

# Beacon Hopewell Rail Trail Study

Council Meeting – City of Beacon

March 3, 2025

DUTCHESS COUNTY  
TRANSPORTATION COUNCIL

Better ways from here to there



# Today's Presentation:

- Introductions
- Study Goals
- Progress to Date
- Public Outreach
- Existing Conditions
- Trail Concepts
- Next Steps
- Open Discussion



# Advisory Committee

- Dutchess County (Public Works & Planning)
- NYSDOT Region 8 (Planning)
- MTA/Metro-North Railroad
- **City of Beacon**
- Town of East Fishkill
- Town of Fishkill
- Village of Fishkill
- Scenic Hudson/Hudson Highlands Fjord Trail



**BEACON-HOPEWELL  
RAIL TRAIL  
STUDY**

## **Consultant Team:**

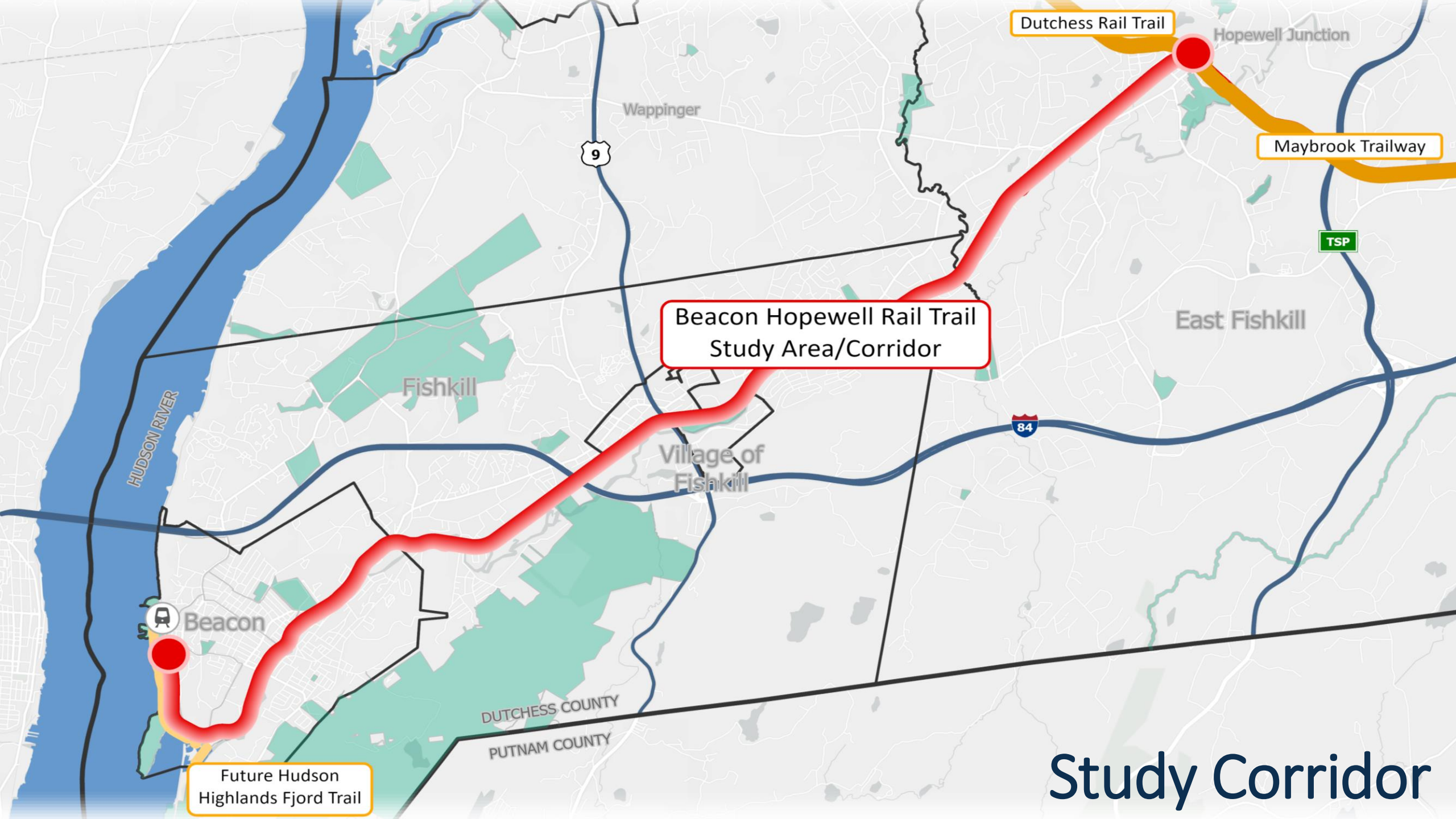
- Barton & Loguidice
- AKRF
- FHI Studio

# Study Goals

Evaluate the infrastructure needs and priorities for a potential Rail Trail along a 13-mile section of the Beacon Line

- **Task 1: Inventory and assess existing conditions** - DONE
- **Task 2: Draft design concepts** –Trail concepts, Access & Trailhead Locations, Road Crossing Alternatives, Identification of Challenges, Trail Amenities
- **Task 3: Final Concept Plan** – Cost Estimates, Phasing Recommendations, Funding Sources, and Recommendations





Dutchess Rail Trail

Hopewell Junction

Maybrook Trailway

TSP

Beacon Hopewell Rail Trail  
Study Area/Corridor

East Fishkill

84

Village of  
Fishkill

Fishkill

HUDSON RIVER

Beacon

DUTCHESS COUNTY  
PUTNAM COUNTY

Future Hudson  
Highlands Fjord Trail

Study Corridor

# Progress to Date

- **Metro-North rail banking**

- Surface Transportation Board (STB) decision (February 2024)
- Progressing study with analysis of 'Rail to Trail' and 'Rail with Trail'

- **Fieldwork completed** (April 2024)

- **Initial public outreach**

- Website: [www.beaconhopewellrailtrail.com](http://www.beaconhopewellrailtrail.com)
- Online survey
- Pop-up events – Beacon & East Fishkill (May 2024)



# Study Website



# Public Survey

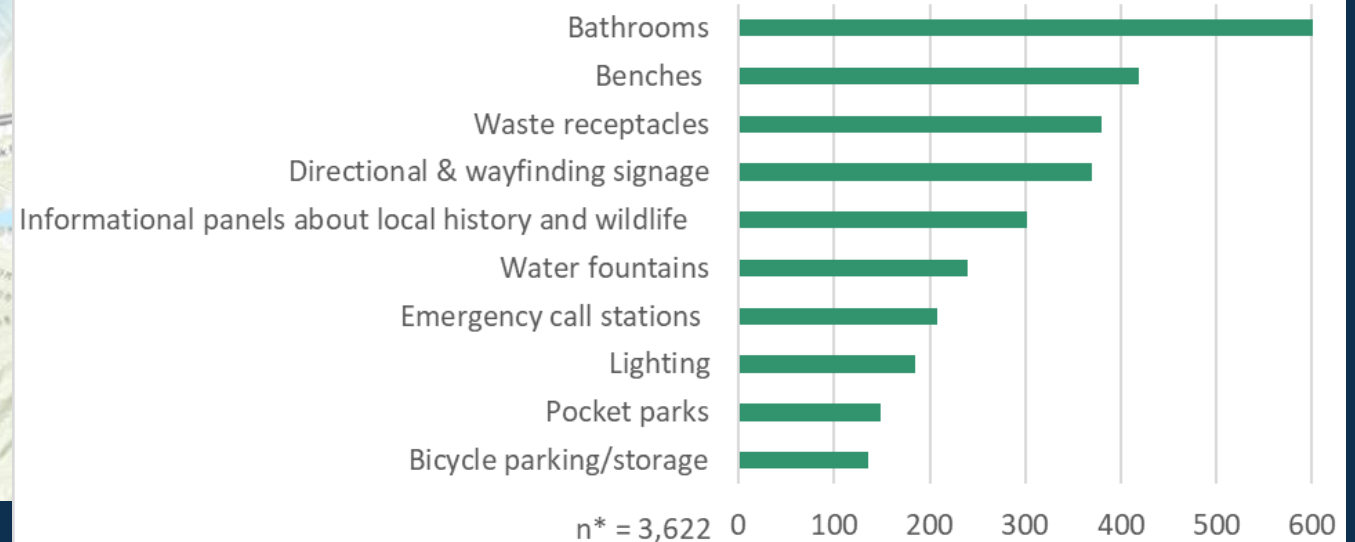
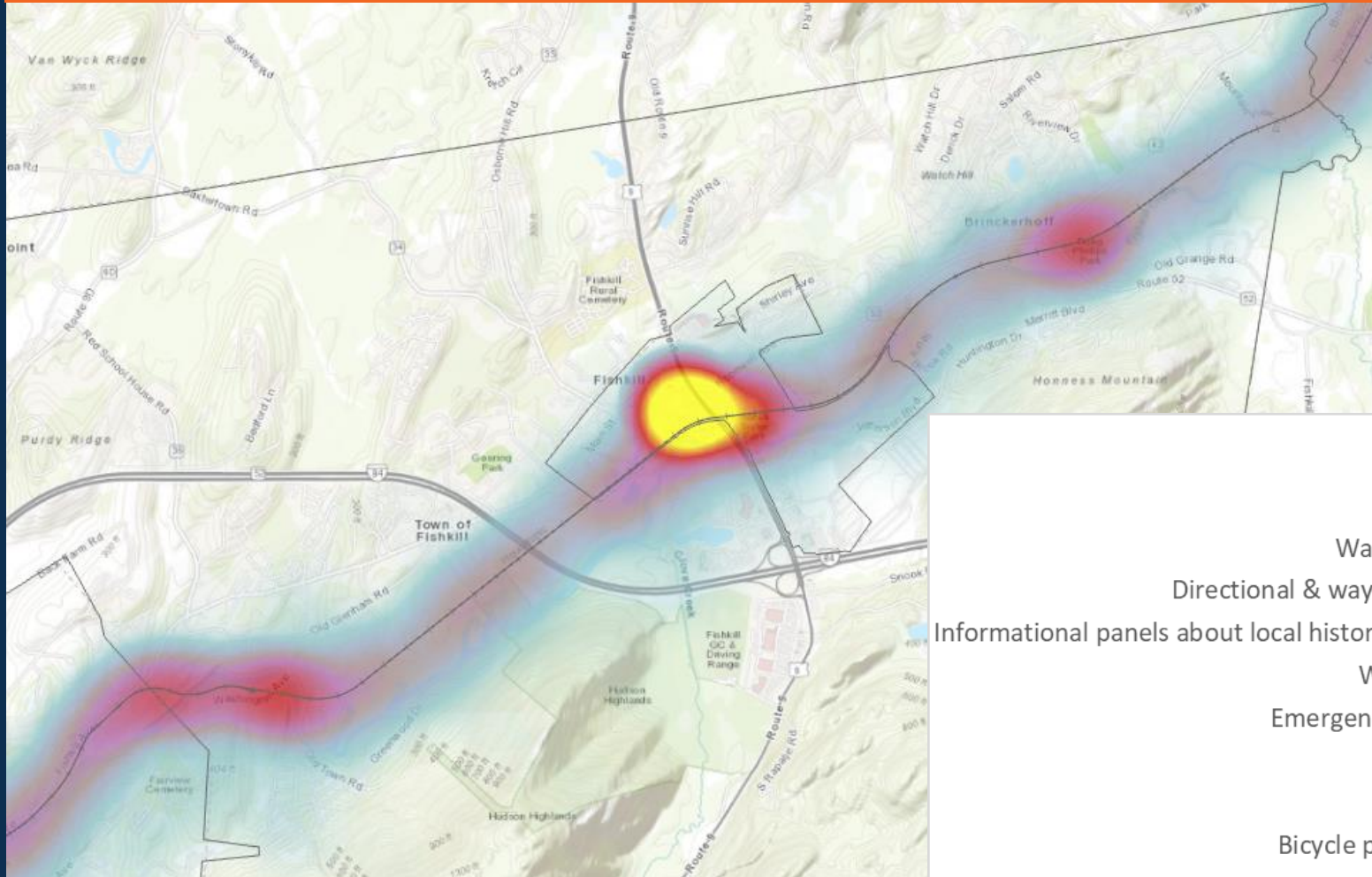
We received over 1,350 responses to the online survey!

- **95% supported a rail trail on the study corridor**
- Key considerations: connecting to destinations & neighborhoods, ensuring accessibility, and making it safe and secure
- Key amenities: restrooms, benches, waste receptacles, wayfinding signage
- Key uses: biking, walking, and connecting to other trails



# Public Survey

Identify where on the trail you would like to see these amenities.



# Progress to Date (Cont'd)

## ○ **Traffic assessment**

- 7 study intersections
- City of Beacon: Churchill St and E. Main St.

## ○ **Utility Coordination**

- Central Hudson Gas & Electric Meeting (July 2024)
  - Reviewed crossing points; Feasibility of overhead electric relocations
  - Safety concerns at substation; Maintain access to system
- Con Edison – Future meeting



# Progress to date (Cont'd)

- **Existing Conditions Report** (October 2024)
  - Report posted on [Study Website](#)
  - Majority of corridor is in good condition
  - Manageable challenges; extensive opportunities for connectivity
- **Presented trail concepts to Advisory Committee** (December 2024)
  - Rail with Trail concept poses many challenges
  - Rail to Trail concept preferred; fewer overall impacts to the corridor

# Trail Concepts - Comparison

## Rail to Trail

- Re-use existing ballast stone & bridges
- Minimal impacts to environmental features like wetlands, floodplains, & established forests
- Remove railroad steel rails & wood ties
- Adaptive re-use of a transportation corridor
- Little to no ROW acquisitions required

## Rail with Trail

- Railroad tracks/ties remain in place
- Trail offset from tracks 20-25 ft
- Significant construction costs due to new bridges, culvert extensions, & significant fill
- Extensive environmental impacts to wetlands, floodplains & tree clearing
- Physical constraints such as rock cuts, buildings, Fishkill Creek, roadways (Beacon)
- ROW acquisitions required



# Existing Corridor Conditions



## Overall Corridor

Physical characteristics, dimensions, ballast, drainage, road crossings, etc.



## Structures

Bridges & Overpasses



## Natural Resources

Streams, wetlands, floodplains, historic & cultural resources, endangered species, equity, etc.

# Overall Corridor

The railroad corridor was found to be in generally good condition.



**Ballast:** 75% in good or excellent condition



**Drainage:** 14 large culverts, 9 small culverts, 2 washouts



**Access Points:** 5 Parks, 4 informal access points



**Utilities:** Electric, communications, water, gas, sewer



**Road Crossings:** 7 major, 21 minor road/driveway

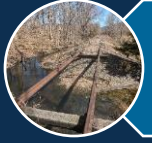
# Natural Resources



**Vegetation & Trees:** No significant issues



**Streams:** 3 named & 3 unnamed watercourses



**Wetlands:** Fishkill & East Fishkill



**Floodplains:** 5 miles of corridor in some type of floodplain



**Cultural Resources:** Near historic areas and parks



**Species:** Indiana Bat, Bog Turtle, Monarch Butterfly

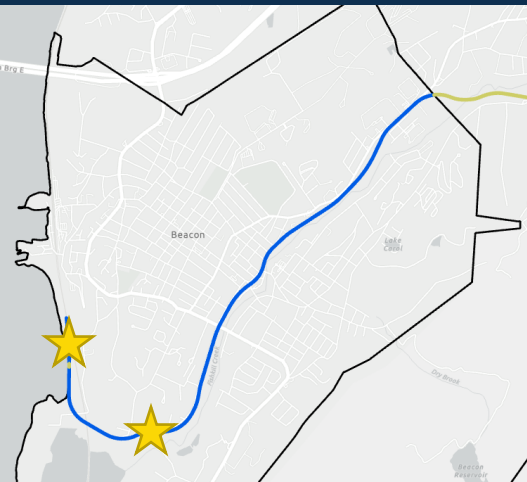


# Railroad Corridor – City of Beacon

Riverfront Trail adjacent to the Hudson River



Madam Brett Park/Tioronda Hat Factory



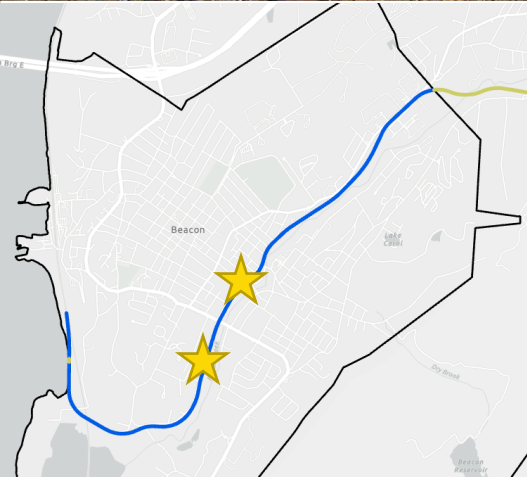


# Railroad Corridor – City of Beacon

Looking east along Tioronda Ave

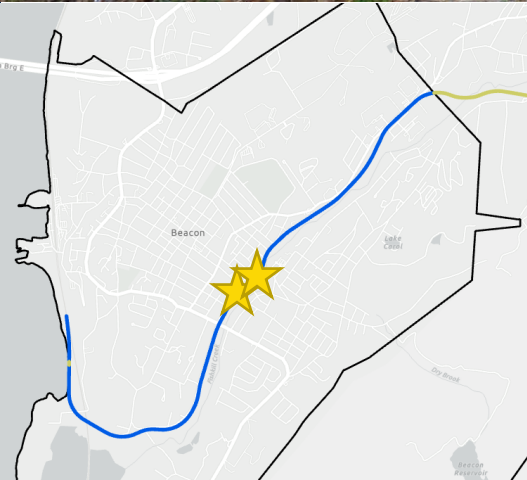


The Silos Beacon LLC, encroachment into corridor



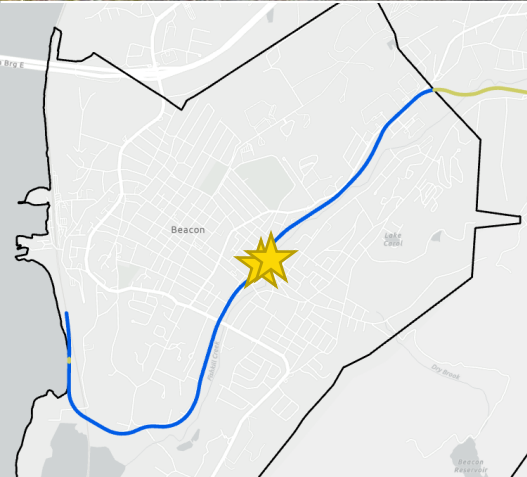


# Railroad Corridor – City of Beacon



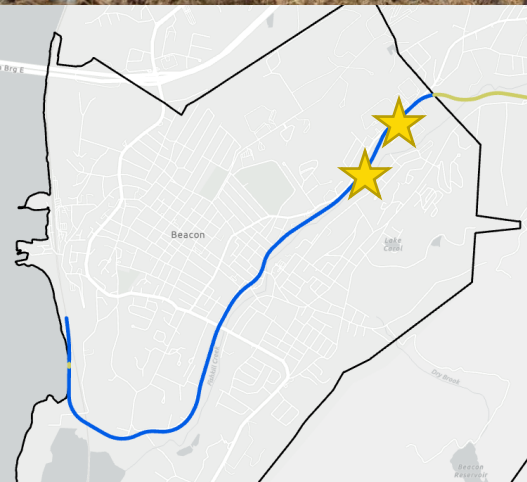


# Railroad Corridor – City of Beacon



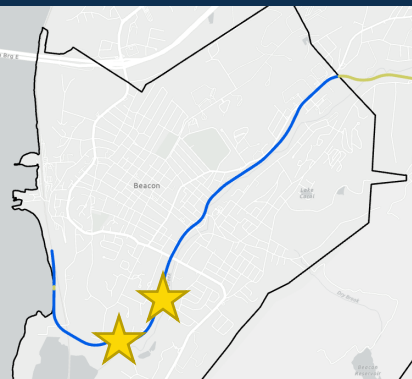


# Railroad Corridor – City of Beacon





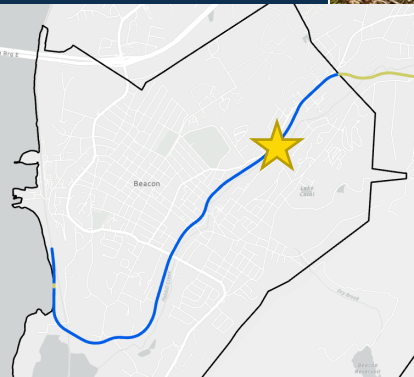
# Drainage Characteristics - Small Culverts





# Drainage Characteristics - Large Culverts

Large Steel pipe from Carvana parking lot



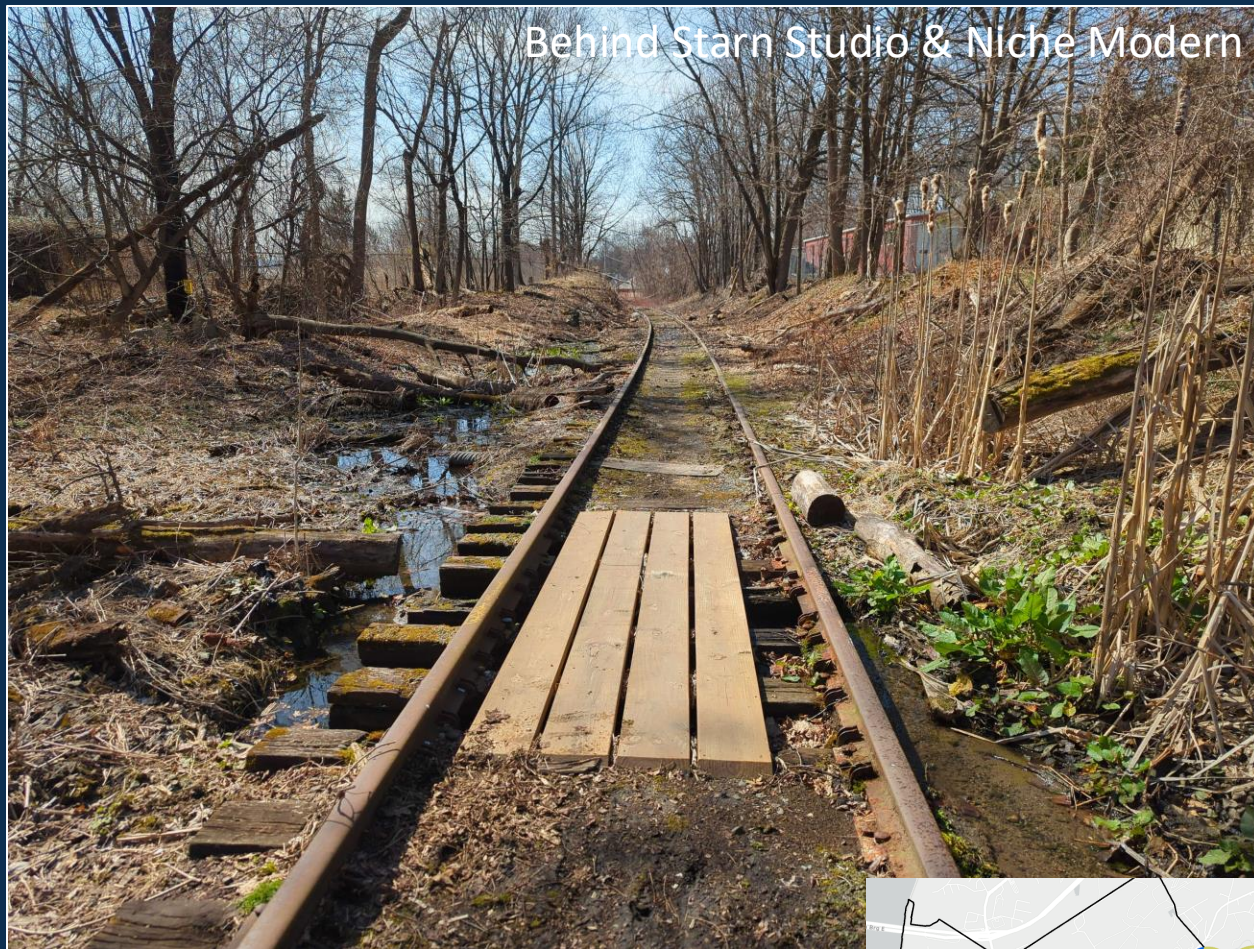


# Drainage Characteristics - Uncontrolled Drainage Crossings

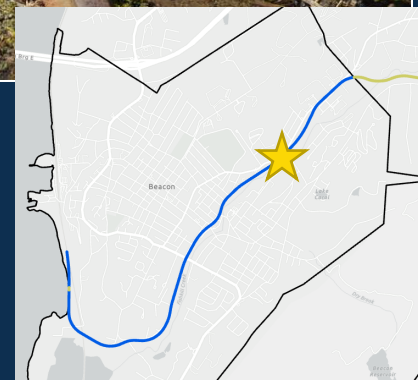
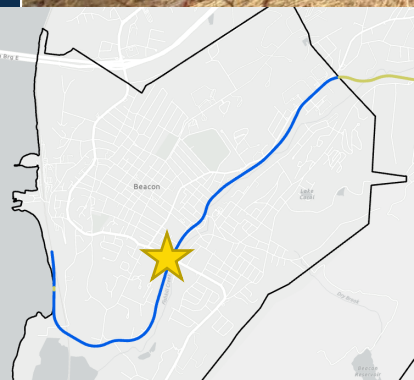
East of Route 9D Overpass



Behind Starn Studio & Niche Modern

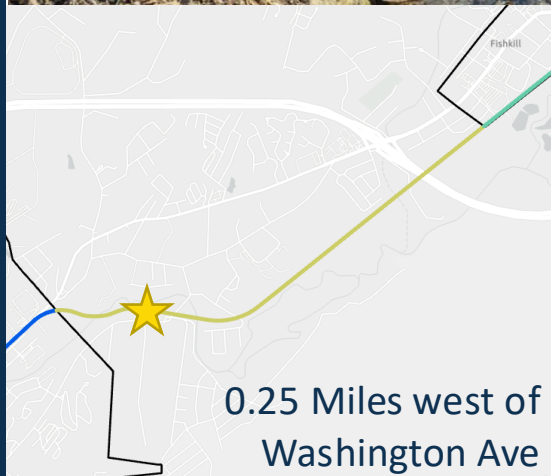


- Drainage flows are not confined by a ditch or a culvert
- Uncontrolled drainage crossings may be subject to USACE and NYSDEC review for jurisdictional streams or wetlands

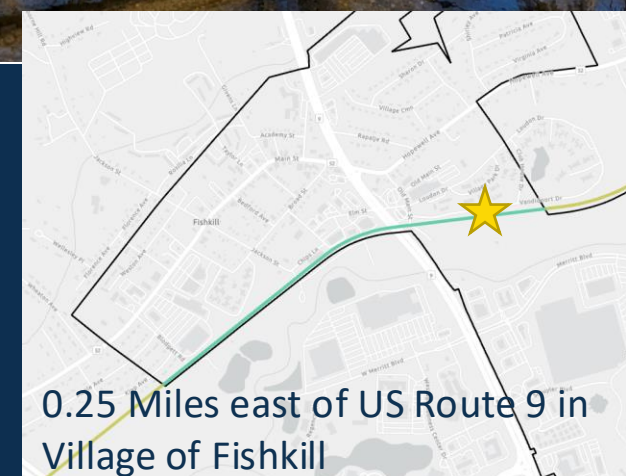




# Drainage Characteristics - Washouts



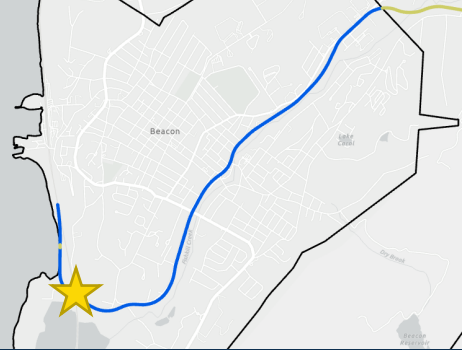
- 2 washouts within corridor (none in the City)
- Both are routine repairs/replacements



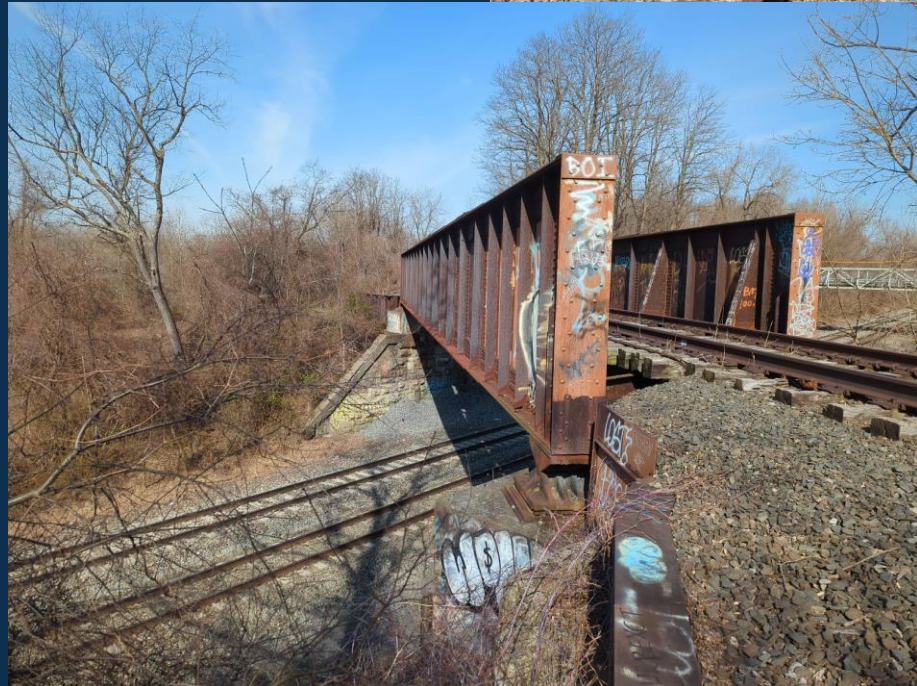
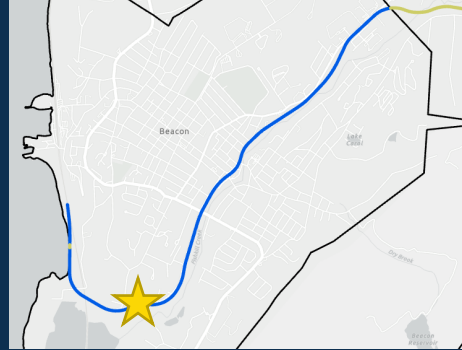


# Bridge Structures

Bridge 1 (Mile 0.63)



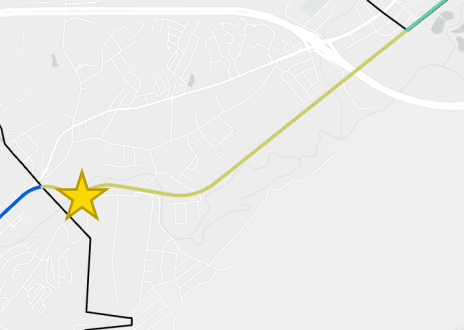
Bridge 2 (Mile 0.98)



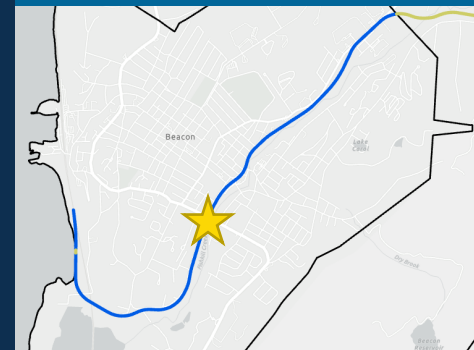


# Bridge Structures

Bridge 3 (Mile 3.74)



Overpass 1 (Route 9D)

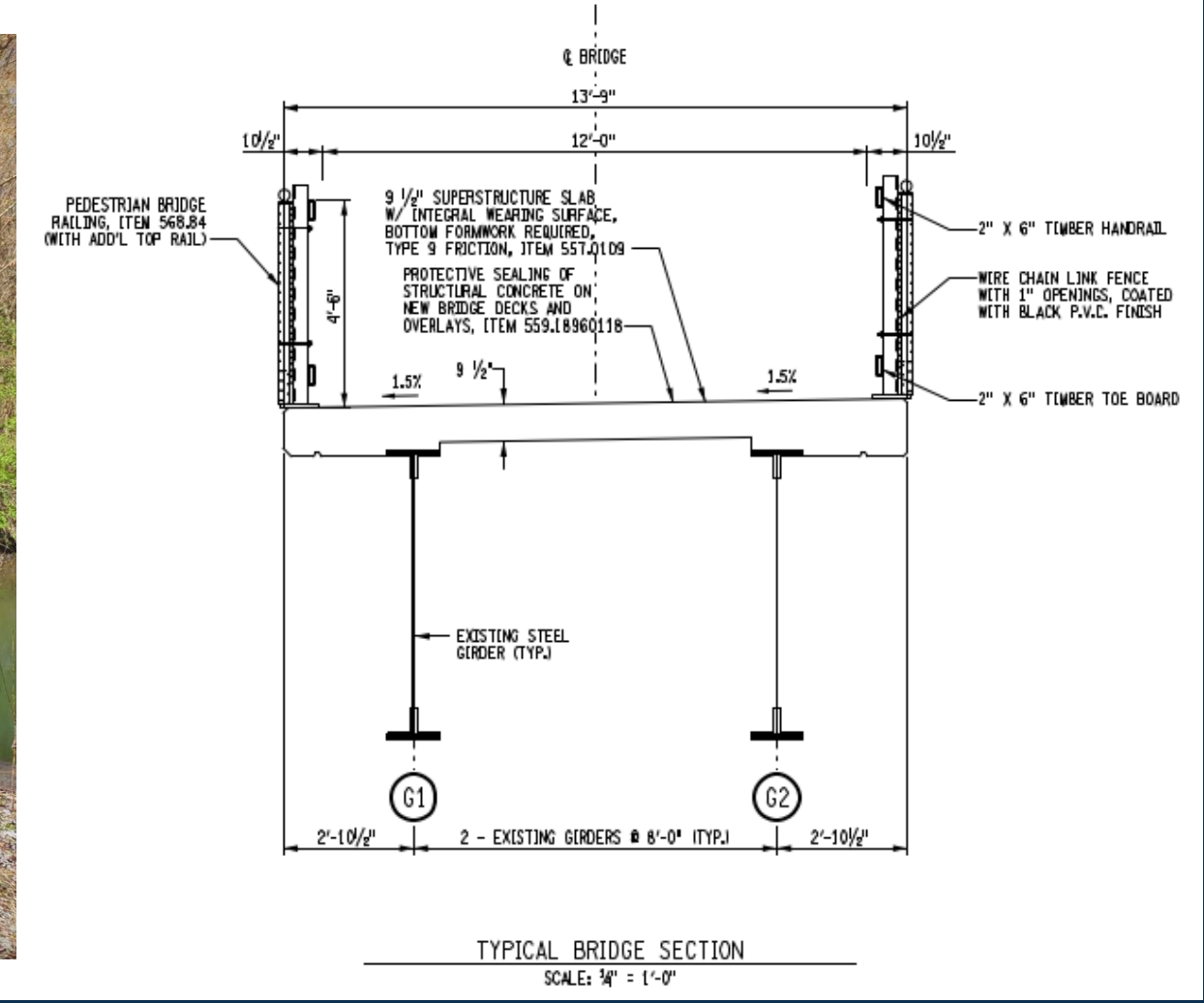


Located just east of the City limits

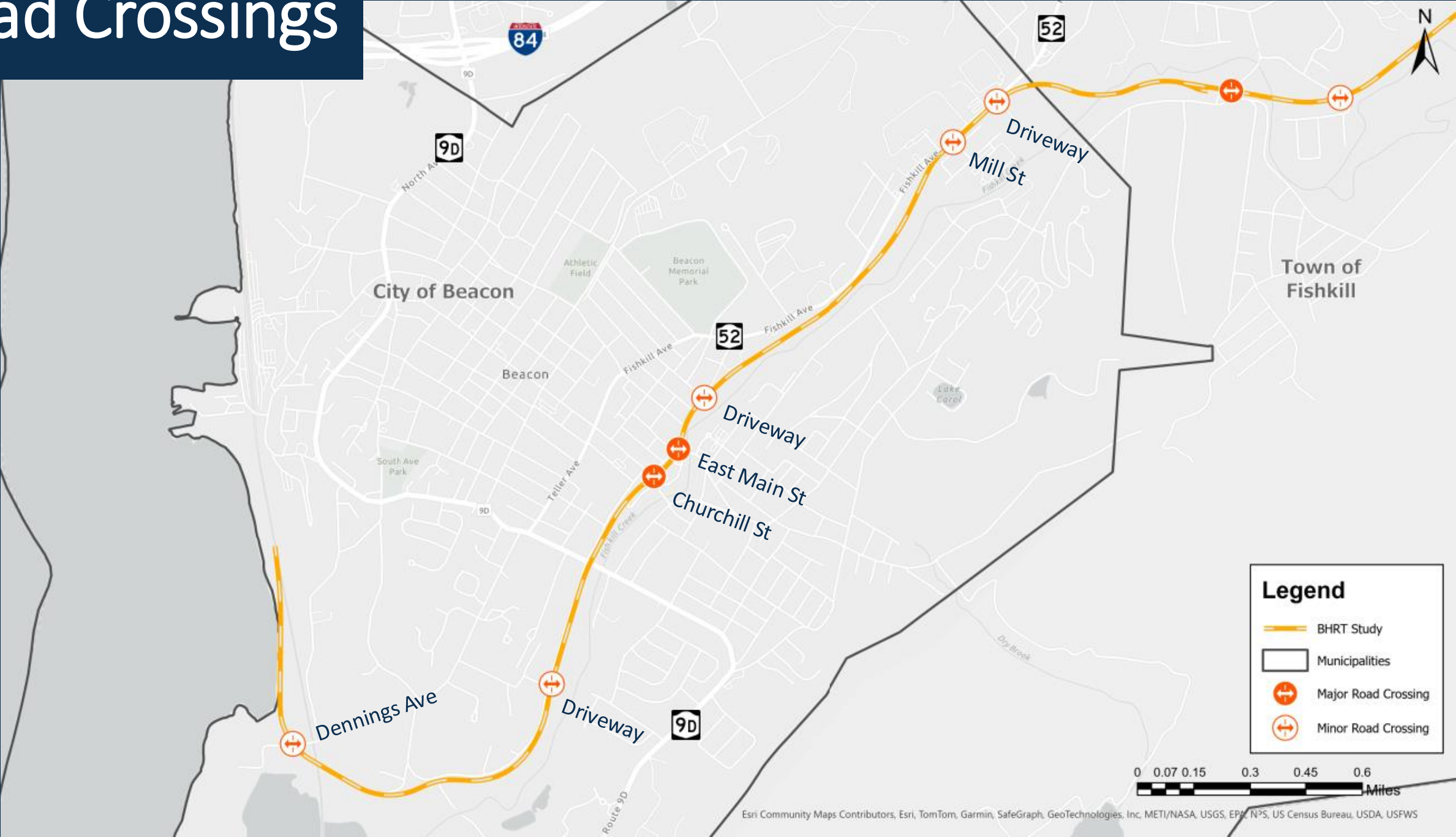


Existing two-girder railroad bridge on

## Existing two-girder railroad bridge on the Beacon Line (Town of Fishkill)



# Road Crossings

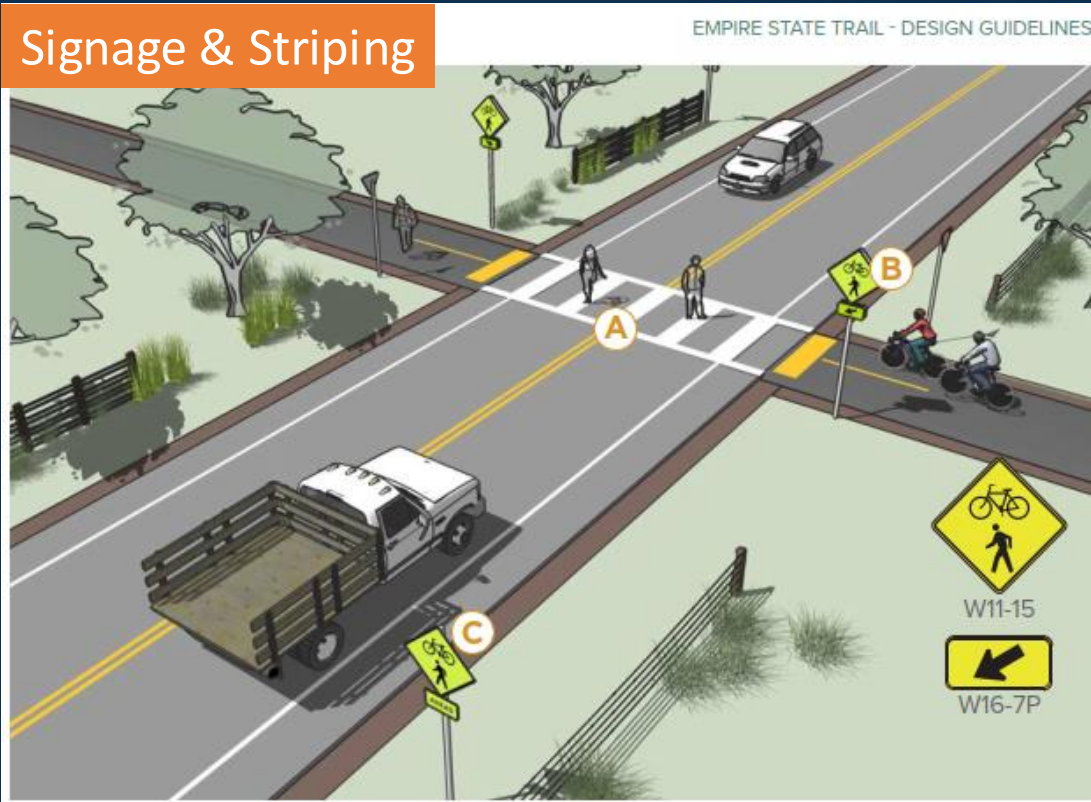




# Minor Road Crossings



Mill St



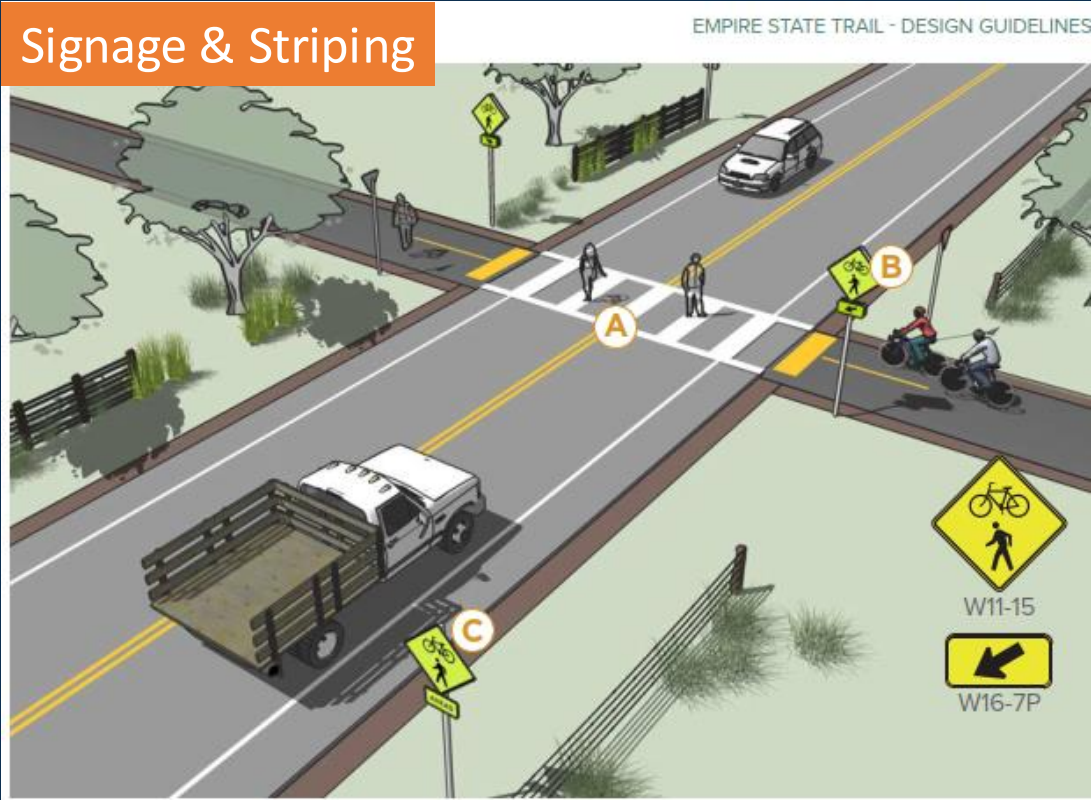
Road Name	Muni.	Crossing Type	AADT	Crossing Length (feet)	Notes
Dennings Ave	C. Beacon	Minor Road	-	19	
N/A	C. Beacon	Driveway	-	47	248 Tioranda Development
N/A	C. Beacon	Driveway	-	25	Entrance to Beacon Wetland Preserve & Wildlife Sanctuary
Mill St	C. Beacon	Minor Road	692	25	
N/A	C. Beacon	Commercial Driveway	-	30	Commercial Driveway



# Minor Road Crossings



Commercial Driveway



Road Name	Muni.	Crossing Type	AADT	Crossing Length (feet)	Notes
Dennings Ave	C. Beacon	Minor Road	-	19	
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# Major Road Crossings



Road	Municipality	Daily Traffic	Posted Speed Limit	Crossing Length	Notes
Churchill St	C. Beacon	1,631	30	22	
E. Main St.	C. Beacon	5,163	30	55	Queue conflicts



# Major Road Crossings – Churchill St



Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacons (RRFBs)

STATE TRAIL - DESIGN GUIDELINES



Road	Municipality	Daily Traffic	Posted Speed Limit	Crossing Length	Notes
Churchill St	C. Beacon	1,631	30	22	



# Major Road Crossings – Churchill St





# Major Road Crossings – East Main St



Road	Municipality	Daily Traffic	Posted Speed Limit	Crossing Length	Notes
E. Main St.	C. Beacon	5,163	30	55	Queue conflicts

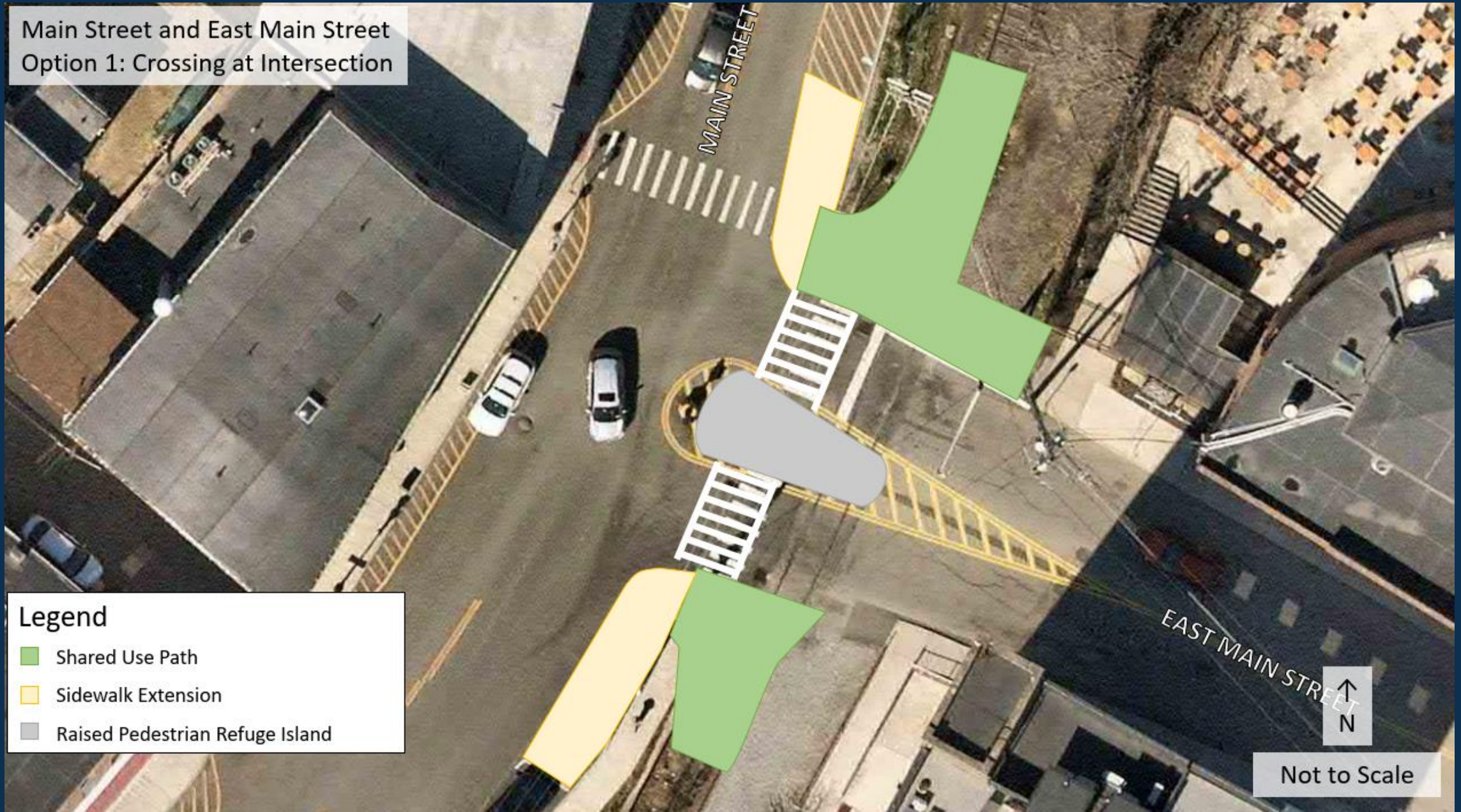


# Major Road Crossings – East Main St

Main Street and East Main Street  
Option 1: Crossing at Intersection

## Legend

- Shared Use Path
- Sidewalk Extension
- Raised Pedestrian Refuge Island



Not to Scale



# Utility Conflicts

Central Hudson Gas & Electric has both Transmission and Distribution lines crossing and adjacent to the Railroad Corridor.





# Utility Conflicts & Coordination





# Corridor Access Locations – City of Beacon





# Next Steps

- Presentations to other municipalities (March 3rd & 13th)
- Incorporate your comments and feedback
- Virtual Public Meeting #1 (March 20th at noon)
  - See [BeaconHopewellRailTrail.com](https://BeaconHopewellRailTrail.com) for link
- Draft Report – Spring 2025 (will post online)
- Public Meeting #2 – Spring 2025
- Final Report – Summer 2025



# Comments or Questions?

## **Dutchess County Transportation Council**

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Poughkeepsie, NY 12601

(845) 486-3600

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[www.dutchessny.gov/dctc](http://www.dutchessny.gov/dctc)

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