE Regional
- VRE FBG
- VRE MSS
- CSX freight

Proposed changes to passenger and freight service on Saturdays



Service Impacts

VRE Temporary Service Adjustments:

- **All VRE trains will be in service** – some trains will start/stop at Alexandria instead of Union Station.
- **Amtrak Step-Up Program** – gives VRE multi-ride ticketholders more options to travel in/out of Union Station
- **Temporary service adjustments** – may be refined during the project's construction

Amtrak Virginia Temporary Service Adjustments:

- **4 daily round-trip trains** (2 to Norfolk and 2 to Newport News)
- **2 daily express buses to and from Hampton Roads**, giving Newport News an additional connection to Washington, DC
- **Total service will equal 6 combined rail + bus roundtrips** (slightly more than the current 5 all-rail roundtrips)
- Departure and arrival times will shift slightly, but **corridor connectivity remains**

For more information:

VPRA

<https://vapassengerrailauthority.org/plan-my-trip/service-guide/>

VRE

<https://www.vre.org/plan-a-trip/>
<https://www.vre.org/service/transit-benefits/>

Goal: We need to keep service running throughout construction

With a combination of peak construction activity and CSX heat orders, **summer 2027** is anticipated to be the most challenging for service.

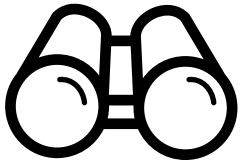
Construction schedules of selected TRV projects

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Dates from May 2025 TRV master work schedule

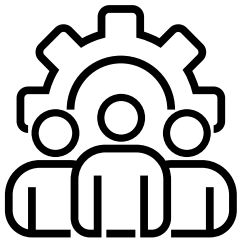
Proactively protecting operations throughout construction

1. Monitoring – *Dynamic environment will require interagency coordination.*



VPRA team will be tracking construction and MOW work updates provided by the parties and conducting regular service impact evaluations

2. Mitigating – *“What happens if Plan A doesn’t work?”*



VPRA, CSX, Amtrak, and VRE will monitor and proactively implement mitigation measures as issues arise.

Today

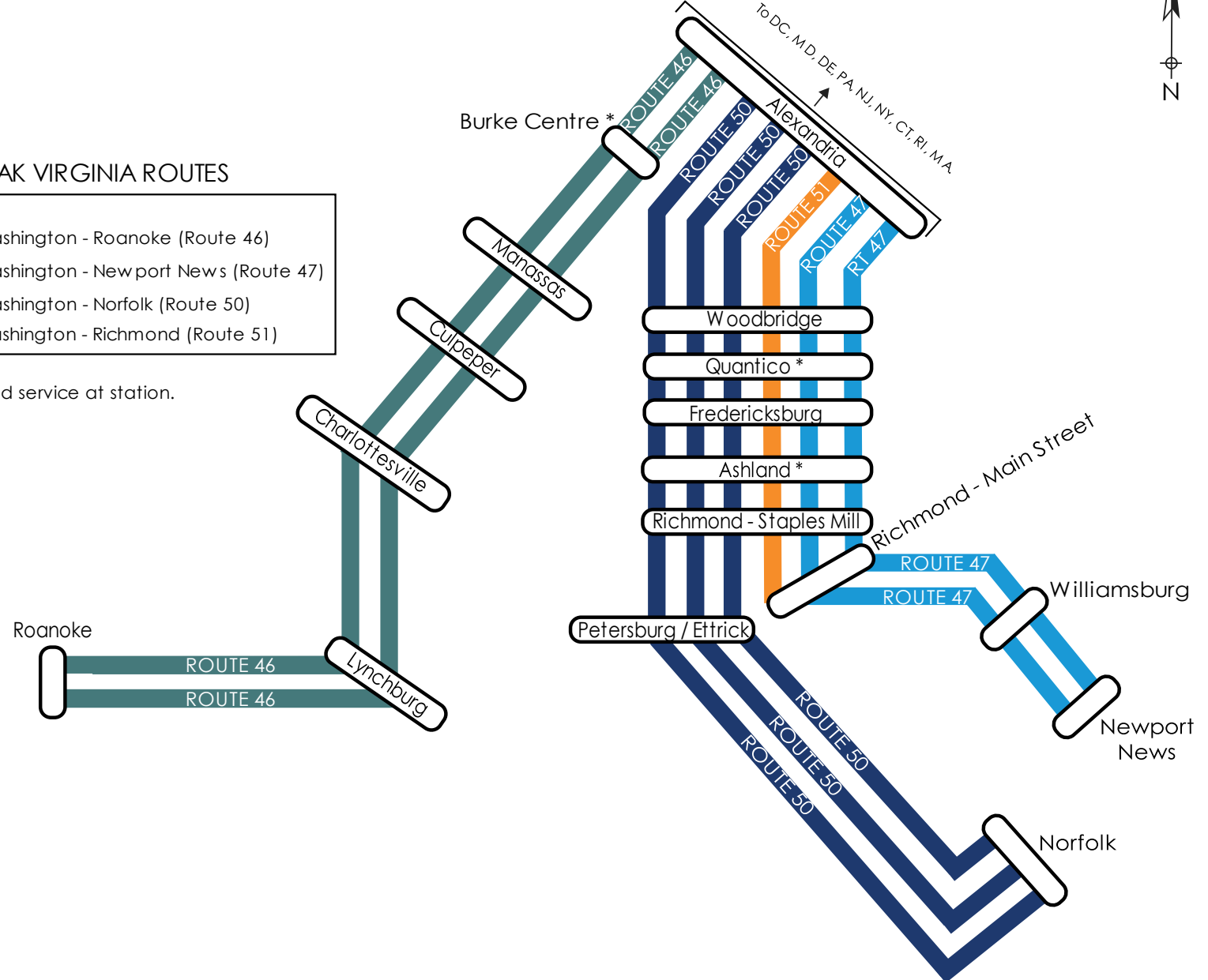
AMTRAK VIRGINIA ROUTES

LEGEND

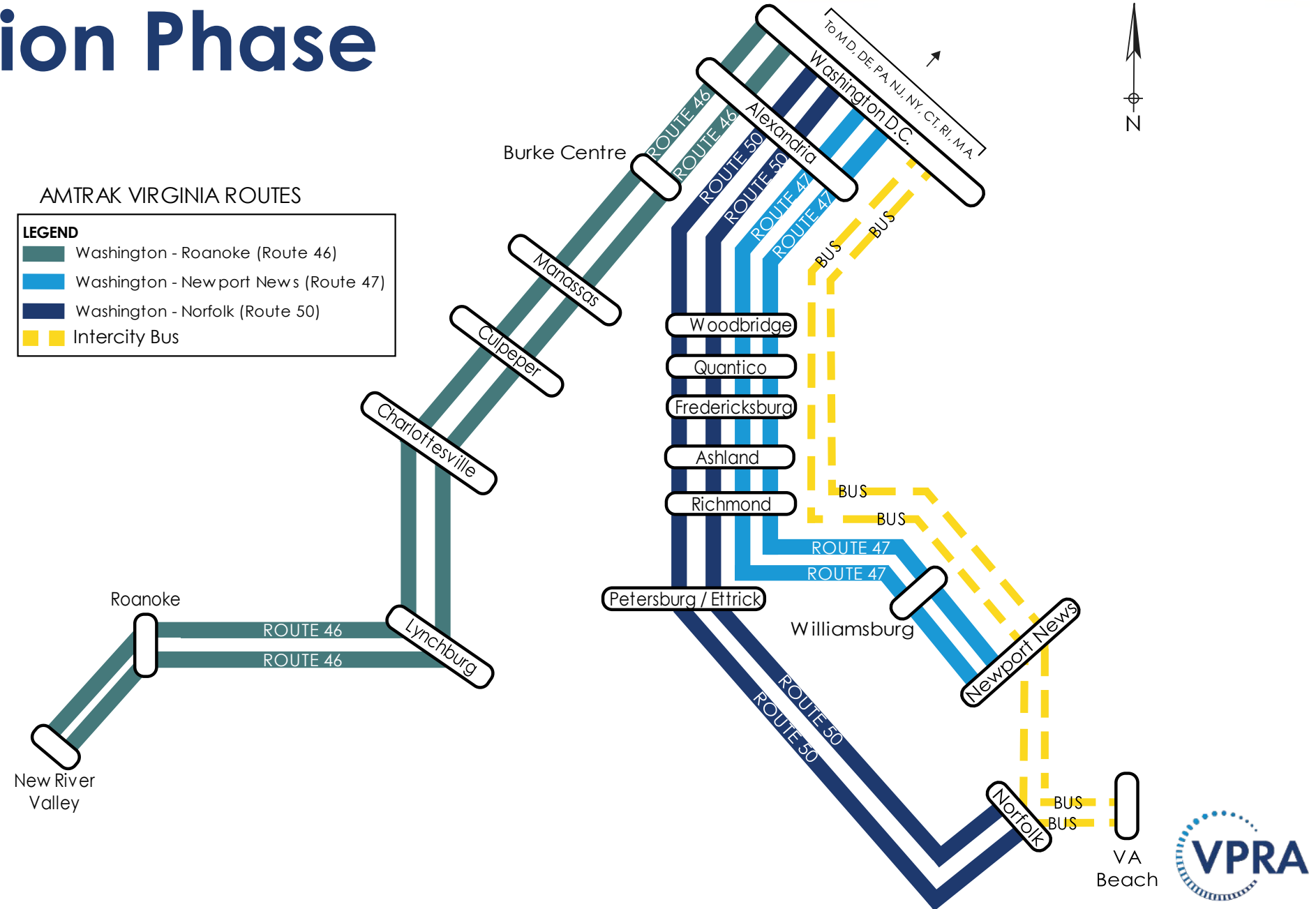
- Washington - Roanoke (Route 46)
- Washington - Newport News (Route 47)
- Washington - Norfolk (Route 50)
- Washington - Richmond (Route 51)

Note:

1. * Limited service at station.

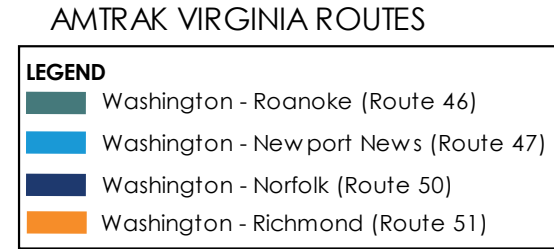


Construction Phase

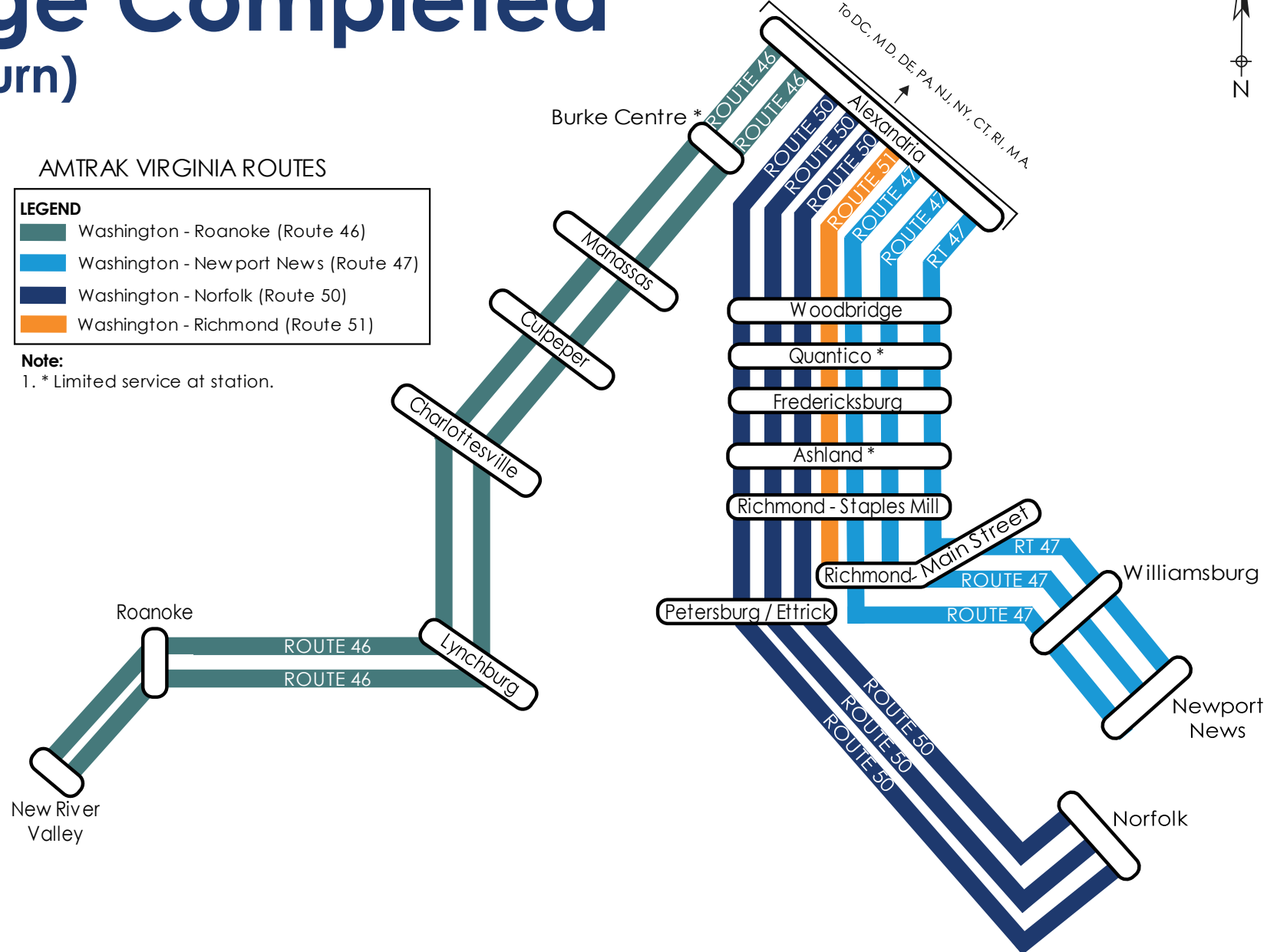


Long Bridge Completed

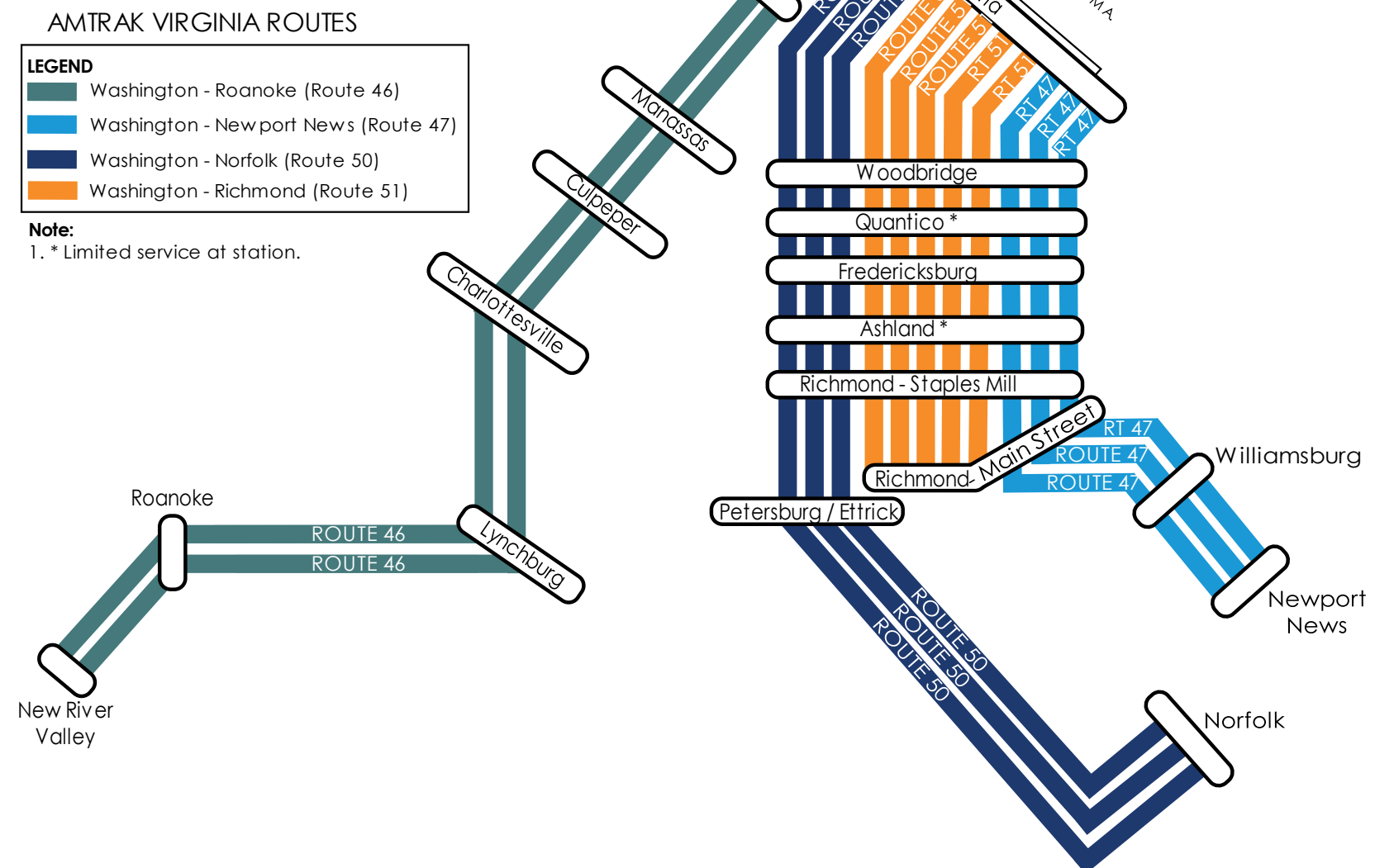
(One Richmond Turn)



Note:
1. * Limited service at station.



End of TRV Phases 1 and 2





What is Happening in 2025?

Construction Activities & Traffic
Management

What is Happening 2025 – Construction

Activities

Completed Activities

- Pre-construction borings in the river and Virginia
- Site survey

Ongoing & Future Activities

- Maintenance of Traffic Plans (auto, pedestrian, bike, boat)
- Tree and brush clearing
- Test piles
- Bulkhead and river access points in Virginia and DC

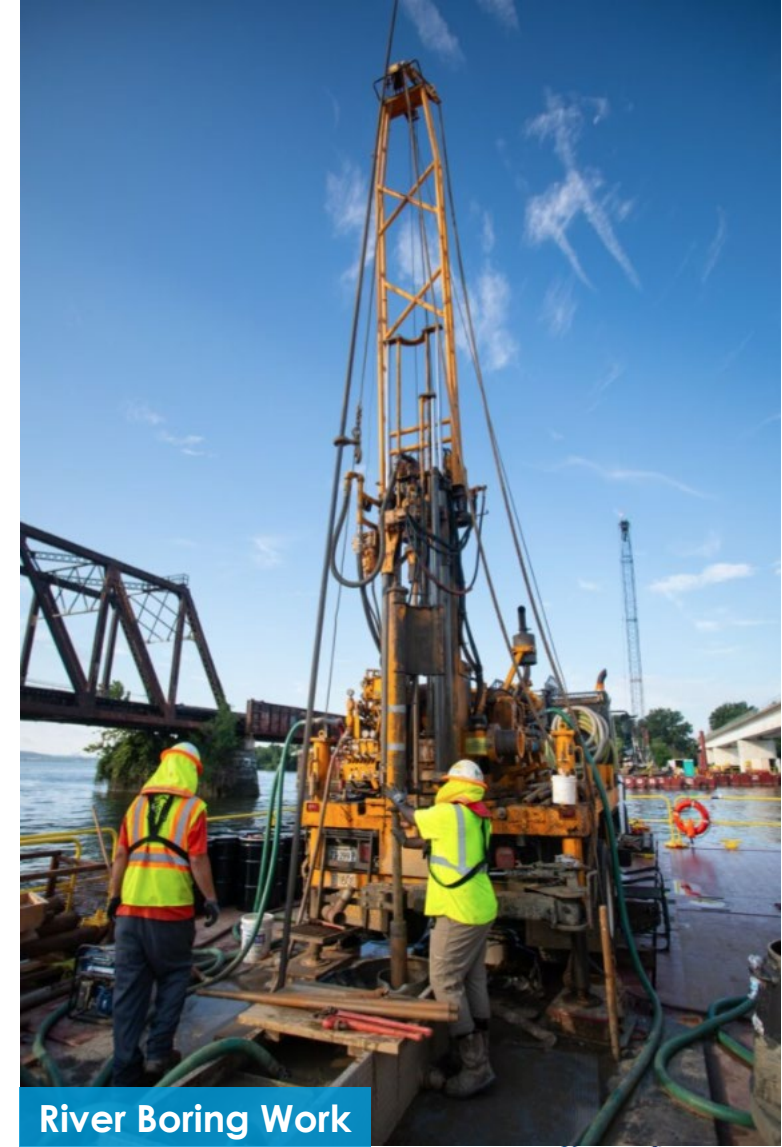
River boring work:
<https://youtu.be/GB4PciPSIKg?si=k1yhq7ktVznFzsDQ>



River Boring Work



River Boring Work



River Boring Work

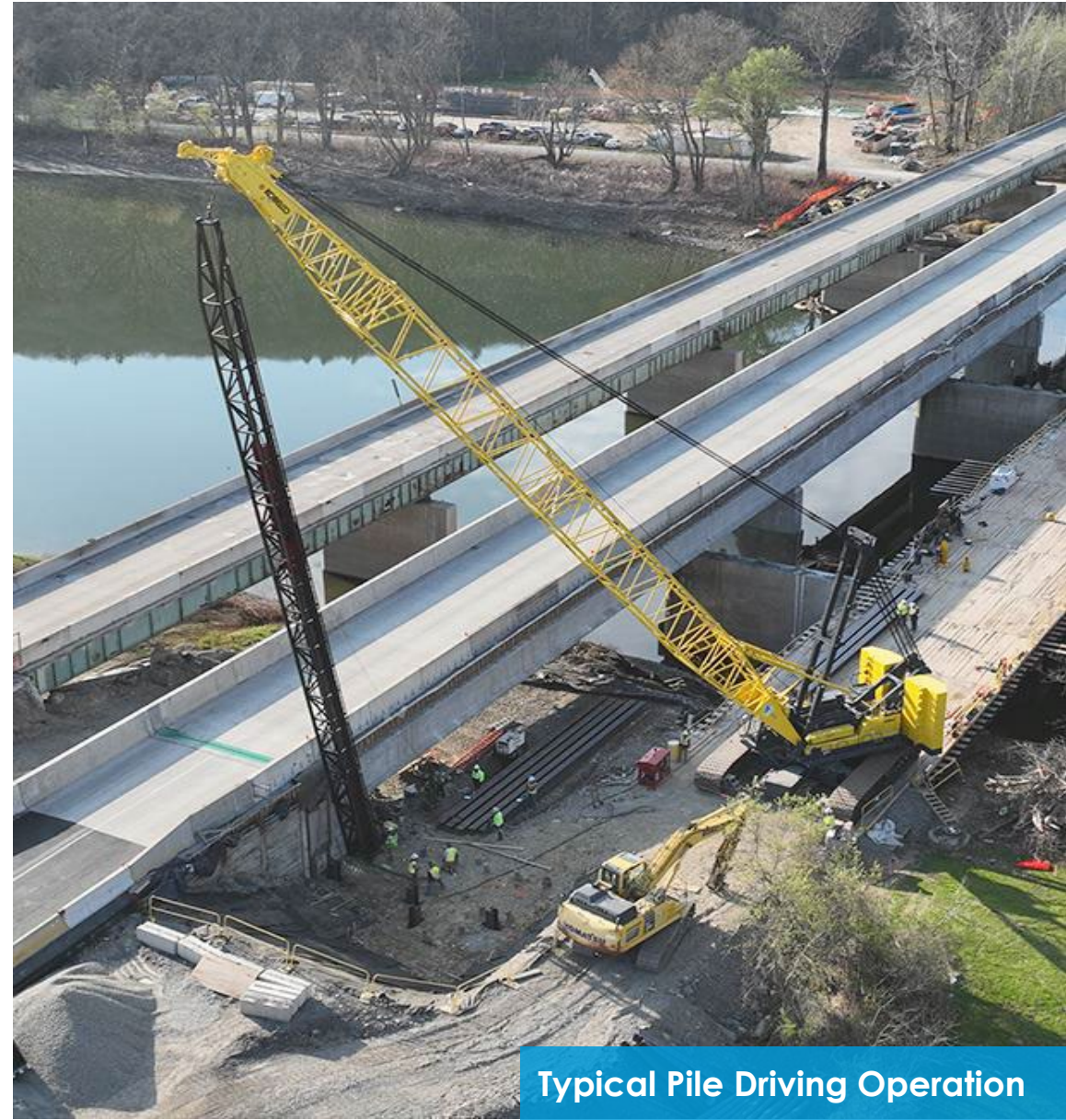
What is Happening 2025 - Construction Activities

Test Pile Program Potomac River Crossings

- Four test piles driven at bridge foundation points in Arlington, the river, and DC
- Verify engineering calculations prior to placing larger piles used for bridge foundations
- You may hear pile driving

Statnamic Load Test

- Method of testing that simulates weight of the new bridge with a train, verifying the capacity of the foundation pile
- A downward force is applied to the pile head over a very short duration using the controlled combustion of a fast-burning fuel within a piston
- One Statnamic test per test pile
- You may hear what sounds like an explosion during test



Typical Pile Driving Operation

Boating Community Travel Impacts

Monthly Mariner's Notices distributed

Potomac River

- **COMPLETE:** Geotechnical borings in the river
- **Late Fall 2025:** Test piles in the river (permits pending)
- Temporary exclusion zones will be established with buoys
- A navigation channel will remain open throughout construction

Washington Channel

- **Late Fall 2025:** Trestle work planned

Washington Marina and a portion of the parking lot will remain operational during construction

- Buoys to guide marine traffic
- The entire Washington Channel as a No Wake Zone



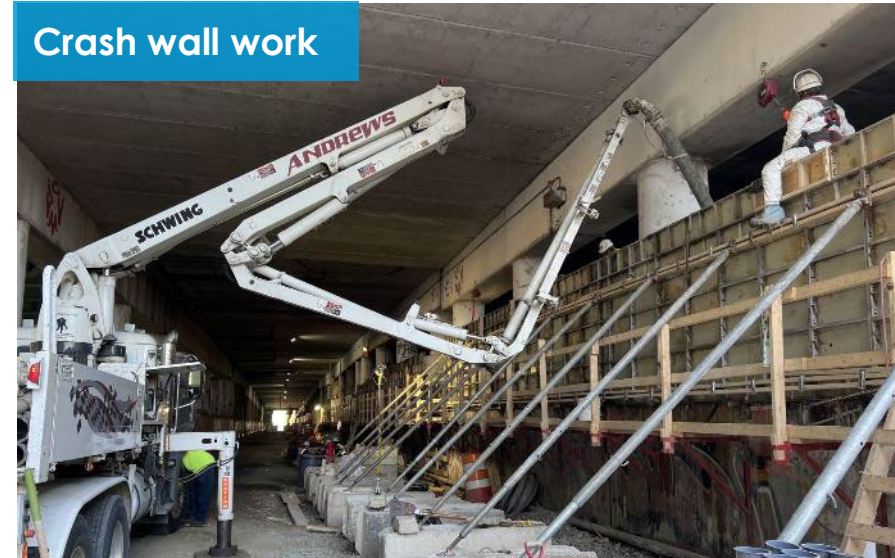
What is Happening 2025 – Construction Activities

Completed Activities

- Traffic Switch for 14th Street Access Road
- Westbound Maine Ave SW reduced to two lanes

Ongoing & Future Activities

- Crash wall work
- Maintenance of Traffic Plans (auto, pedestrian, bike, boat)
- Tree and brush clearing



Traffic Alert Video: Maine Avenue SW to 14th Street SW



*Future videos
forthcoming...*

View the video: [Long Bridge Project Traffic Update](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6cCcdMJSg7A)
(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6cCcdMJSg7A>)



Maine Avenue Construction Areas & Schedule



(*subject to change)

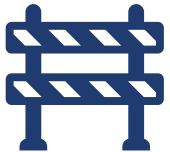
14th Street Access Road & Maine Avenue Travel Highlights



Goal: SAFE ACCESS for motorists, bicyclists and pedestrians – Maine Ave, Hotel, Portals, Marina & Train Operations – while streamlining construction and minimizing impacts



Occasional **Nighttime Lane** Closures and **Weekend Detours**



- 14th Street Access Road Closed from Maine Ave to Improve Safety
- 14th Street Ramp to Maine Ave Closed for Periods
- Maine Ave maintains two lanes in westbound direction during construction

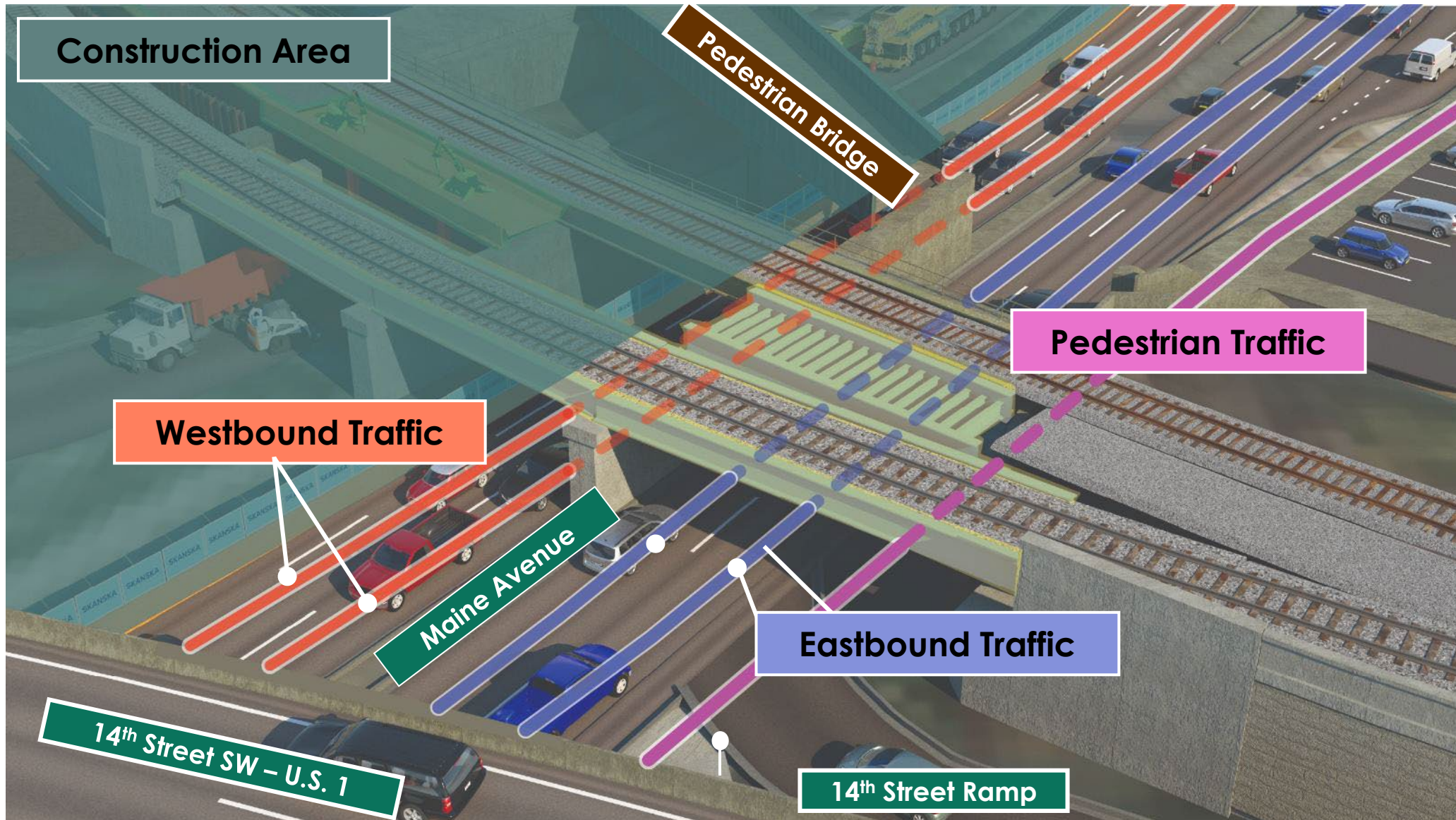


Maine Ave Pedestrian Bridge Crossing Maintained at All Times

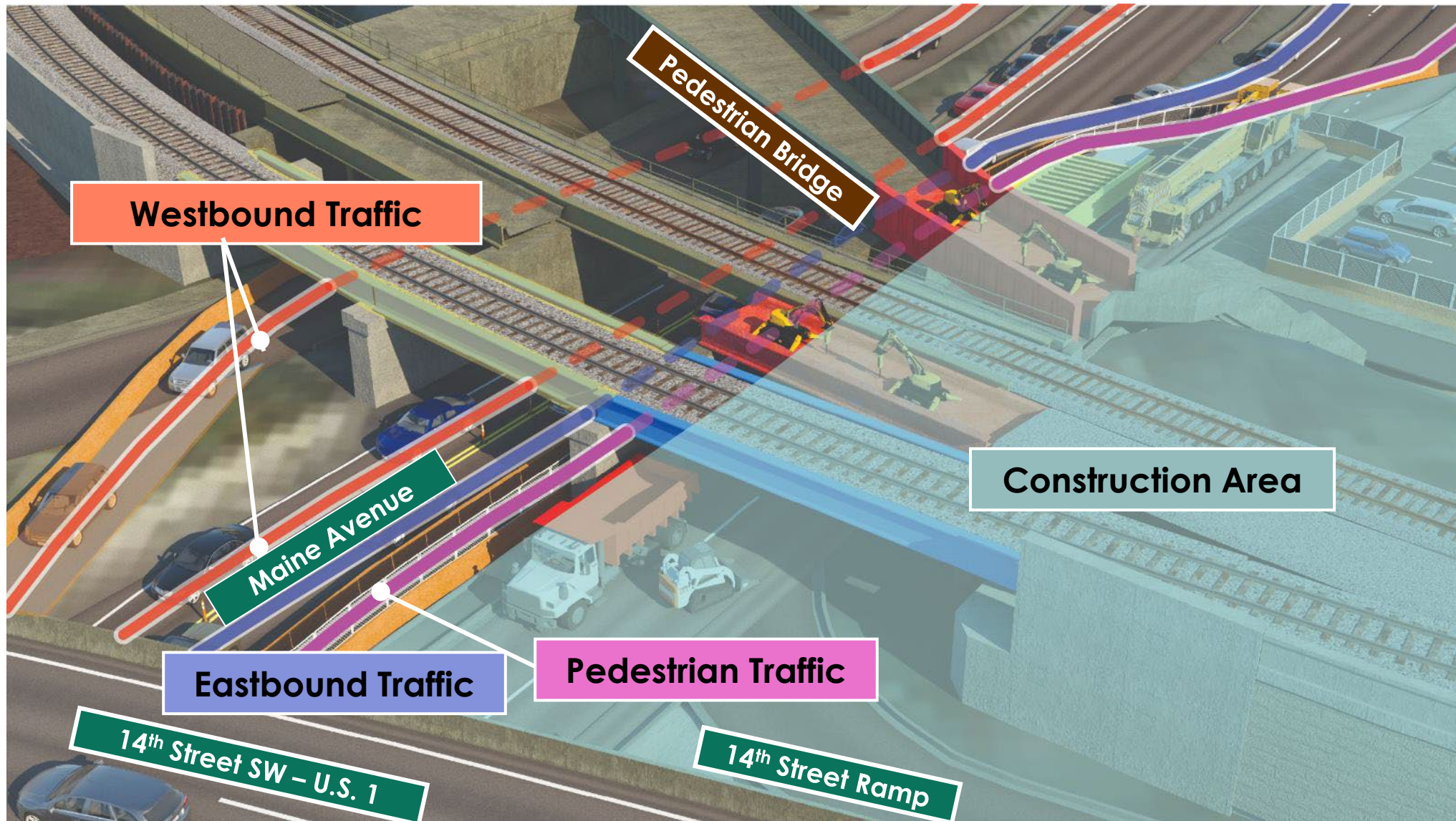
- Requires a Temporary Pedestrian Bridge near Marina Entrance



Maine Ave – Westbound Construction Traffic Pattern

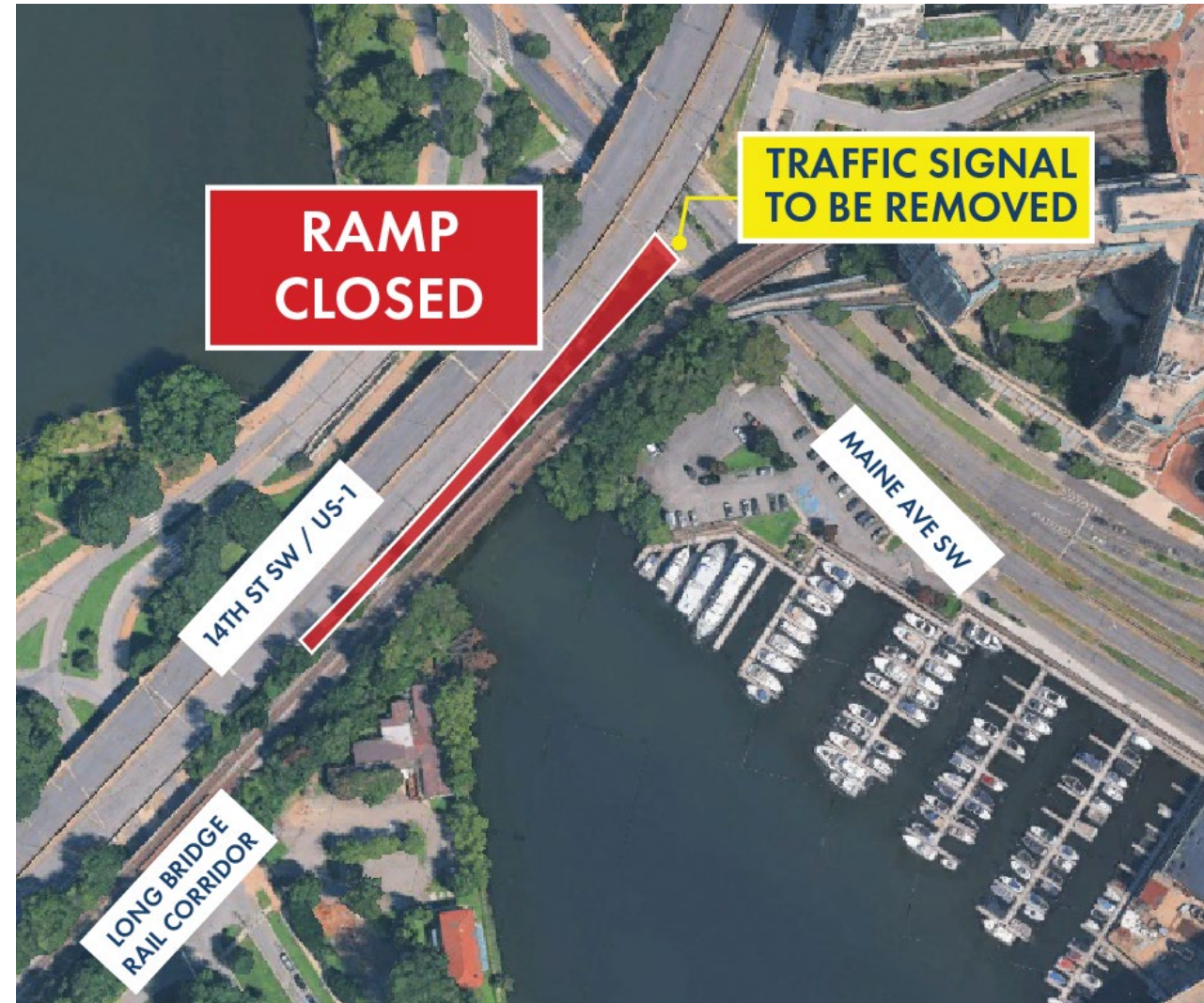
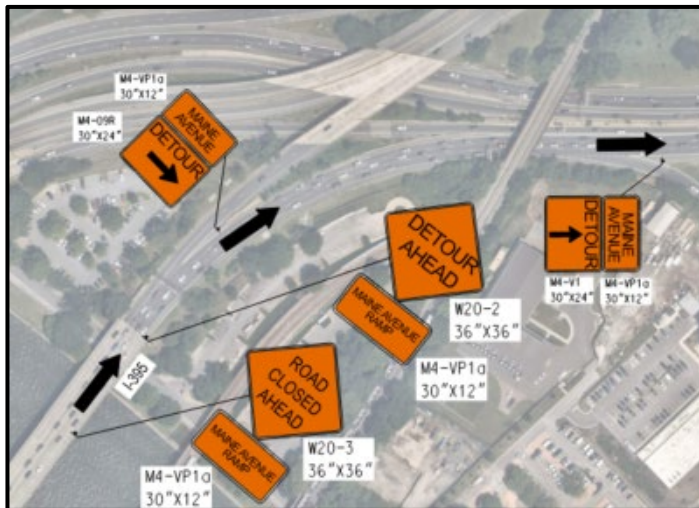


Maine Ave – Eastbound Construction Traffic Pattern

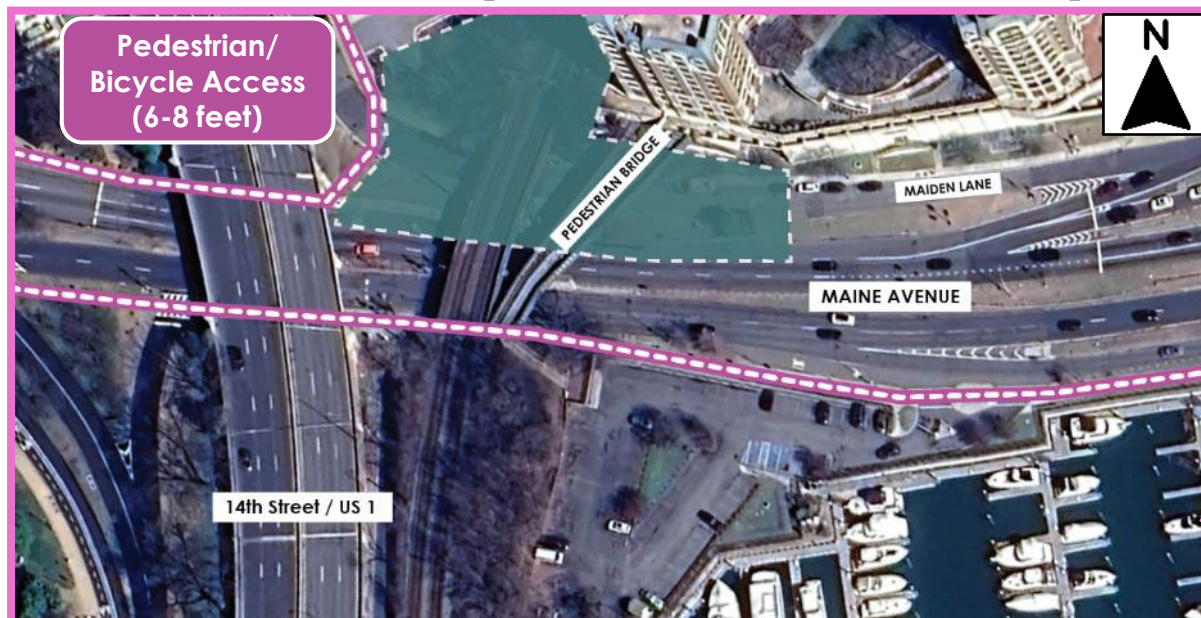


Northbound 14th Street Ramp Closure to Eastbound Maine Ave

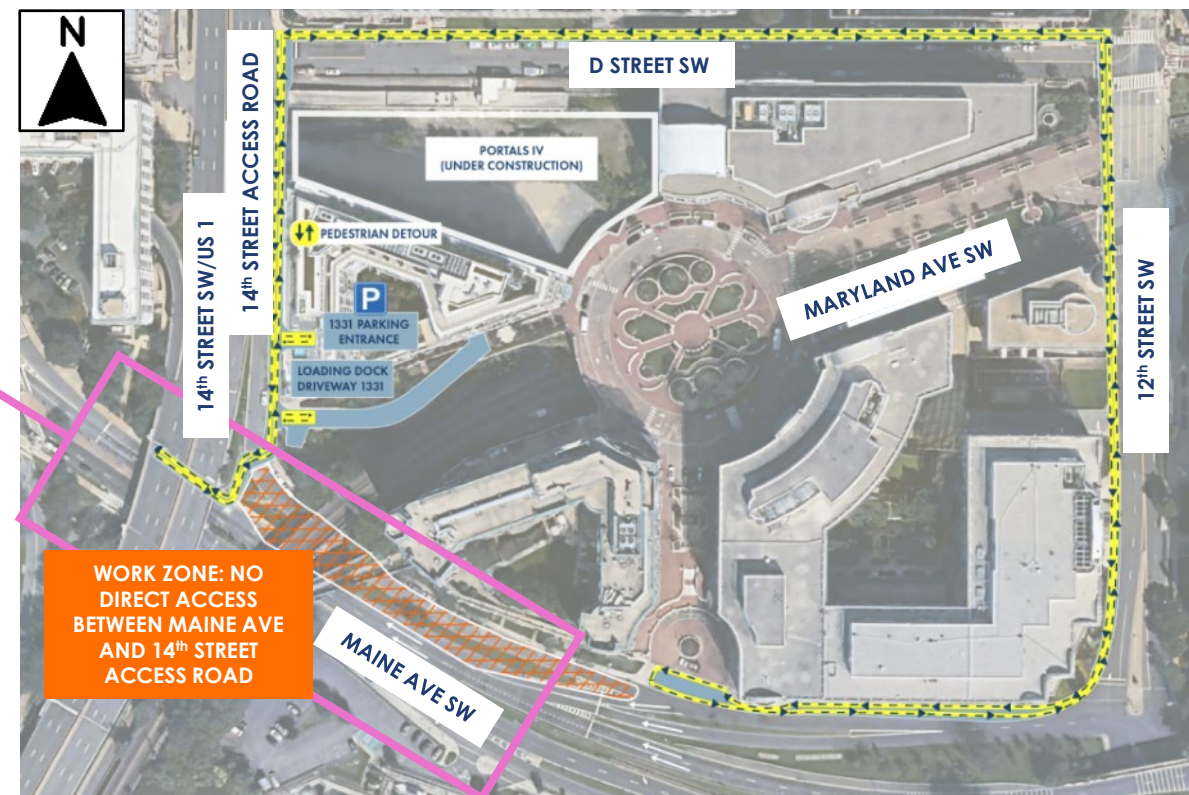
- **Ramp to be closed** throughout most of construction given the proximity of:
 - New rail bridge over Maine Avenue
 - New retaining wall along the ramp
- **Existing traffic signal** to be removed
- **Detour alternatives** currently being evaluated in collaboration with DDOT
- **Advance notice** will be provided



Pedestrian/Bicycle Accessibility – Westbound Construction

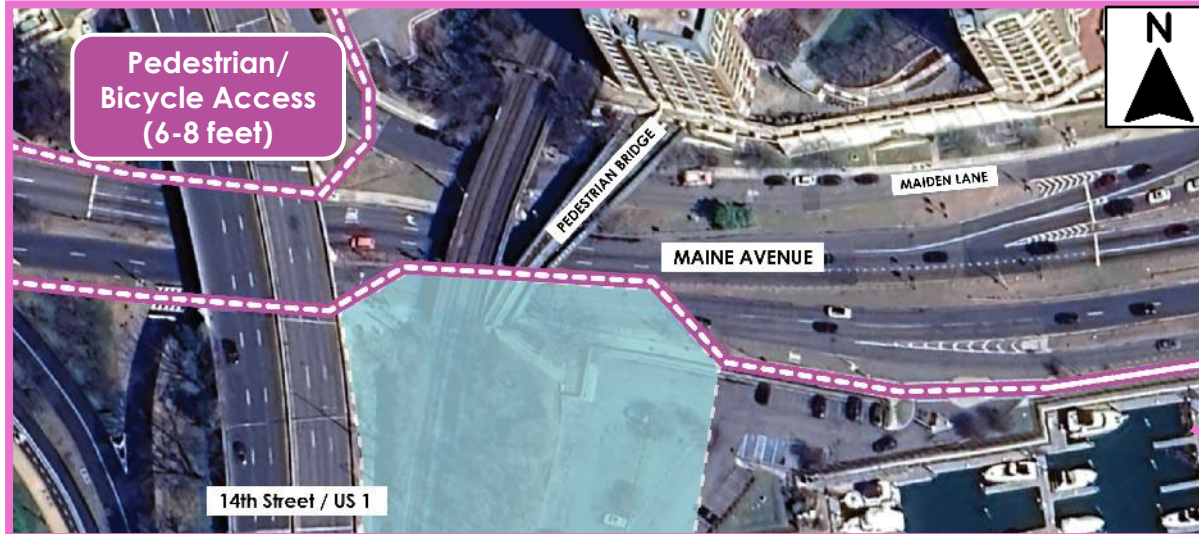


Westbound Maine Avenue Full Pedestrian Detour

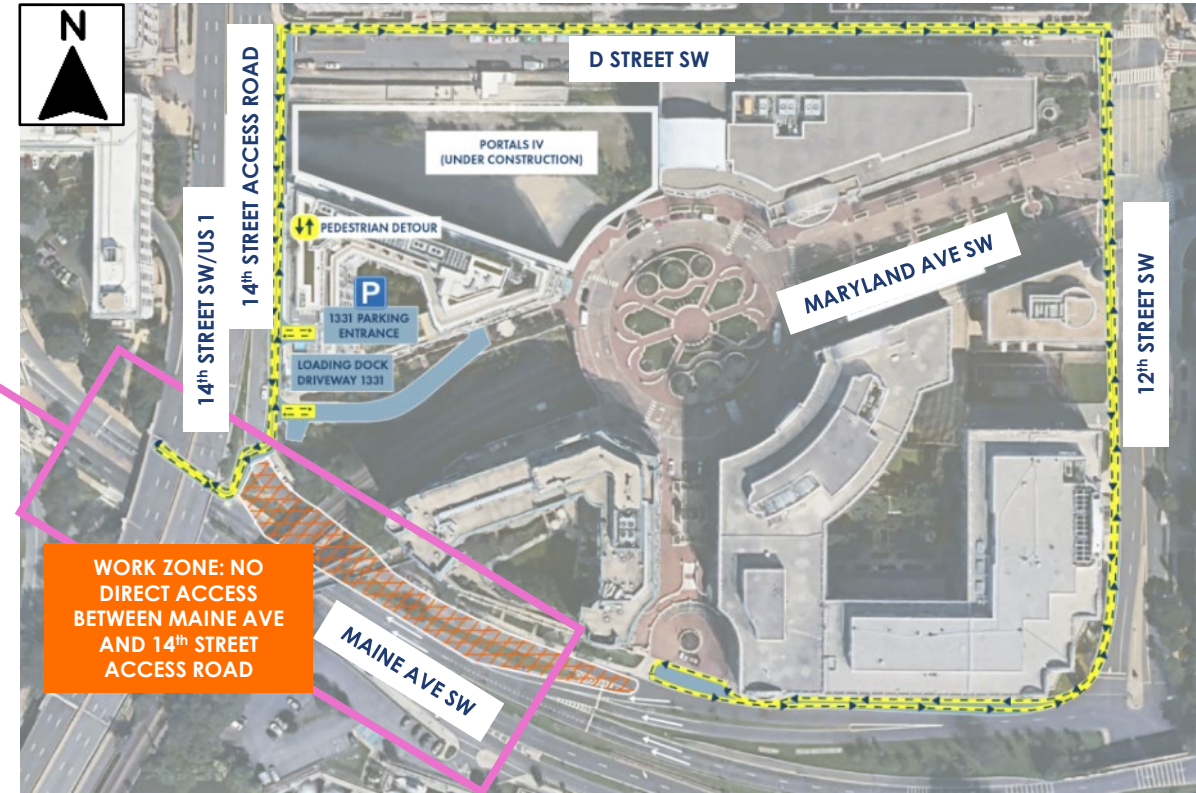


- Access will be 8 feet wide at all times
- During Cherry Blossom season & July 4th – Access will include two 8-foot-wide paths.

Pedestrian/Bicycle Accessibility – Eastbound Construction

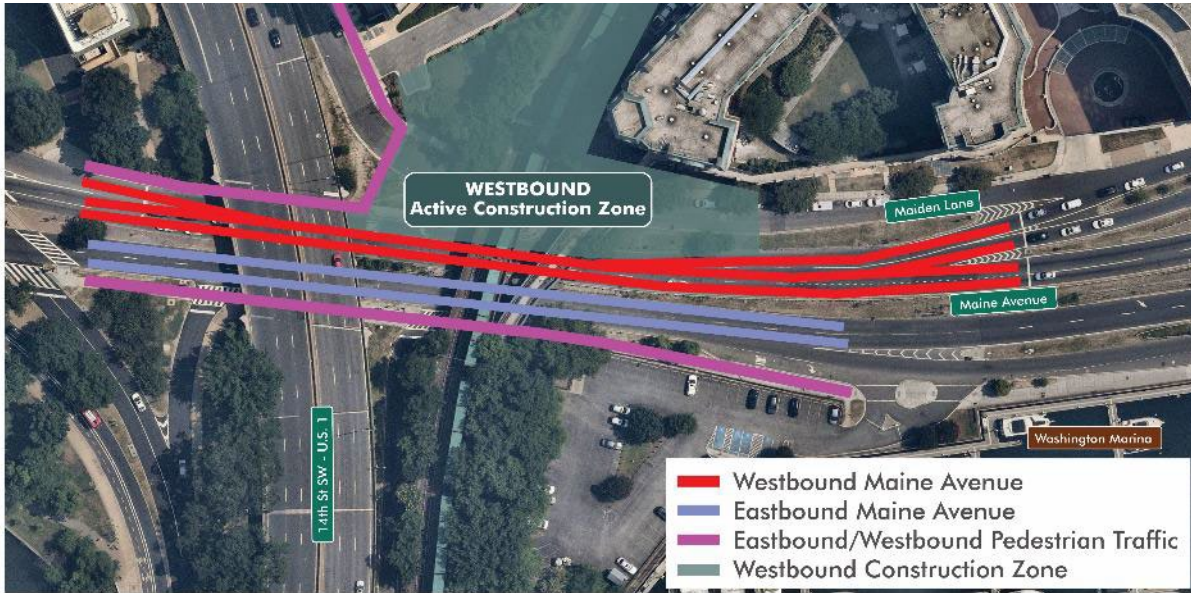


Eastbound Maine Avenue Full Pedestrian Detour



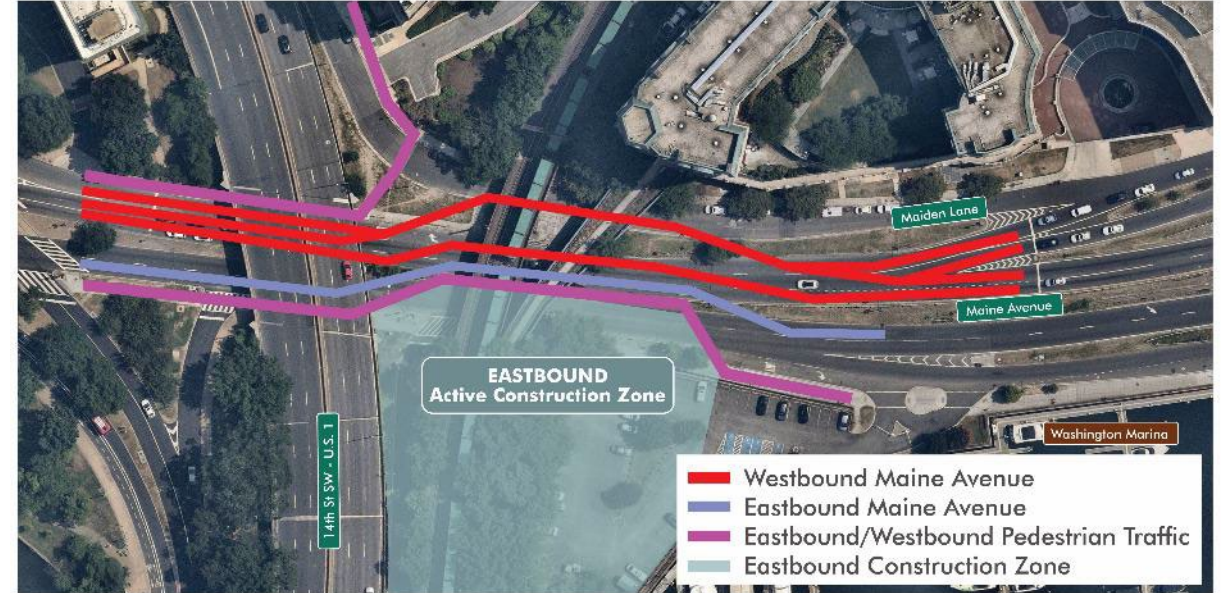
- Access will be 8 feet wide at all times
- During Cherry Blossom season & July 4th – Access will include two 8-foot-wide paths.

Maine Avenue Travel Summary



Westbound Construction

- Maintains two travel lanes in each direction.
- Maintains pedestrian walkway eastbound.



Eastbound Construction

- Maintains two travel lanes for Westbound traffic.
- Maintains one travel lane for Eastbound traffic.
- Maintains pedestrian walkway eastbound.

Minimizing and Mitigating Construction Disturbances

The Long Bridge Team is aware that construction may cause community interference. We are committed to doing everything we can to minimize and mitigate those disturbances. For example:



Adhere to the District's noise ordinance.



Make every effort to limit night work for both noise and safety reasons.



Regularly monitor noise levels to ensure we stay within established limits.



Utilize "whisper quiet" generators with lower decibel levels.



Use backup alarms that regulate volume based on ambient conditions.



Monitor vibration to ensure structural integrity of adjacent buildings.



Employ drilling equipment (versus pile driving) to the maximum potential.

Public & Stakeholder Coordination



Public Notifications

Portable Message Signs On-Site

VPRA Construction Disruptions Map

DDOT and NPS Traffic Advisories

Mariner's Notices

Press Releases to Major Outlets

Community Meetings / Events

Door-to-Door Outreach

Quarterly E-Newsletter

Website / Social Media Updates

Stakeholder Meetings

Virginia Railway Express (VRE)

Amtrak

District DOT

National Park Service (NPS)

Adjacent Property Owners

Community Advisory Group

SWBID Stakeholder Meetings

ANC Meetings

Elected Officials

2025 Public Outreach



ANC 6D Business Meetings

June 16
September 15



Door-to-Door Outreach/ MOT Yard Signs

July 28
August 8
August 13



DDOT & VPRA Stakeholder Meeting

August 8
September 29



Traffic Advisory Distributions (DDOT, VDOT, NPS)



Newsletter #2

October



Tabling at Neighborhood Events

Farmer's Market
August 9, & 18

Wharf Movie Night
August 21

Arena Stage
Community Day
August 2

Hancock Park
September 10
& October 8

Southwest Fall Family
Fest October 19



How to Stay Up To Date



Announcements on Long Bridge website:
www.LongBridgeProject.com



E-mail subscriber notices (Sign up to receive)
info@longbridgeproject.com



VPRA Social Media Posts
Facebook, Instagram, X, LinkedIn, YouTube

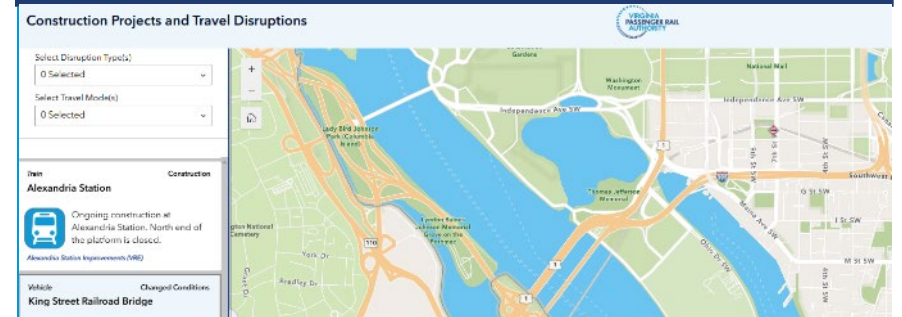


For Question - Project Hotline
202-769-1808

Portable Message Signs On-Site



VPRA Construction Disruptions Map



DDOT and NPS Traffic Advisories

Press Releases to Major Outlets

Community Meetings / Events

Door to Door Outreach



THANK YOU

Questions?