

# **Informational Workshop Public Meeting**

## **Fourth Street Arch Bridge Replacement Project City of Weston Lewis County, West Virginia**

---



**West Virginia Division of Highways in cooperation  
with the Federal Highway Administration and City of  
Weston**

**State Project S321-N16/70-0.02**

**Federal Project #STP-1670(001)D**



**Robert L. Bland Middle School**

**Weston, WV**

**Thursday, May 2, 2019**

**4:30pm to 7:30pm**

**Fourth Street Arch Bridge  
Replacement Project  
STATE PROJECT #S321-N16/70-0.02  
FEDERAL PROJECT #STP-1670(001)D**

**WORKSHOP PURPOSE**

The purpose of this Informational Workshop Public Meeting is to provide information on the proposed Fourth Street Arch Bridge Replacement Project over the West Fork River, connecting North River Avenue to Water Avenue in Weston, and is an opportunity for you to provide comments. The workshop is intended to be informal to maximize the interaction between citizens and the project team.

We encourage you to examine the project maps and displays, discuss the project with the members of our project team who are here today, and complete the enclosed comment sheet.

**WORKSHOP FORMAT**

The WVDOH procedures for public workshops are established to ensure meaningful citizen input in the development for proposed projects, in compliance with all applicable regulations and requirements. This informational workshop public meeting is from 4:30pm to 7:30pm and there will be NO FORMAL PRESENTATION.

**Registration**

If you have not already printed your name and address on the registration sheet, please remember to do so before you leave. Additional copies of this handout and the comment sheet are available at the registration table. The WVDOH welcomes your comments on the project; therefore, please feel free to write comments as you visit other displays around the room. You can drop the completed sheet in the Comment Box; return it to any WVDOH representative at the meeting, or mail it to the WVDOH at the address below or on the WVDOH Website at <http://go.wv.gov/dotcomment>, under Engineering Projects/Fourth Street Arch Bridge Replacement.

**Environmental Studies**

Representatives from the WVDOH and engineering/environmental consulting firm GAI Consultants, Inc. are here today to discuss the environmental study process. Maps depicting the proposed project location are available for viewing. This meeting complies with the public involvement requirements of the

National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and Section 106 of the National Preservation Act of 1966. This project will be processed as an Environmental Assessment (EA). The Project Summary table at the end of this document compares the environmental impacts of the Project's build alternatives.

## **Engineering**

Representatives from the WVDOH are available to discuss the location and preliminary design of the project area. These representatives also have information regarding the area studied for the project.

## **Right-of-Way**

WVDOH Right-of-Way representatives are available to answer your questions regarding any right-of-way acquisitions.

## **PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

The City-owned Fourth Street Arch Bridge is a concrete and block arch bridge, built in 1913, and has a 110-foot-long, 26-foot-wide roadway, carrying two 12-foot lanes, a sidewalk on the downstream side, and is situated above the high-water level of West Fork River. The Arch Bridge serves as a key component in the City's vehicular traffic and pedestrian systems. The approaches to the bridge are tangent sections of roadway with adequate sight distance. An intersection with North River Avenue exists at the northwestern end of the bridge. Damage to guardrails and parapets indicates trouble with vehicles making the turn at this intersection. An intersection with Water Avenue exists at the southeastern end of the bridge.

The Fourth Street Arch Bridge is a historic property. It is a contributing resource to the Weston Downtown Residential Historic District which is located south of the West Fork River adjacent to the bridge.

The Fourth Street Arch Bridge is deteriorating and is currently posted for 10 tons to restrict loads; it has a sufficiency rating of 22 on a scale of 1-to-100. The substructure is in poor condition as the full length of the pier exhibits medium scaling on both sides near the water surface, and random hairline cracking is present throughout the pier. The superstructure is in poor condition due to spalling, cracking, scaling, and section losses throughout. Bridge replacement is recommended.

**Four alternatives and the No-Build Option** were studied for the bridge replacement project. See plan sheets for project details.

- **Alternative 1 (New Bridge at Existing Location)** consists of replacing the existing bridge at its current location while traffic detours on existing city streets during construction. The new structure consists of a 115-foot, single-span, steel girder bridge with a reinforced concrete deck with a vertical alignment that maintains a waterway opening that is larger than the existing bridge. The new bridge also has a five-foot-wide sidewalk located on the upstream side of the deck and a clear width of 30 feet. The new bridge is widened with a flare on the northwest end to accommodate large trucks. Approximately 20 feet of roadway is necessary on each end of the new bridge for the approaches and six parcels would be impacted. Alternative 1 will impact the Weston Downtown Residential Historic District. This includes the demolition of two contributing resources: the Fourth Street Arch Bridge and a residential structure. Contributing resources within the Weston Downtown Historic District also fall within the viewshed of Alternative 1. **Total Alternative 1 cost is \$3,332,000.**

- **Alternative 2 (New Bridge One-Half-Mile Downstream)** consists of replacing the bridge while using the existing bridge to maintain traffic. Upon completion of construction, the existing bridge could remain open to pedestrian traffic, but will be permanently closed to vehicular traffic. The new structure consists of a 230-foot, two-span, steel girder bridge with a reinforced concrete deck, with a vertical alignment that maintains a waterway opening that is larger than the existing bridge. Approximately 20 feet of new roadway construction is necessary on the western end of the proposed bridge and 60 feet of new roadway construction is necessary on the eastern end. The bridge deck has a clear width of 30 feet. There are two existing railroad piers in the floodway channel located near the proposed bridge in Alternative 2 that will likely be removed to offset the proposed pier. ROW acquisitions directly impact one parcel of land, which amounts to approximately 0.5-acre. No structures are impacted. While Alternative 2 will not impact any existing historic districts, it may visually impact two newly-recorded, historic-period resources: the Machpelath Cemetery and the B&O Maintenance Garage. **Total Alternative 2 cost is \$3,732,000.**

- **Alternative 3 (New Bridge One-Quarter Mile Downstream)** provides a bridge on an extension of the centerline of Pratt Street and perpendicular to the flow of the West Fork River, using the existing bridge to maintain traffic. Upon completion of construction, the existing bridge could remain open to pedestrian traffic. The new structure consists of a 115-foot, single-span steel girder bridge with a reinforced concrete deck, with a vertical alignment that maintains a waterway opening that is larger than the existing bridge. The new bridge has a five-foot-wide sidewalk located on the downstream side of the deck and a minimum clear width of 30 feet. It is assumed the existing retaining wall along the bank on the eastern end of the proposed bridge (adjacent to US Route 19) will need to be replaced under Alternative 3. ROW acquisitions for the new alignment directly impacts one parcel of land, which amounts to approximately 0.3-acre, but no structures are involved. The Weston Downtown Residential

Historic District falls within the viewshed of Alternative 3. Similarly, the B&O Maintenance Garage may be visually impacted by Alternative 3. Additionally, hydrology studies indicate that the Weston Downtown Residential Historic District could be impacted through occasional flooding as a result of the construction of a new bridge at this location. **Total Alternative 3 cost is \$3,153,000.**

- **Alternative 4 (Rehabilitation of the Existing Bridge)** consists of rehabilitation of the bridge at its existing location while traffic detours on existing city streets during construction. The Rehabilitation Alternative includes the rehabilitation of the arch and spandrel walls, a new deck, abutment repairs, pier repairs, and approach roadway and roadway construction. The waterway opening will remain as it currently exists. All approach roadway work occurs within existing ROW currently owned by the City and no new property is needed. Alternative 4 will likely impact the Fourth Street Arch Bridge and the Weston Downtown Residential Historic District as a result of rehabilitation of the bridge. With due consideration given to the rehabilitation cost and considering the continued monitoring and frequent repairs that will be necessary to keep this a viable structure, rehabilitation of this structure is not recommended. **Total Alternative 4 cost is \$4,340,000.**

- **No-build Option** will eventually lead to the closure of the Fourth Street Arch Bridge. This option is not feasible.

**PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE FOR CONSTRUCTION**

**Currently, no preferred replacement Alternative has been identified for the Project. That decision will be made after this Public Workshop and receipt of Public and Agency comments. Your views are important to the Division of Highways.**

**CURRENT PROJECT SCHEDULE**

**Public Information Workshop.....May 02, 2019**  
**Public Meeting Comments Due By.....June 03, 2019**  
**\*Current Environmental Clearance/FHWA NEPA Document**

**Approval.....Fall 2019**  
**\*Expected Construction Start Date.....Spring 2022**

**\*Dates are subject to change**



# Summary of Key Project Impacts

Resources/ Element	No Build Option	Alternative 1, Replacement on Current Location	Alternative 2, New Bridge Half Mile Downstream Location	Alternative 3, New Bridge Quarter Mile Downstream	Alternative 4, Rehabilitation of Arch Bridge
Parcel Impacts	0	6	1	1	0
Residential Displacements	0	1	0	0	0
Commercial Displacements	0	0	0	0	0
Detour	1/2-Mile Permanent Detour	1/2-Mile Temporary Detour	No Detour	No Detour	1/2-Mile Temporary Detour
Stream Impacts	0 linear feet	Minor: Wingwalls	One new pier, remove two existing	One new pier	Minor: Wingwalls
Historic Resources	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Archaeological Resources	No	No	No	No	No
Section 4(f) Impacts	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Noise Increase	No	No	No	No	No
Engineering					
Roadway Length (ft)	N/A	75	100	40	75
Bridge Length (ft)	116' 6"	115	230	115	116' 6"
MOT	N/A	1/2-Mile Detour	Existing Bridge	Existing Bridge	1/2 Mile Detour
Project Costs					
Construction (2020)	N/A	\$2,312,000	\$3,075,000	\$2,496,000	\$3,320,000
Engineering		\$600,000	\$600,000	\$600,000	\$600,000
Utilities		\$150,000	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$150,000
ROW		\$270,000	\$37,000	\$37,000	\$270,000
<b>Total Project Cost</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>\$3,332,000</b>	<b>\$3,732,000</b>	<b>\$3,153,000</b>	<b>\$4,340,000</b>

## COMMENTS

Please send written comments on or before Monday, June 03, 2019 to:

**Mr. Raymond J. Scites, P.E., Director, Engineering Division  
West Virginia Division of Highways  
1334 Smith Street  
Charleston, West Virginia 25031**

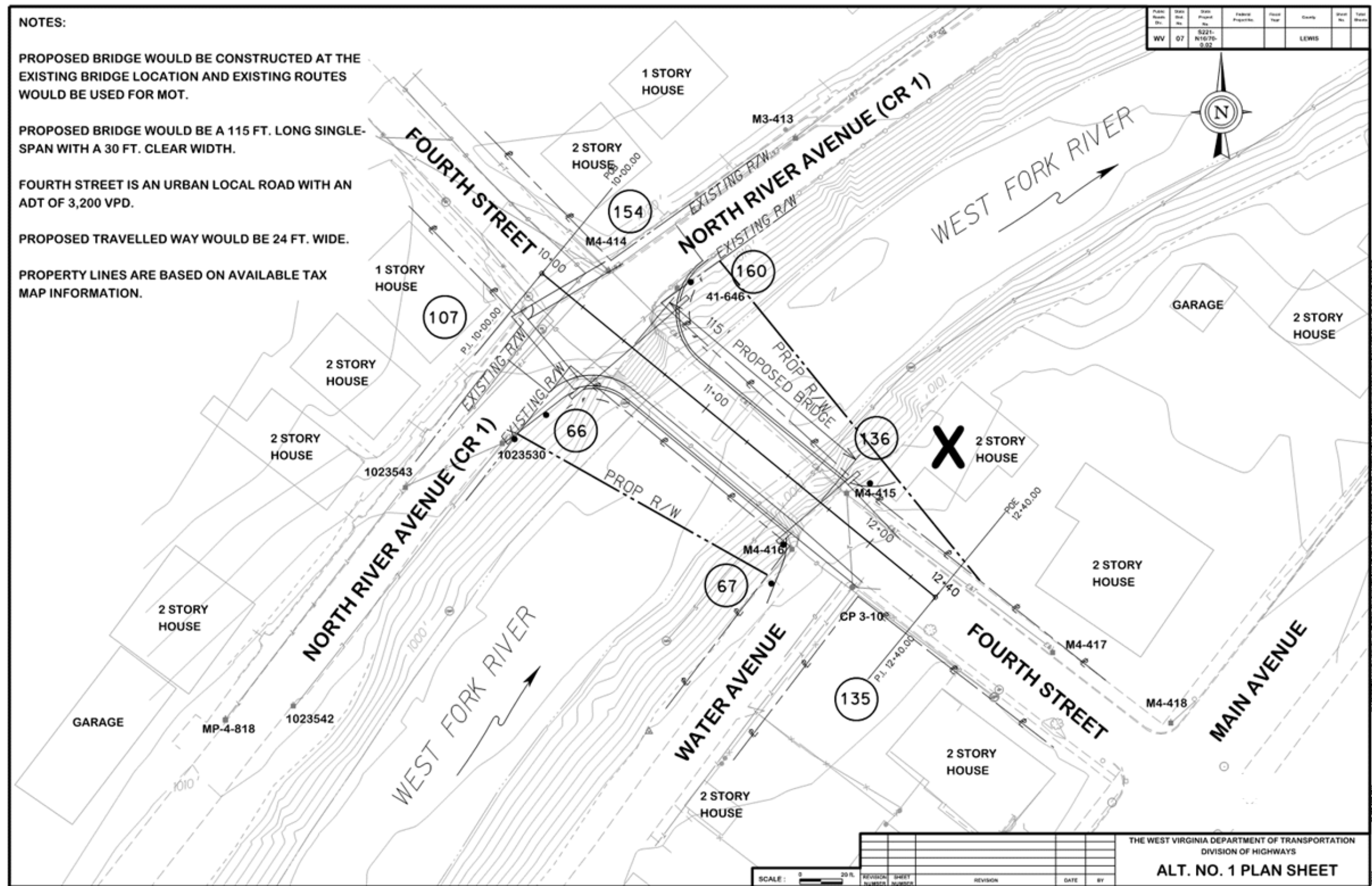
**Project Information and Comment Sheets can be found online at our web page:**

**<http://go.wv.gov/dotcomment>**

**Click on “Comment on Engineering Project”,  
and then click on “Fourth Street Arch Bridge Replacement.”**

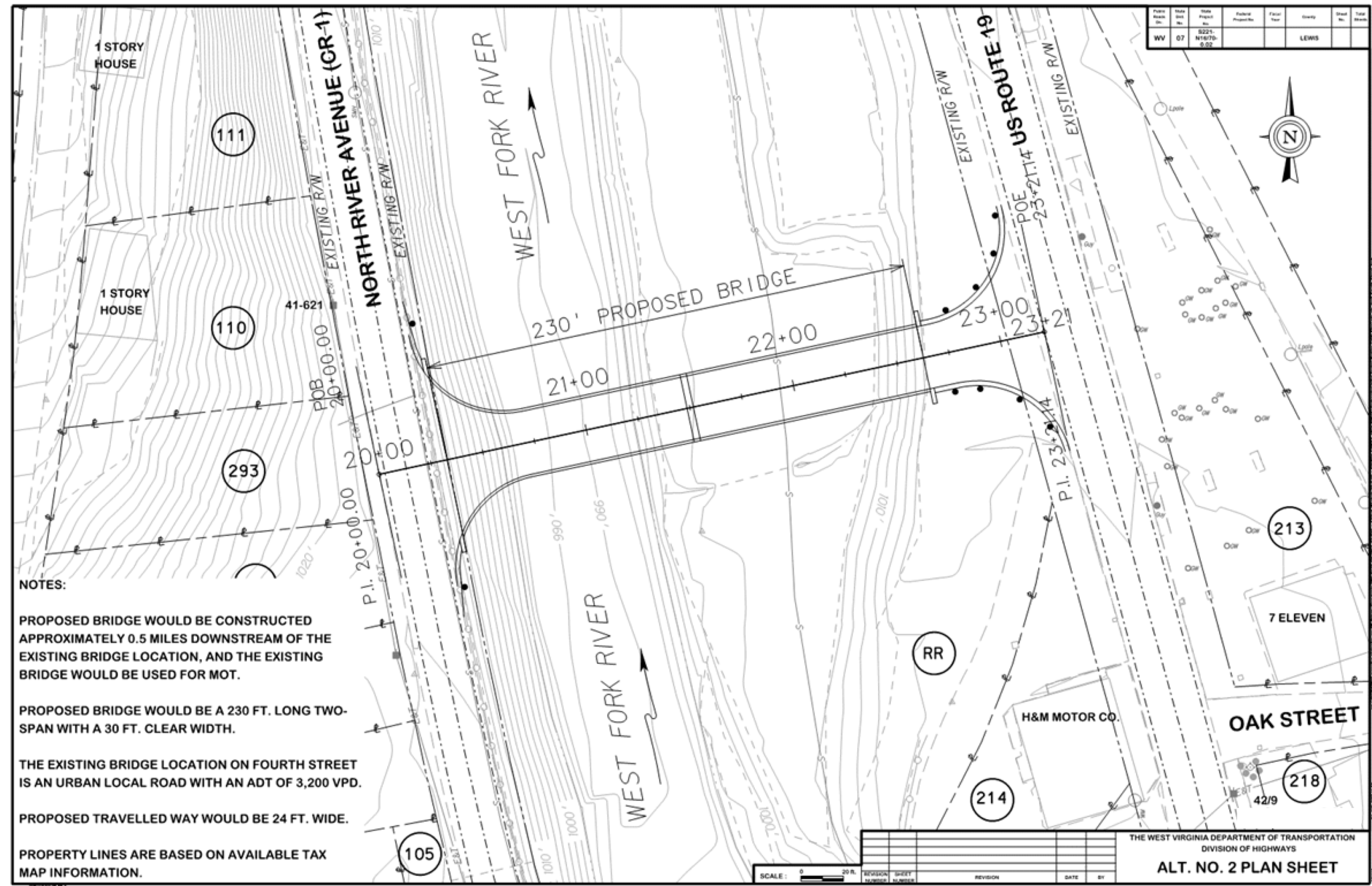


# Alternative 1



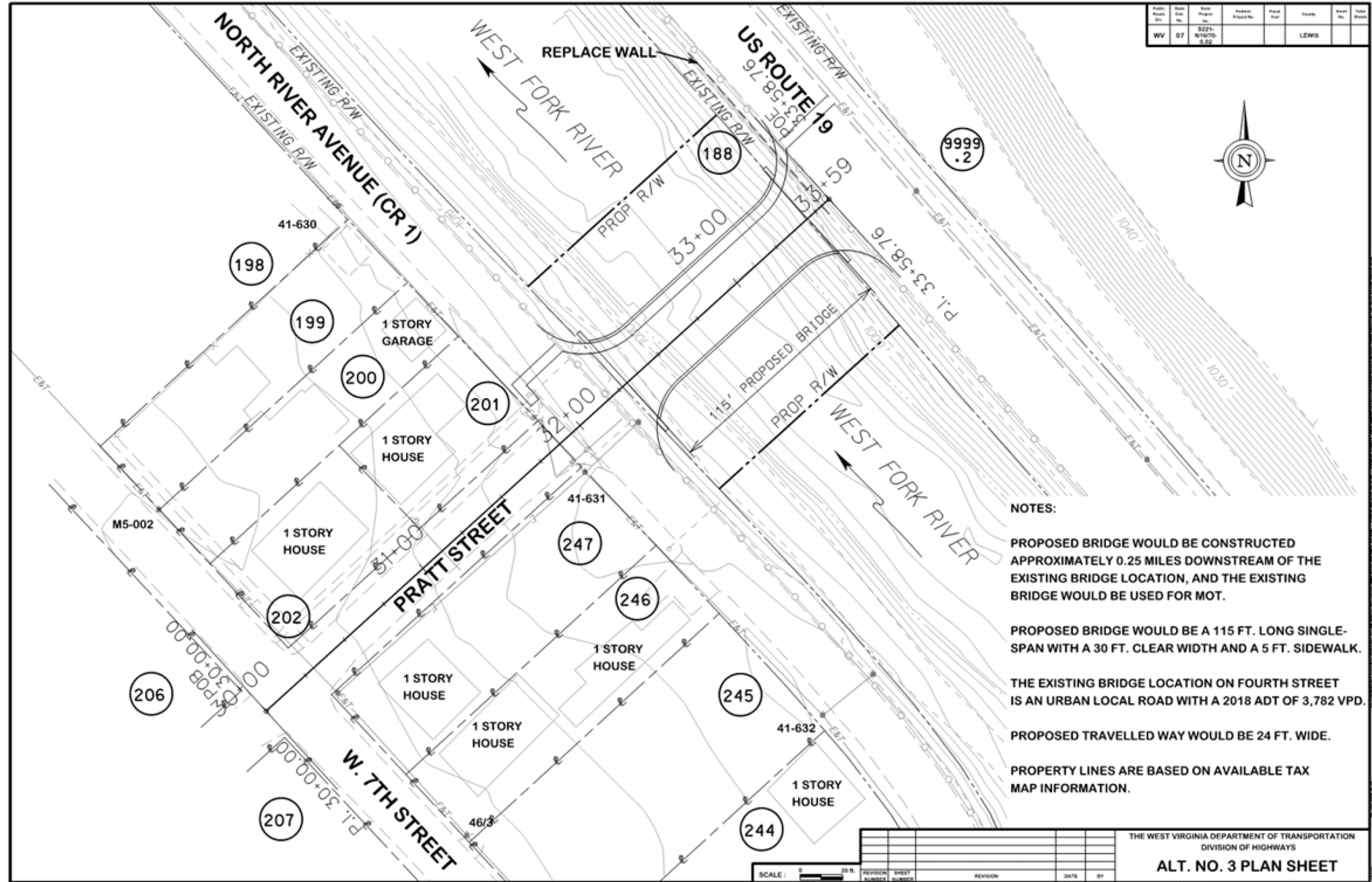


# Alternative 2





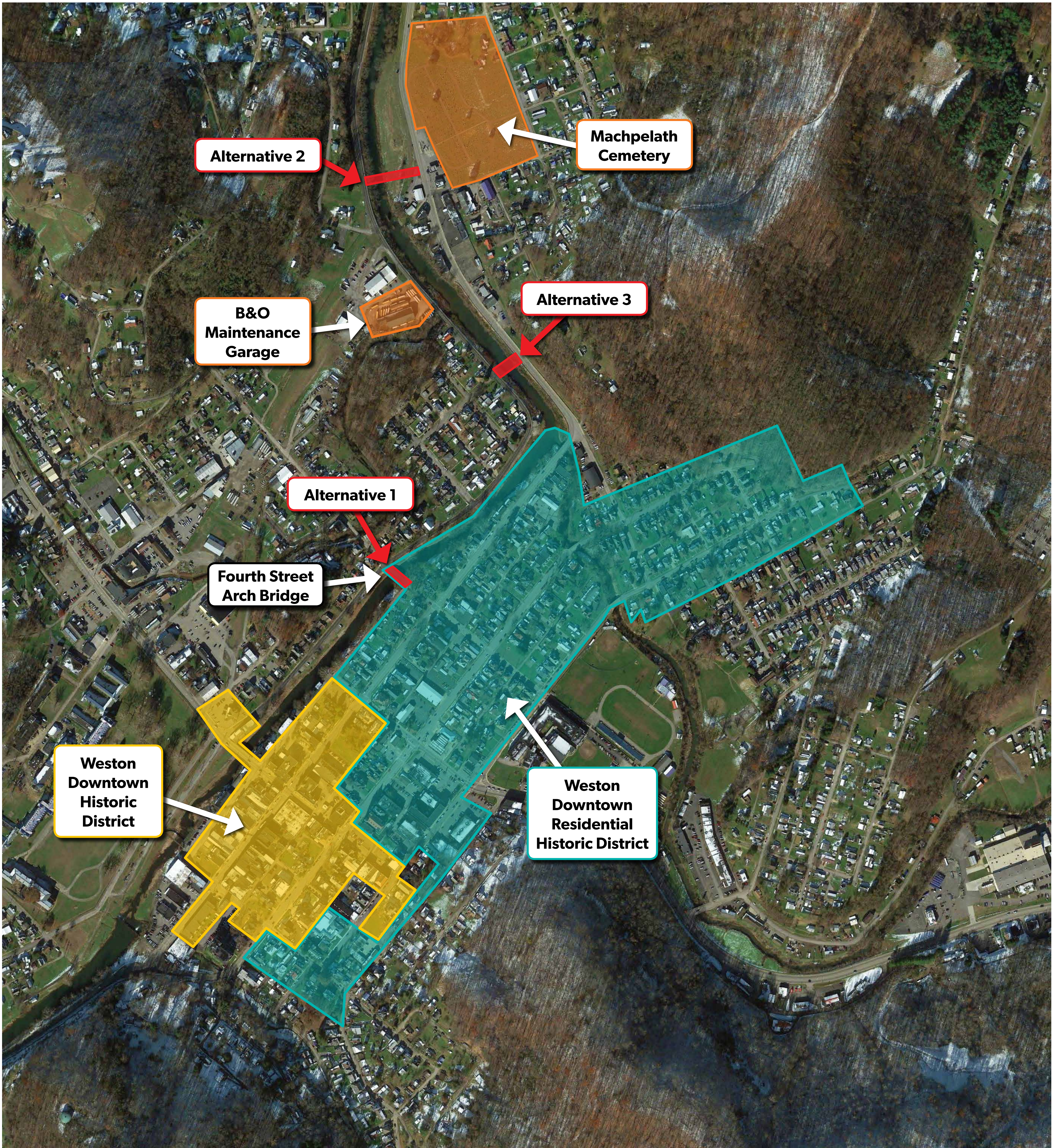
# Alternative 3



May 2, 2019



# Project Overview





DATE:

Mr. RJ Scites, P.E.  
Director, Engineering Division  
West Virginia Division of Highways  
State Capitol Complex, Building 5, Room 317  
1900 Kanawha Boulevard East  
Charleston, West Virginia 25305-0430

**DATE:** Thursday, May 02, 2019  
**LOCATION:** Robert L. Bland Middle School  
**SUBJECT:** INFORMATIONAL WORKSHOP PUBLIC MEETING  
**PROJECT:** Fourth Street Arch Bridge Replacement Project  
S321-N16/70-0.02  
STP-1670(001)D  
Lewis County

**COMMENTS DUE BY** Monday, June 03, 2019

Please consider the following comments:

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

(Please print the following information)

NAME:

ADDRESS:

ORGANIZATION (IF ANY):

How did you hear about the Informational Workshop Public Meeting?

Project Information and Comment Sheets  
Can be found online at our WVDOH Website at <http://go.wv.gov/dotcomment>.  
Under Engineering Projects, click Fourth Street Arch Bridge Replacement.