

WHY ARE WE HERE?

To provide current project information and receive feedback about the proposed SR 404 Spur/ US 17 at Savannah River Crossing Improvement.

Thank you for reviewing these informational displays. Please share your input!



Why are We Here?

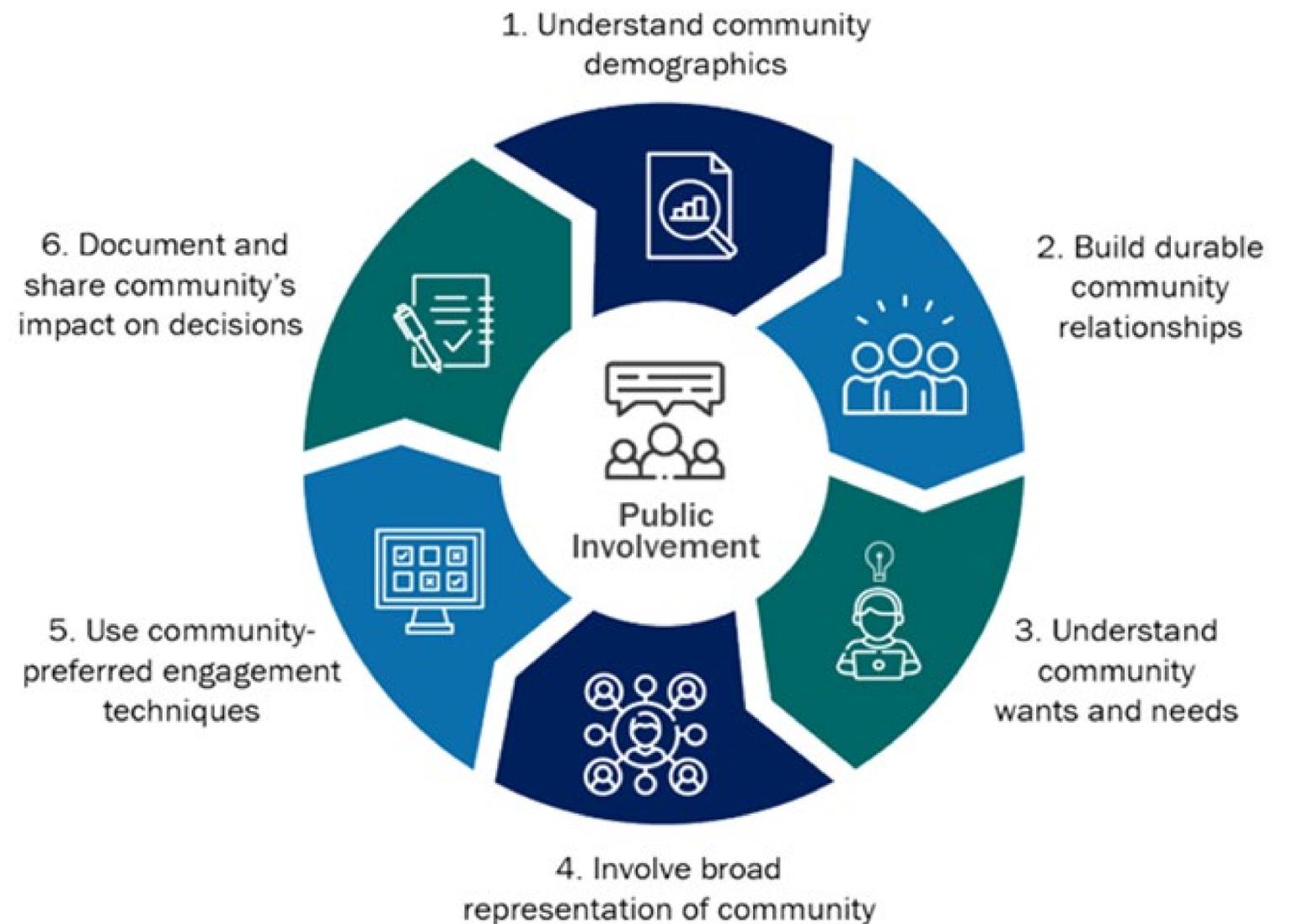
The Georgia Department of Transportation (Georgia DOT) is here to discuss solutions that would allow larger ships to enter the Port of Savannah by:

- Providing an overview of the planning phase of the proposed project (including a Feasibility Report);
- Providing an opportunity for the public to be involved in the identification of social, economic, and environmental impacts;
- Enhancing public awareness and transparency in the project development process; and
- Discerning the types of public involvement early in project development that are best suited to the communities in the project area to promote meaningful engagement

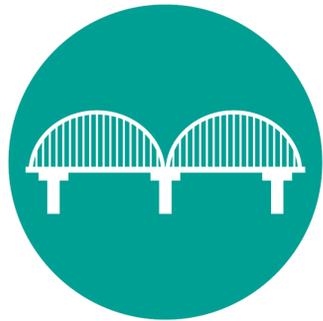
Meaningful Public Involvement

The US Department of Transportation defines meaningful public involvement as a process that proactively seeks full representation from the community, considers public comments and feedback, and incorporates that feedback into a project, program, or plan when possible.

Features of Meaningful Public Involvement



Without this Project



The existing bridge clearance would continue to limit efficient, reliable passage of ships that can currently pass under the bridge to the Port of Savannah (ships between 14,000 to 17,000 twenty-foot equivalent units, or TEUs).



Larger, more commercially viable ships (up to 23,000 TEUs) seeking access to the Port of Savannah would not be able to access the port. This could make the Port of Savannah less competitive compared to other ports that can accommodate larger ships, potentially resulting in adverse effects on the Savannah, state and national economies.

Project Goals

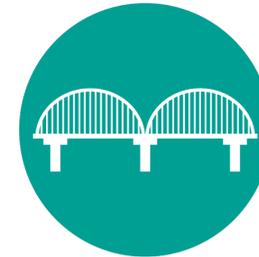
Minimizing impacts to properties and environmentally sensitive areas

Connectivity

Address growth demands

Ship Accessibility

Economic Viability



- Protect the environment and minimize impacts to communities
- Improve the future economic viability of the Port and Georgia without compromising regional connectivity.
- Ensure safe and efficient access to the Port of Savannah under existing and future growth demands.
- A permanent solution to the current clearance limitations for ships trying to access the Port.

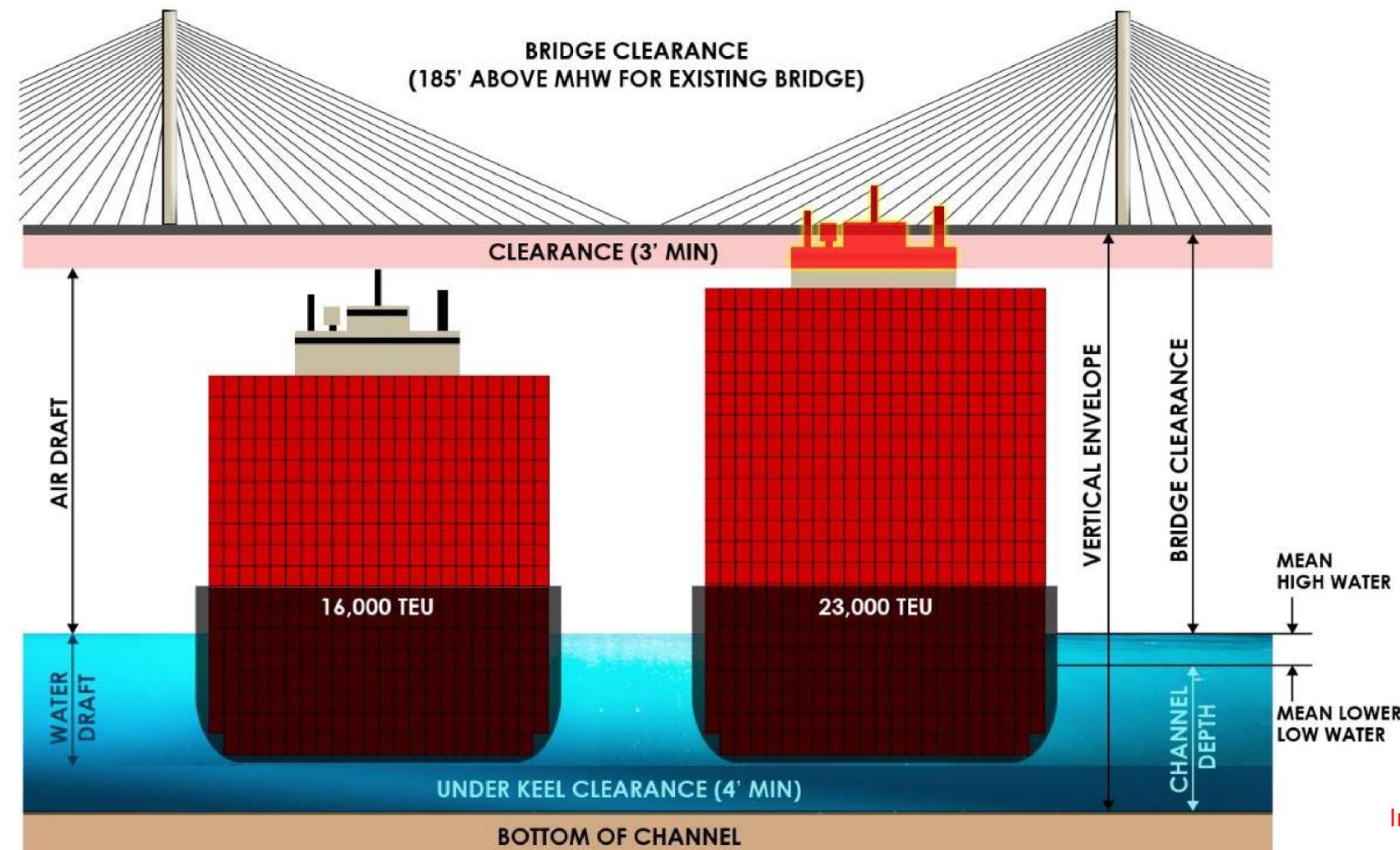
Existing Conditions

Port of Savannah

- Fastest-growing container port in the U.S.
- Moved 5.8M TEUs in FY22; 7.1% average annual growth over past decade
- Monthly record set in October 2022, growing TEUs by 9.6%

SR 404 Spur/US 17 Bridge

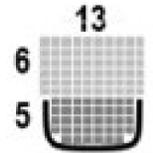
- Designed 1987 and opened in 1991
- 185-foot air draft
- Up to ~15,000 TEU ships
- Does not accommodate the world's largest ships, even at reduced loads; larger vessels typically call with reduced load at low tide



Ship Evolution

Existing bridge
constructed

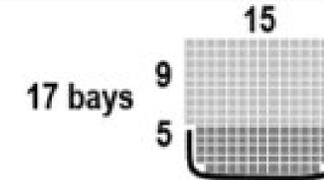
Panamax (1980-)
3,000 – 3,400 TEU



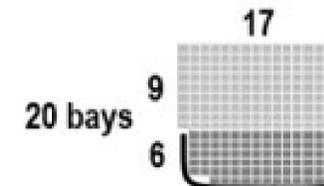
Panamax Max (1985-)
3,400 – 4,500 TEU



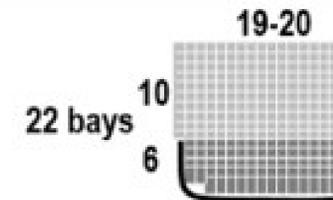
Post Panamax I (1988-)
4,000 – 6,000 TEU



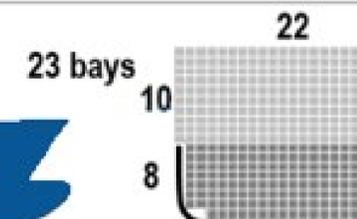
Post Panamax II (2000-)
6,000 – 8,500 TEU



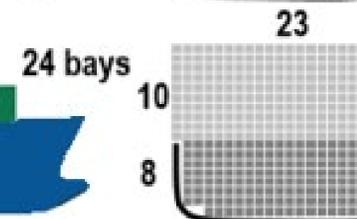
New-Panamax (2014-)
8,500 – 14,000 TEU



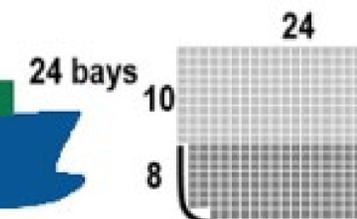
VLCS (2006-)
14,000 – 18,000 TEU



ULCS (2013-)
18,000 – 24,000 TEU



MGX-24 (2019-)
21,000 – 25,000 TEU

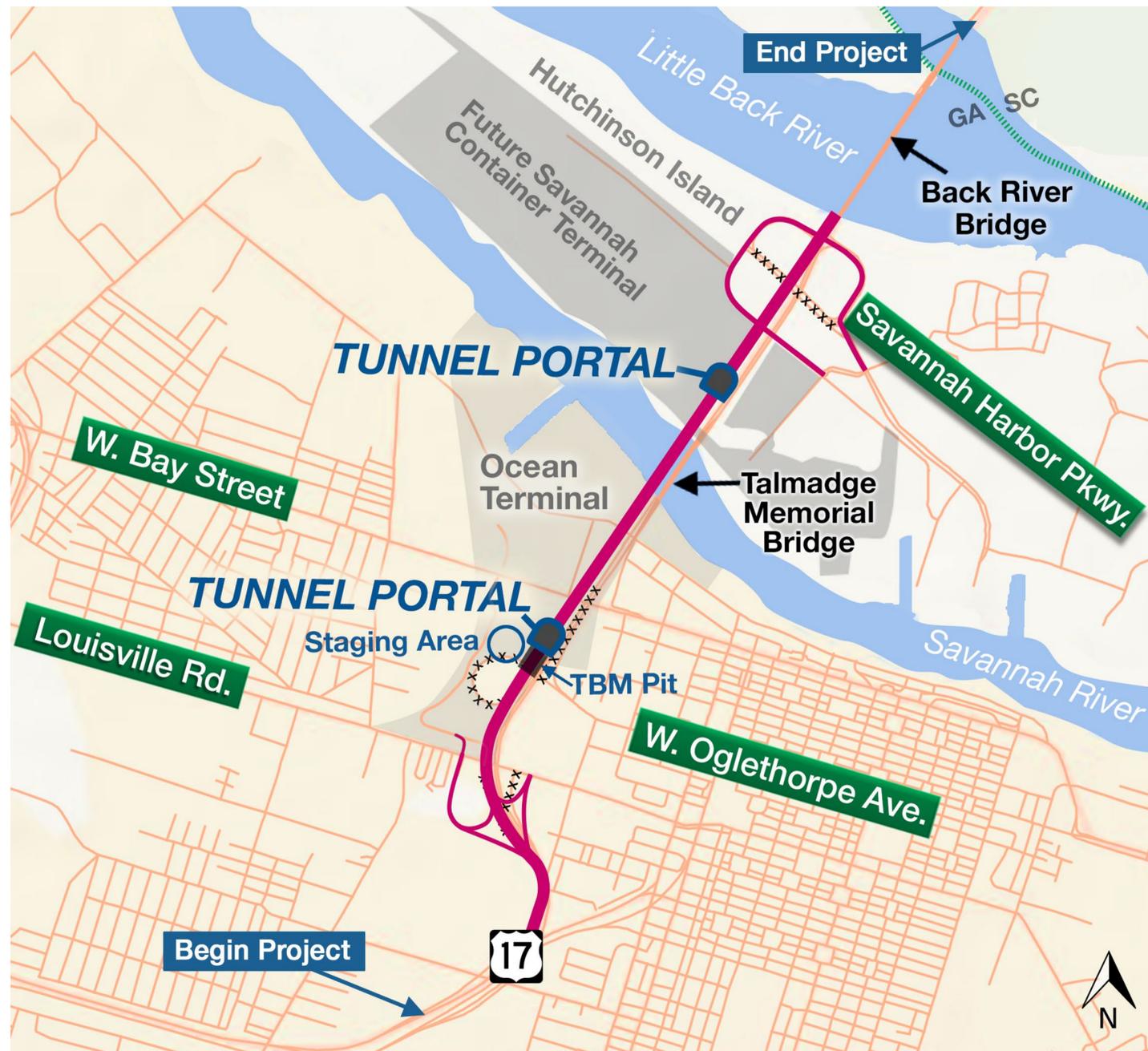


Proposed Solutions

As part of the 2022 Savannah River Crossing Feasibility Study, 27 potential alternatives in 6 categories were identified to address the clearance limitations of the existing SR 404 Spur/US 17 bridge.

	Six Categories	Potential Impacts & Evaluation Considerations	Advanced for Concept Development
1.	Tunnel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Moderate impact to vehicular or vessel traffic during construction. Some impacts to environmental resources. 	✓
2.	New Bridge – Same Location	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Moderate impacts to vehicular or vessel traffic during construction. Some impacts to environmental resources. 	✓
3.	New Bridge – Truman Parkway Extension	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Significant congestion and mobility delays. Significant environmental and community impacts. 	
4.	Remove Bridge and Re-Route US 17 Traffic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Significant impact to Savannah to South Carolina and South Carolina to I-16 connectivity. Significant environmental and community impacts. 	
5.	Modify Existing Bridge to 230' (to required height for ship access)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Significant impacts to roadway traffic, construction complexity, operations and maintenance, and future-proofing objectives. 	
6.	Downriver Port Facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased truck traffic. Significant environmental and community impacts. 	

Tunnel Alternative



Description

- Bored tunnel under the Savannah River
- Two parallel bores each with two lanes of traffic
- Maintain traffic during construction
- Eliminates future clearance concerns

Implementation Timeframe*

9 – 11 years

Potential Future Changes/Refinements

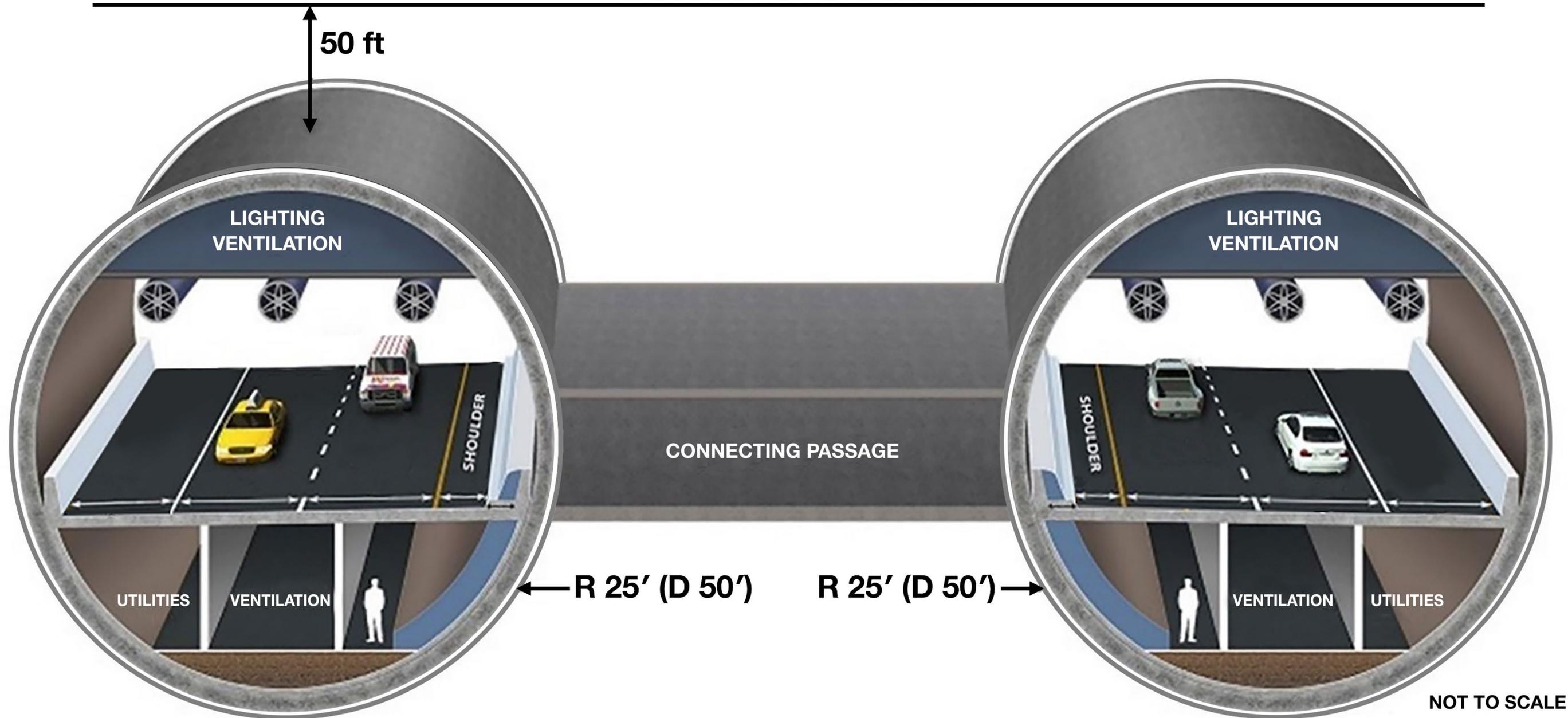
- Adjust portal locations
- Adjust tunnel depth/grade/length/tie-ins
- Identify Operations Building Location
- Identify strategies to manage traffic volume growth
- Right-of-way limits (undetermined at this time)

Notes:

* Implementation timeframe begins upon allocation of federal construction funding.

Tunnel Alternative – Example Typical Section

BOTTOM OF CHANNEL



New Bridge – Same Location Alternative



Description

- New bridge adjacent to existing bridge
- Will carry 4 lanes of traffic
- Will impact Back River Bridge
- Maintain traffic during construction

Implementation Timeframe*

9 – 11 years

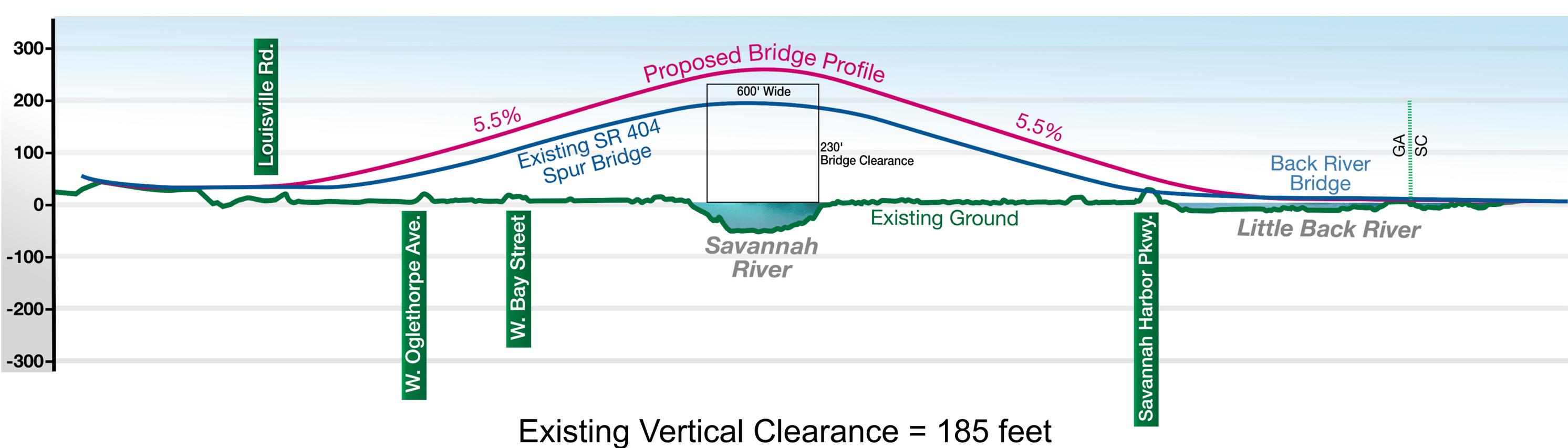
Potential Future Changes/Refinements

- Adjust alignment/grade/tie-ins
- Evaluate pier & straddle bent placement
- Identify strategies to manage traffic volume growth
- Right-of-way limits (undetermined at this time)

Notes:

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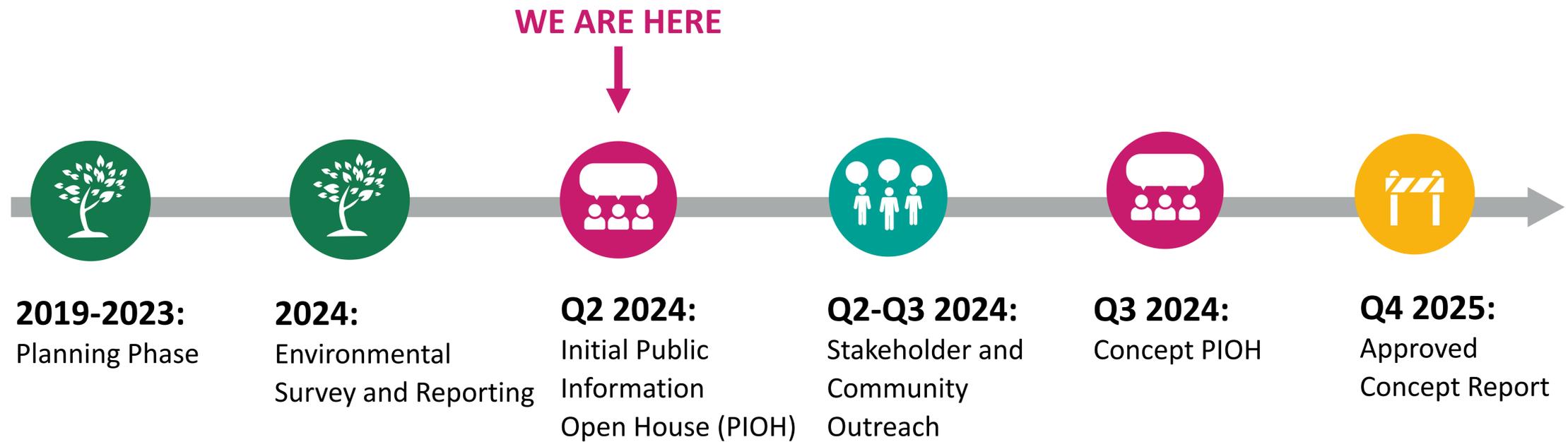
New Bridge – Comparison To Existing



Existing Vertical Clearance = 185 feet
Proposed Vertical Clearance = 230 feet

Project Schedule

SR 404 Spur/US 17 at Savannah River Crossing
(P.I. 0017183)



The project has recently progressed from Planning and is in Concept Phase with right-of-way funds allocated for 2028. However, construction funding has not been identified at this time.

Information and schedule are subject to change.

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Let's Stay in Touch!

How Can You Assist

The Georgia DOT would like your feedback on the proposed project and solutions, the project activities to date, the needs and conditions in the corridor, and on public engagement practices that would best suit your community as the proposed project advances in the concept phase.



Visit the project website to submit a comment at:

<https://bit.ly/SavannahRiverCrossing>



Email your comments to: savannahriverxing@dot.ga.gov



Call the project hotline at **(404) 631-1526** and leave a voicemail with your comment and contact information

Scan to
visit the
website

