

US 51 Bridge Replacement over the Ohio River Wickliffe, Kentucky to Cairo, Illinois

KYTC Item No. 01-1140.00



Prepared For:



Michael Baker

1650 Lyndon Farm Court Suite 210 Louisville, KY 40223

CAG/EJ Meeting #3 Summary

October 15, 2020

Prepared By:

HDR





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MEETING SUMMARY

Project: US 51 Cairo Bridge Project

Subject: CAG/EJ Meeting #3

Date: Thursday, October 15, 2020

Location: Webex Virtual Meeting

Invitees:

First Name	Last Name	Title	Organization
Shelby	Adkinson	Director	Shawnee College Cairo Extension Center
Hannah	Chretien	Director	Ballad County Chamber of Commerce and Ballard County Economic and Industrial Development
Todd	Cooper	Judge Executive	Ballard County, Kentucky
Stacey	Courtney	Associate Director- Planning And Community Development Division	Purchase Area Development District
Brian	Derousse	Owner	Kentucky Hillbilly Bbq
Jimmy	Ellis	Reverend	First Missionary Baptist Church
Tiffany	George	Executive Director	Southern Five Regional Planning District
Carla	Hildebrand	Park Manager	Wickliffe Mounds
Rodney	Hill	Pastor	Fairview Baptist Church
Janet	Hunt	Property Owner	Property Near Proposed Bridge Location
Jim	Lefevre	Purchase District Board Of Health Member- Ballard County	Ballard County Health Center
Hannah	Miller	Manager-Pulaski- alexander County	Illinois Farm Bureau
David	Phillips	Mayor	Mayor City Of Wickliffe
Dr. Patrick	Rice	Superintendent	Alexander County, II Schools
Thomas	Simpson	Mayor	Mayor City Of Cairo
Monica	Smith	Director	Cairo Public Library
Vernon	Stubblefield		Concern For Aging Community Population
Allen	Tappan	Manager	Waterfront Services Co.
Steve	Tarver	Cairo Community Leader	



MEETING PURPOSE: CAG/EJMEETING#3

The following summary represents our understanding of the decisions and action items covered during CAG/EJ Meeting #3 on October 15, 2020. This summary is based on notes taken during discussion. If this differs from your understanding, please notify <u>US51Bridge@mbakerintl.com</u>.

Project: US 51 Cairo Bridge Project

Subject: CAG/EJ Meeting #3

Date: Thursday, October 15, 2020

Location: Webex Virtual Meeting

Attendees: Jill Asher, FHWA-KY

Shelby Byrne, The Waterways Journal

Stacey Courtney, Purchase Area Development District

Patty Dunaway, Michael Baker

Tiffany George, Southern Five Regional Planning District

Brad Gregory, HMB

Phil Halter, City Council-Charleston, MO

Janet Hunt, Property Owner Near Bridge Location

Anna Klenke, Michael Baker

Chris Kuntz, KYTC

Jim LeFevre, Ballard County Health Center

John Mettille, Michael Baker

Cara Mills, Black River Technical College

Karen Mohammadi, Michael Baker

Ameerah Palacios, HDR

David Phillips, Mayor of Wickliffe

Kyle Poat, KYTC

Shannon Provance, HDR

Jeff Schaefer, HDR

Charles Stein, IDOT

Aaron Stover, Michael Baker

Keith Todd, KYTC

Brad Whybark, KYTC

WPSD-TV

ROLL CALL

Chris Kuntz made opening remarks on behalf of KYTC to welcome participants to the meeting.

INTRODUCTION

Aaron Stover gave an overview of the code of conduct for the meeting and informed attendees that the virtual meeting could be accessed through the project website, US51Bridge.com.



For the complete online meeting presentation and story map, please see **Appendix A.** The high level discussion included information on the 2013 planning study that was conducted, as well as meetings held with local officials, and the CAG/EJ group.

BRIDGE INFORMATION PAGE

Aaron Stover said the webpage has a lot of information that gives historical information about the bridge and interactive elements for readers to learn about the background of the project.

HOW WE GOT HERE PAGE

Aaron Stover gave a brief overview of the page, which included a summary of the previous planning study, along with summaries of meetings held with this group.

WHERE WE ARE PAGE

Aaron Stover gave a brief summary of the CAG/EJ Meeting #2 in July 2020, which included the impacts associated with the project that were previously disclosed and the updates that were given about various alternative alignments, typical sections and intersection alternatives.

RECOMMENDED DECISION PAGE

Aaron Stover gave an overview of the preferred alternative, explaining the various benefits, that KYTC and the project team weighed the input from the various public meetings, as well as the pros and cons of each option and determined that there was an overwhelming favorite in Alternative 2 by the Citizen's Advisory Group, the navigation industry, and the project team. Alternative 2 includes impacts to local mooring and fleeting operations, which will need to be mitigated. Alternative 2 is the least expensive option. This Alternative has minimal impact to the human and natural environment. As it is constructed away from the existing facilities, it has minimal impact to maintenance of traffic using the existing bridge. Alternative 2 was the best option, satisfying all of the project goals and requirements.

Intersection Type

Aaron Stover explained that the project team's recommendation is for the Roundabout. He explained that the roundabout is a very efficient way of handling the traffic through the intersection, allows for additional capacity, and would allow for a focal point for the community's future growth and development.

Bridge Width

Aaron Stover explained that the project team is recommending a two-lane, 40' wide bridge, which would recognize a cost savings and accommodate anticipated future capacity and growth, bicycles, safe passage for emergency vehicles and agricultural traffic. While the project team understands the desire of some for a four lane facility, the two lane facility is supported by the lack of four lane highway connectivity in the area, the fact that a two lane facility can handle the current and future traffic volumes of the area, and that a two lane bridge is approximately 27 percent less in cost.



Bridge Type

Aaron Stover explained that the bridge type will be further discussed and worked through in the next phase of the design process, with further input, site exploration, and geotechnical work.

WHAT'S NEXT?

Aaron Stover explained that the project is being finalized and the categorical exclusion level three document is targeted to be completed soon.

Aaron Stover gave an overview of the phase two process of final design, and when construction is anticipated to begin.

ONLINE SURVEY

Aaron Stover encouraged participants to complete the online survey to comment on the project and share their thoughts.

ADDITIONAL DISCUSSION

Comment from Jim LeFevre

Jim LeFevre asked for more detailed information that explains the justification for the roundabout to be chosen over a signalized intersection.

Response from Brad Gregory

Brad Gregory explained that the roundabout is more expensive but handles traffic growth better, provides a safety improvement, and has less conflict points. He also explained that a signalized intersection would later have to be amended with growing traffic versus a roundabout would align with the design forecasts.

Comment from Tiffany George

Tiffany George asked if the roundabout will be wide enough to be semi-truck friendly.

Response from Patty Dunaway

Patty Dunaway responded to Tiffany George that truck traffic will be considered in final design.

Response from Brad Gregory

Brad Gregory responded to Tiffany George that the design would be able to handle the largest semi-truck on the market to date.



Comment from Phil Halter

Phil Halter asked if the elimination of the Mississippi River bridge was still planned in the next few years.

Response from Aaron Stover

Aaron Stover responded to Phil Halter that the bridge is currently undergoing maintenance and there is work being done to extend its useful life.

Response from Charles Stein

Charles Stein responded to Phil Halter that the state is spending \$5 million to improve the joints on the bridge and there are no plans to close it.

Follow-Up Comment from Phil Halter

Phil Halter responded to Charles Stein that from the Missouri side, residents are hearing the bridge will close, which would force the traffic to go through Cairo to get to Kentucky.

Response from Aaron Stover

Aaron Stover responded to Phil Halter, thanking him for his question and concern.

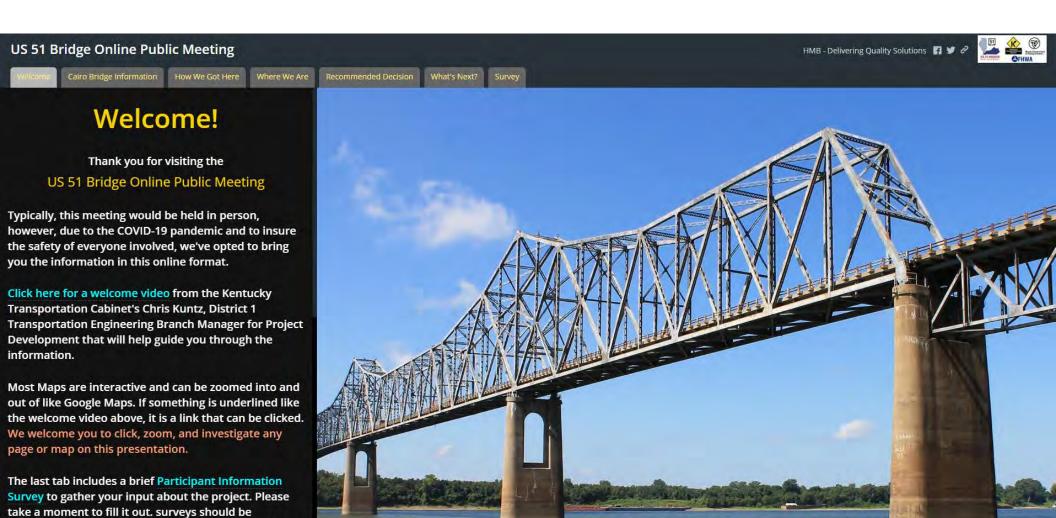
NEXT STEPS

Chris Kuntz closed the meeting and thanked everyone for their participation and attendance. Participants were encouraged to keep up with the project by visiting the website at US51Bridge.com.



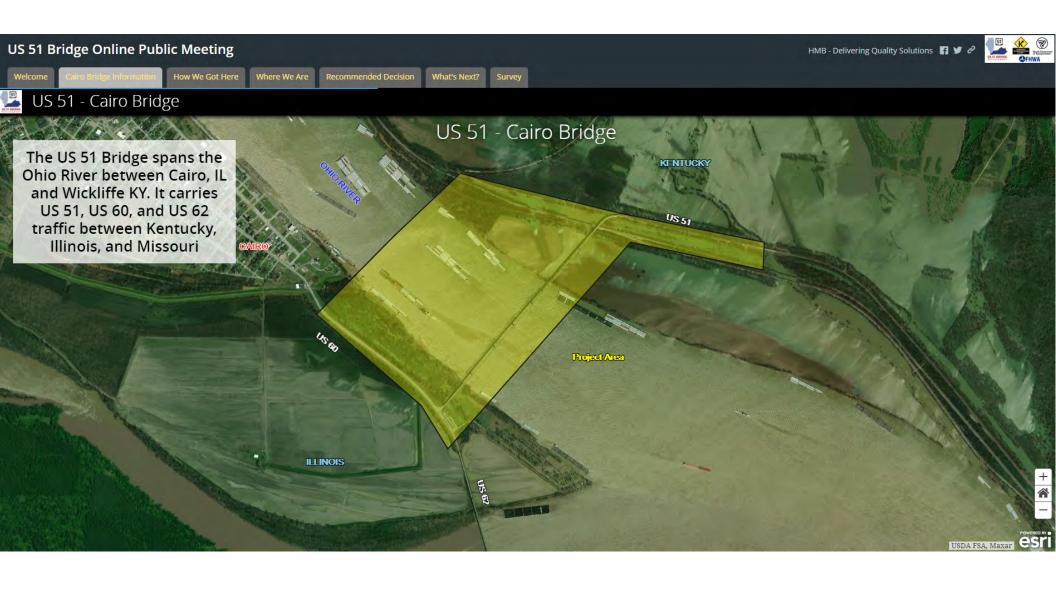
Appendix A: Online Meeting Presentation and Story Map

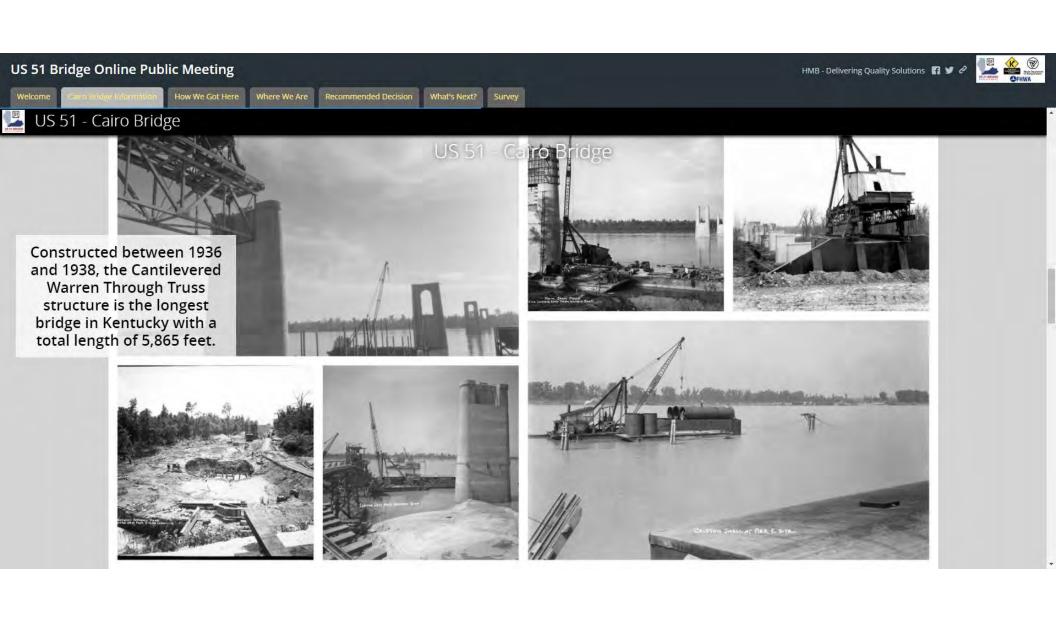


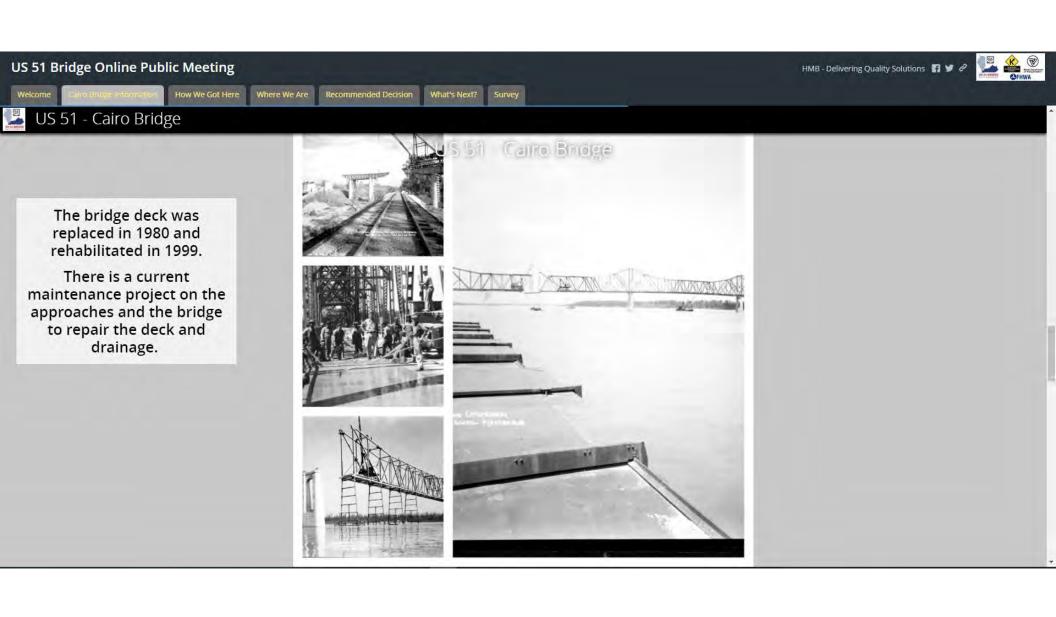


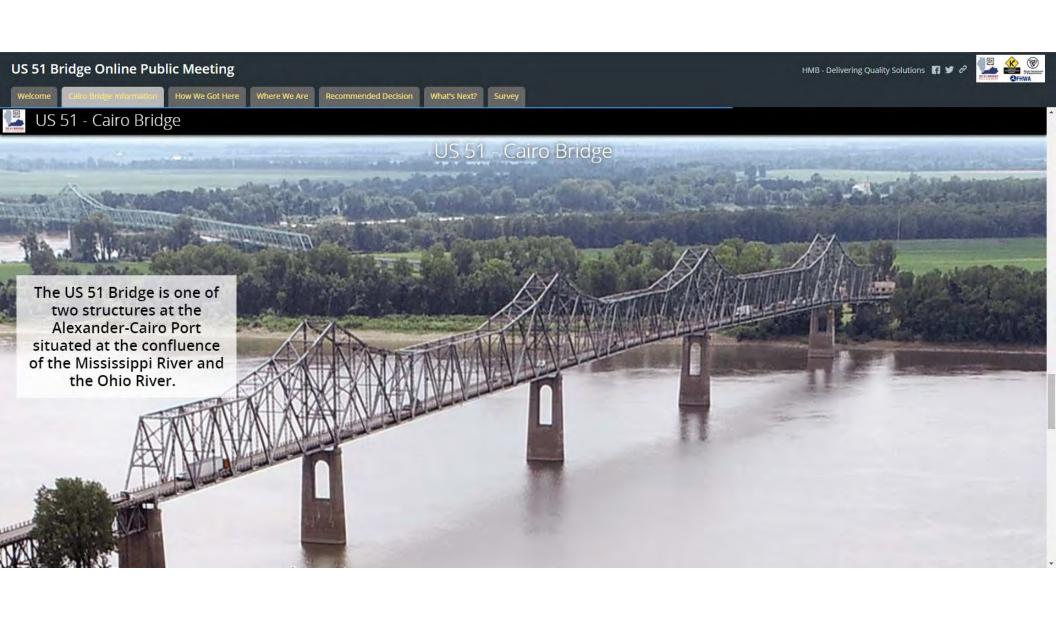
completed and submitted by 5 p.m. CDT October 30th.

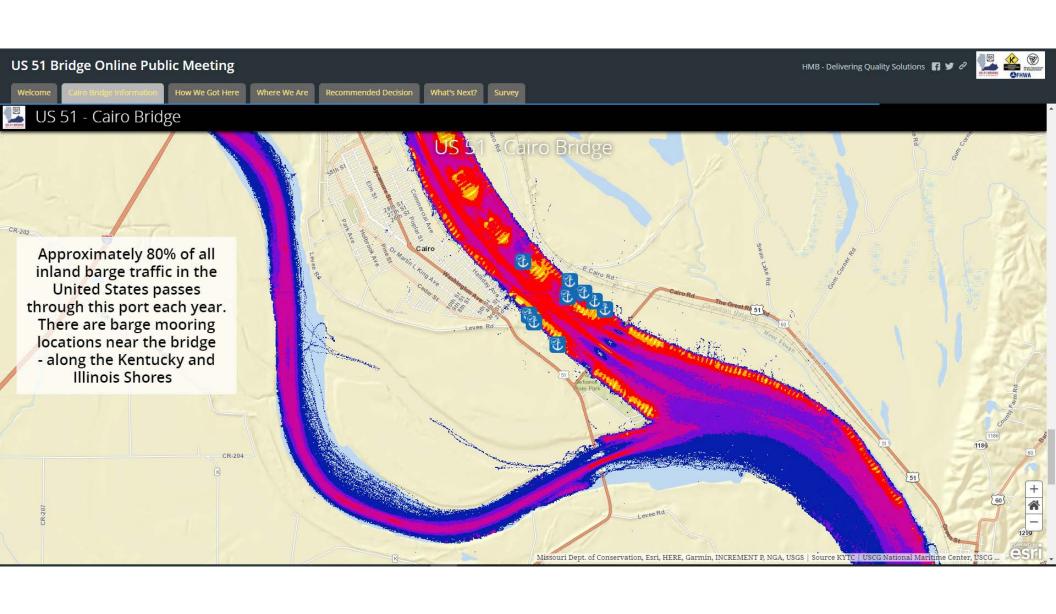


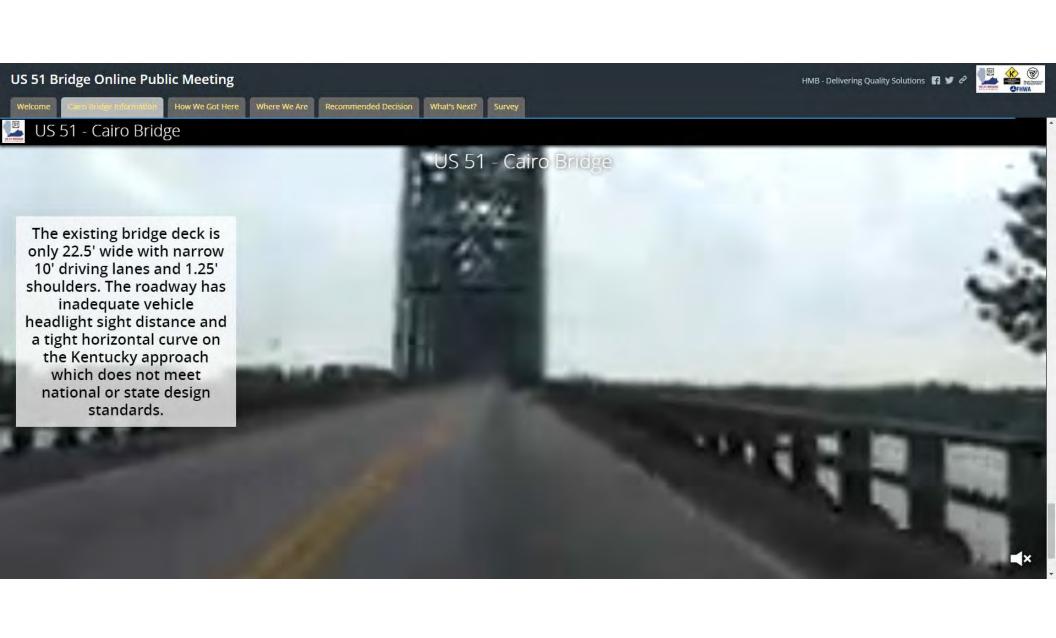


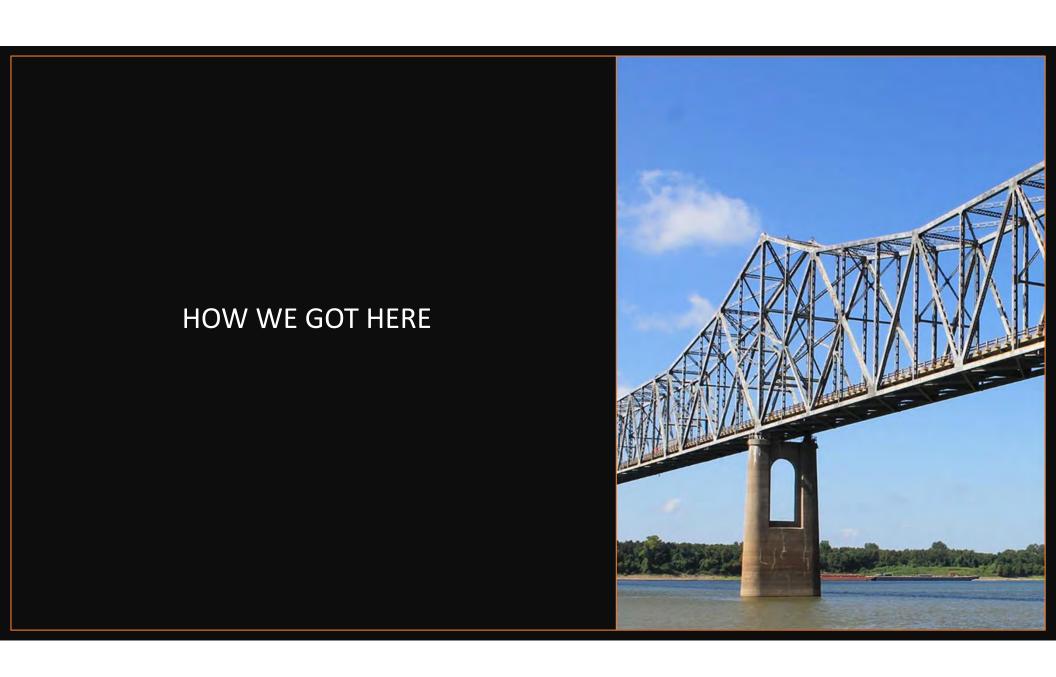














Cairo Bridge Information



Where We Are

Recommended Decision

CA/EJ Group Meeting #1

What's Next?

Seamen's Church Institute Simulator

CA/EJ Group Meeting #2

How We Got Here

Local Officials and Public Meetings

Planning Study

DAG

Local Officials and Public Meetings

September 9 and 10, 2019

A Local Officials Meeting and Two Public Open House Meetings were held in Wickliffe, KY and Cairo, IL.

The Public Meetings were an open house format with stations manned by project team members who were available to answer any questions or issues raised by the public. The stations included:

- Welcome Station: attendees were asked to sign in and were given an informational brochure about the project and questionnaire forms.
- Environmental Station: provided information about the NEPA and Section 106 processes, the 2014 Planning Study, the evaluation criteria used in the 2014 planning study, and the purpose and need statement for the project.
- Preferred Corridor Station: presented the preferred combined Alternative 2 corridor from the 2014 planning study.
- Roadway Station: attendees were shown the preliminary alignments board and the focuse traffic projections for the





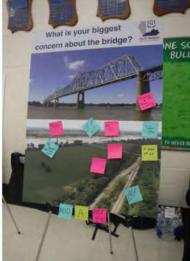






















Where We Are

Recommended Decision

CA/EJ Group Meeting #1

What's Next?

Seamen's Church Institute Simulator

CA/EJ Group Meeting #2

1198

Local Officials and Public Meetings

roadway.

- Structures Station: included information about the existing bridge conditions and a brief introduction to the parts of a bridge structure.
- Project Development Process Station: included a description of the typical project development process, a project specific schedule and an objective board.

Local Officials and Public Meetings

. Post-it Note Board Station: attendees could leave notes voicing their opinions and concerns and a board directing them where they can get more involved with the process and receive additional information.

Click here to see the Meetings' Informational Brochure.

Meetings Summary

Attendees at each meeting were also encouraged to respond to a questionnaire regarding the project. A total of 73 surveys were returned - 19 from the Wickliffe meeting, 50 from the Cairo meeting, and 4 from the Local Officials meeting. To the right is summary of their response.

Top concerns from the meeting attendees were:





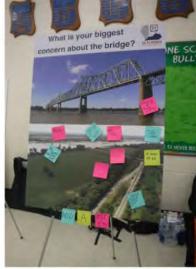
















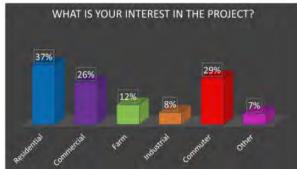
Click here to see the Meetings' Informational Brothum

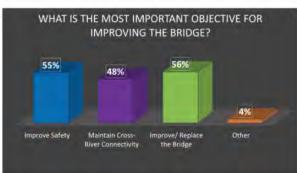
Meetings Summary

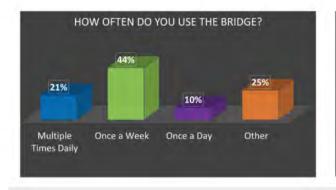
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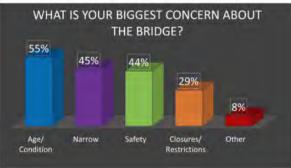
Top concerns from the meeting attendees were:

- Bridge closures and local economic impacts they do not want to close the existing bridge during construction for fear of adverse effects on local economies and tourism.
- Safety
- Flooding a solution to flooding, especially on the Kentucky side, was a point of focus.
- Some expressed interest in a four-lane bridge as an avenue for economic growth.









Cairo Bridge Information

Recommended Decision

Planning Study How We Got Here

Local Officials and Public Meetings

CA/EJ Group Meeting #1

Seamen's Church Institute Simulator

What's Next?

CA/EJ Group Meeting #2





Citizens Advisory/Environmental Justice (CA/EJ) Group Meeting #1

November 14, 2019

The purpose of the Citizens Advisory and Environmental Justice Group is to provide a direct line of communication between local community members and project development parties for the discussion of potential impacts to local businesses, low income and minority communities, and valued natural, environmental, cultural, agricultural, and river transportation resources in the area.

Much of the meeting focused on what has changed since 2014 and understanding the local community and the community concerns. Three alternative alignments and two typical sections were also presented for review.

Scroll down for more information.

Community Discussion









Community Discussion

The project team and CA/EJ group discussed various topics, issues, concerns, and opportunities at the outset of the meeting. A few of the questions and answers:

What are the locations of important community areas and focal points?

- Kentucky: Jefferson Park, Wickliffe Mounds, Courthouse, Fort Jefferson, churches
- Illinois: Magnolia Manor, Horseshoe Lake, Fort Defiance Park, Cairo High School, Thebes Courthouse, St. Mary's Park, Public Library, Custom House, GEM theatre, Riverlore, and churches

How might changes to the bridge negatively or positively impact you, your family and the community?

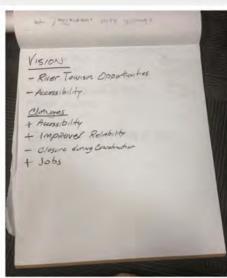
- · ...traffic impacts during constructions as a negative...
- · ... added jobs from construction as a positive.
- · ... positive impact by improving access and increasing safety to users.

What has changed since 2014?

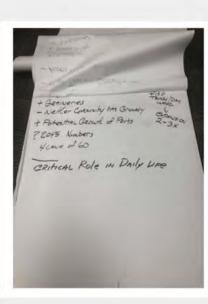
- · Papermill has reopened
- · New river fisheries

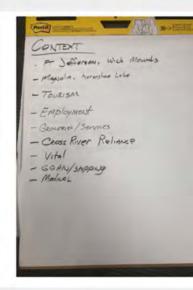
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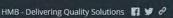
- · Many individuals are employed on the opposite side of the river
- Four-State pact for riverport authority is in the works.



CA/EJ Group Meeting #2

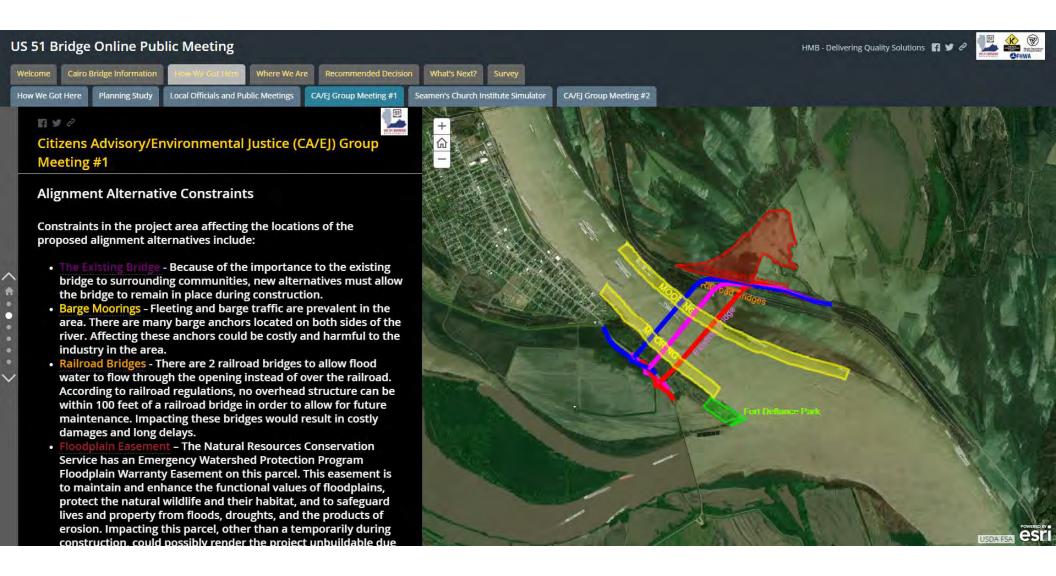


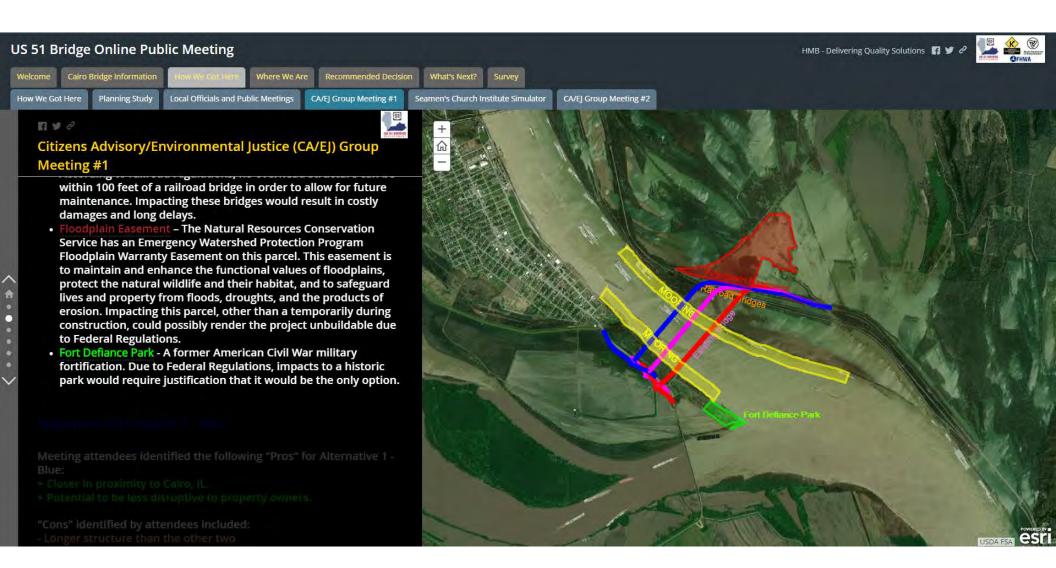


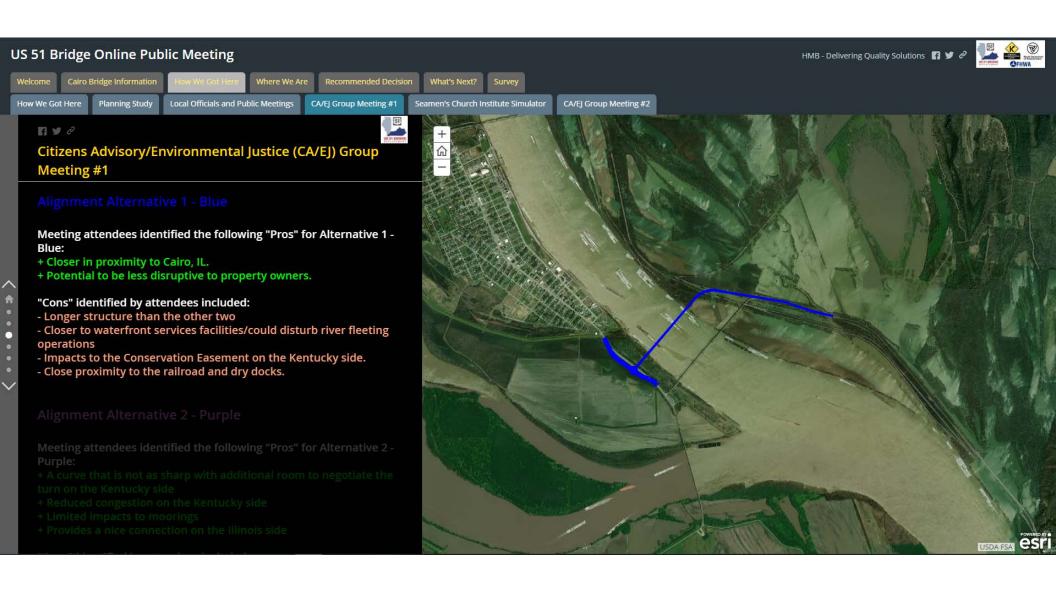


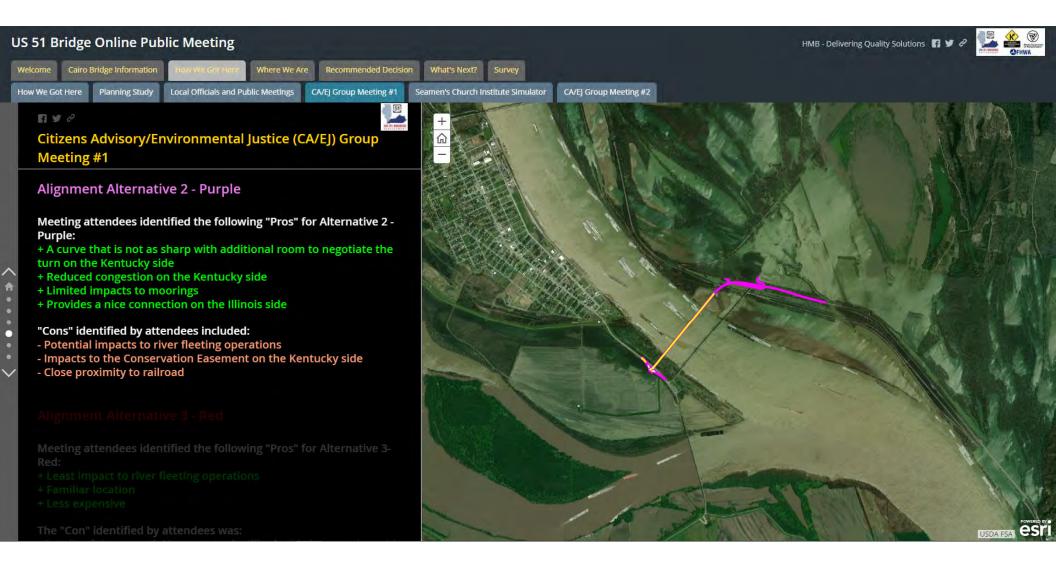


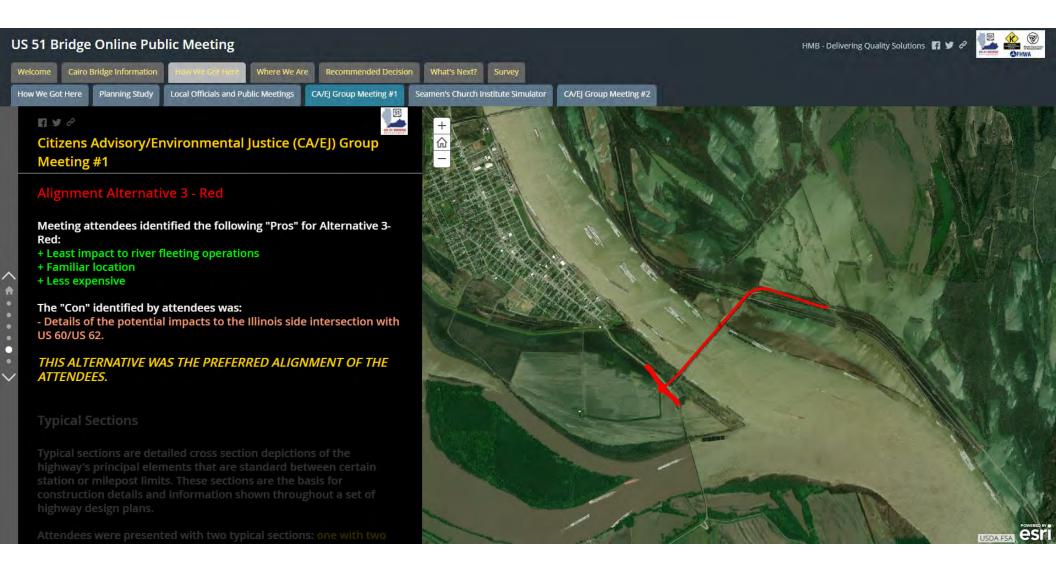


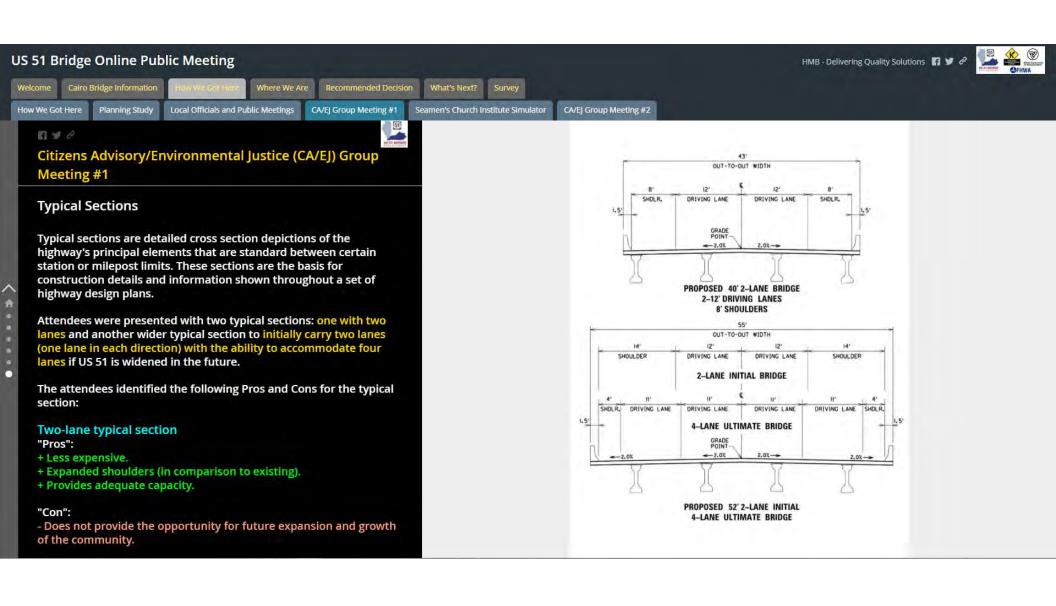


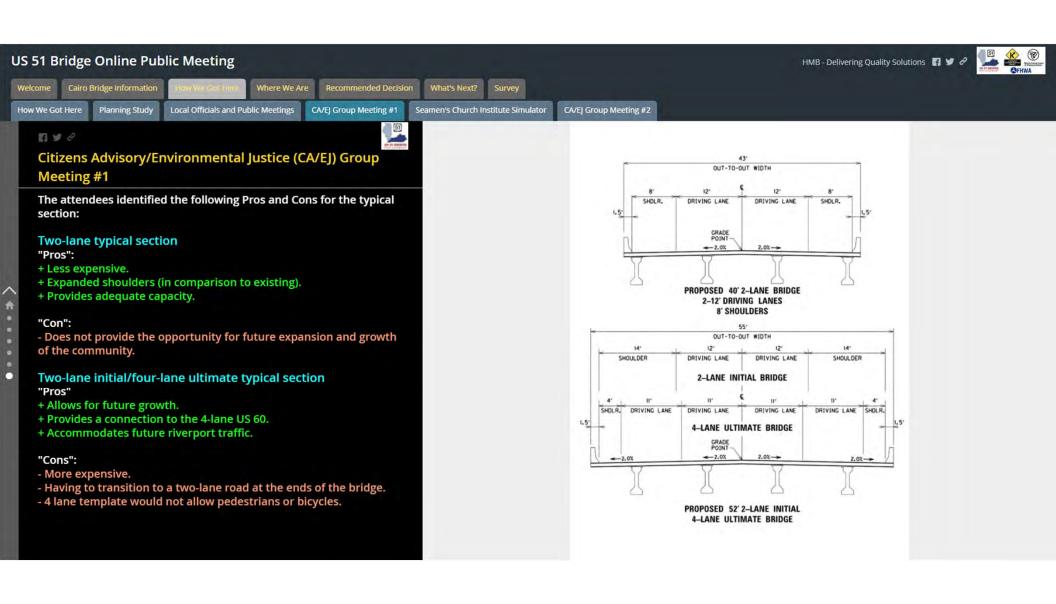














H & S



June 1st - 5th 2020

Seamen's Church Institute (SCI), located in Paducah, KY, is a Maritime Education Center that provides training to commercial and private entities and utilizes simulated geo-specific visual data to create real-time simulations.

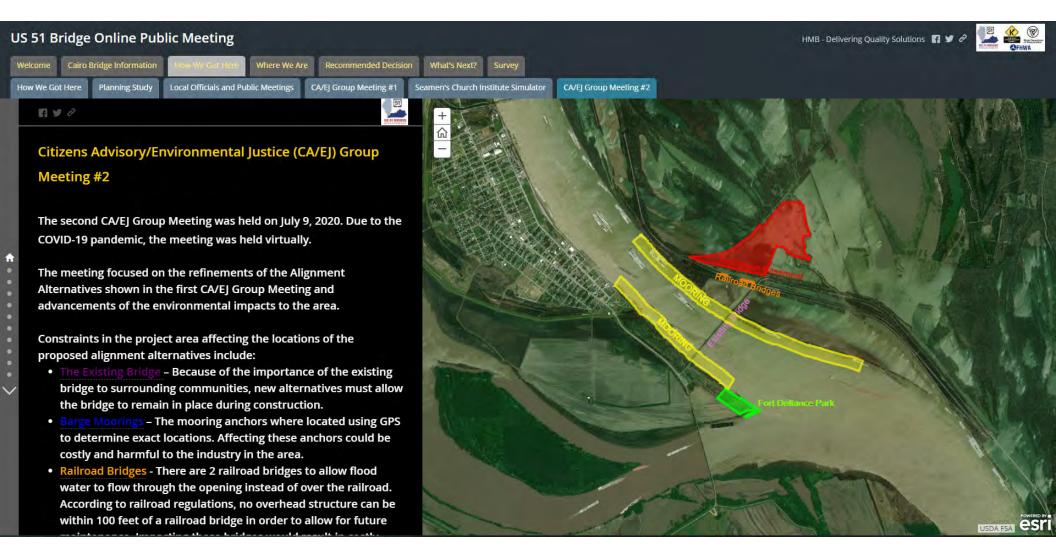
The project team created a simulation for each alignment, multiple bridge span arrangements, and multiple river conditions – over 200 simulations total. Licensed towboat captains and barge captains completed simulations and were asked to answer a survey.

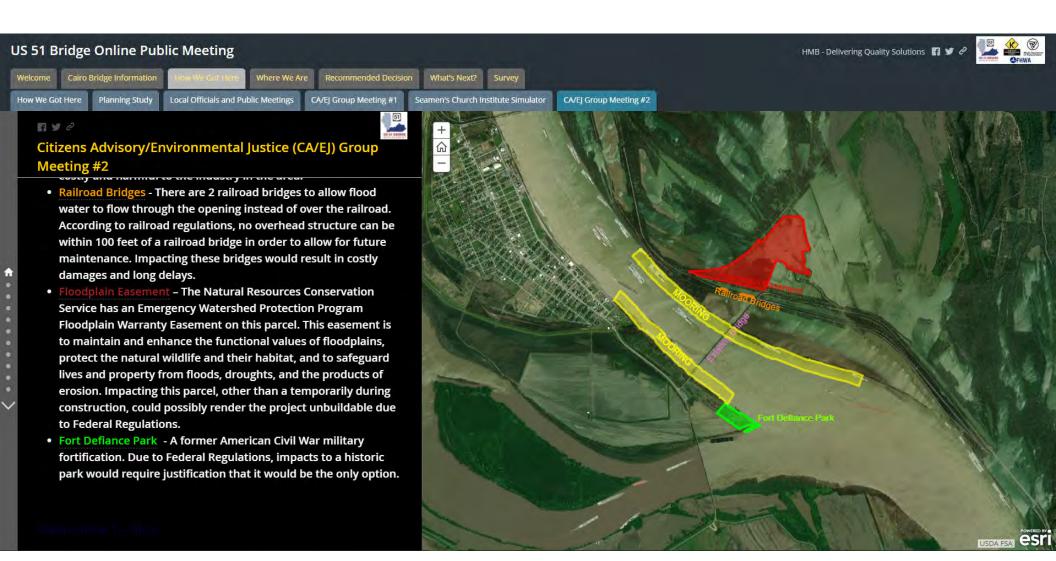
Click to see video of the the simulations in action

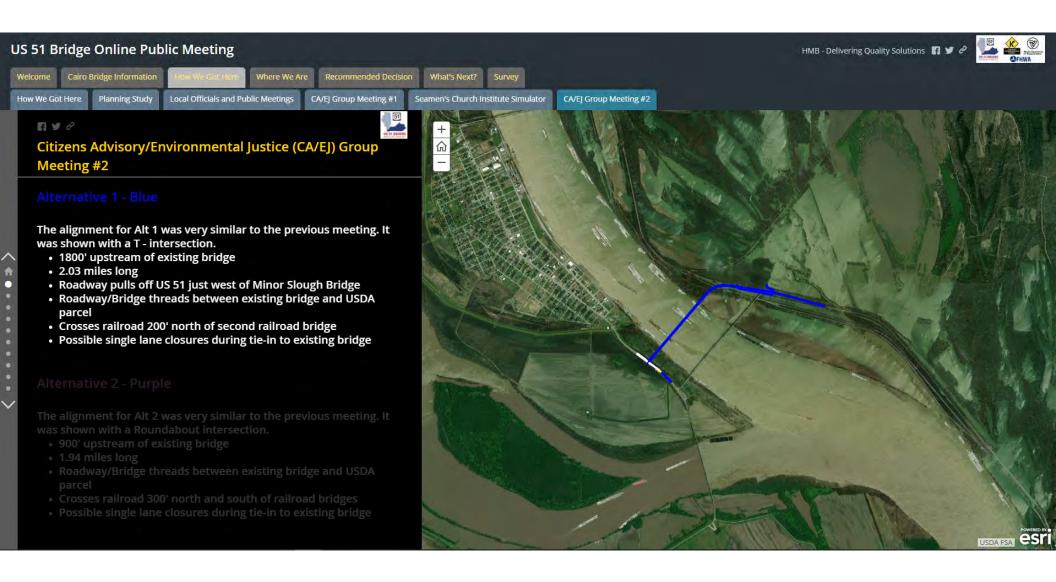
Below is a recap of the Captains' survey:

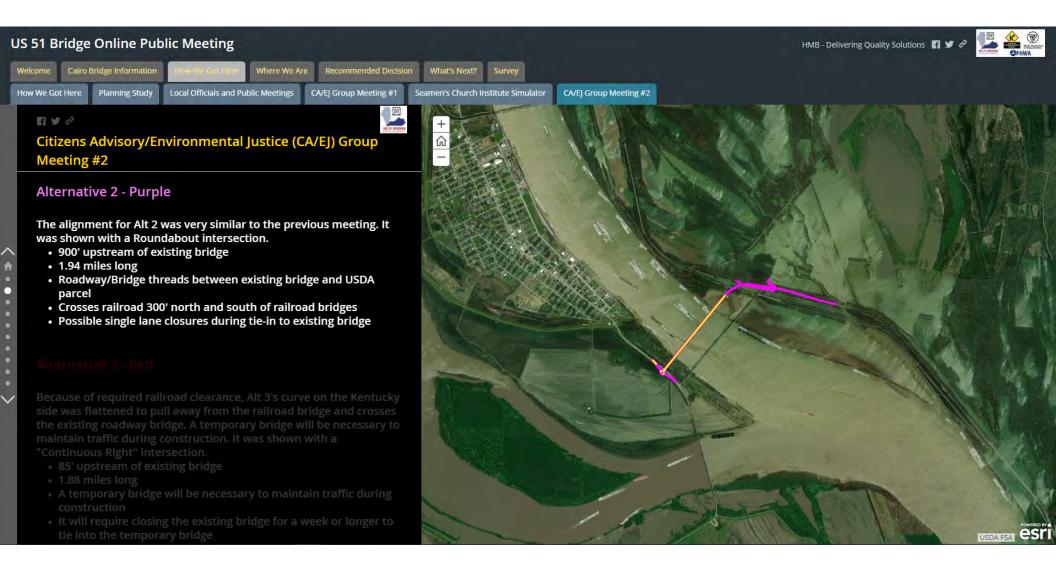
- Preferred Alignment 2 and 3 over 1
- · No significant challenges navigating 800' or 900' clear span bridge
- No significant challenges navigating the new bridge during construction
- Concerns about fleet mooring for alignments 1 and 2

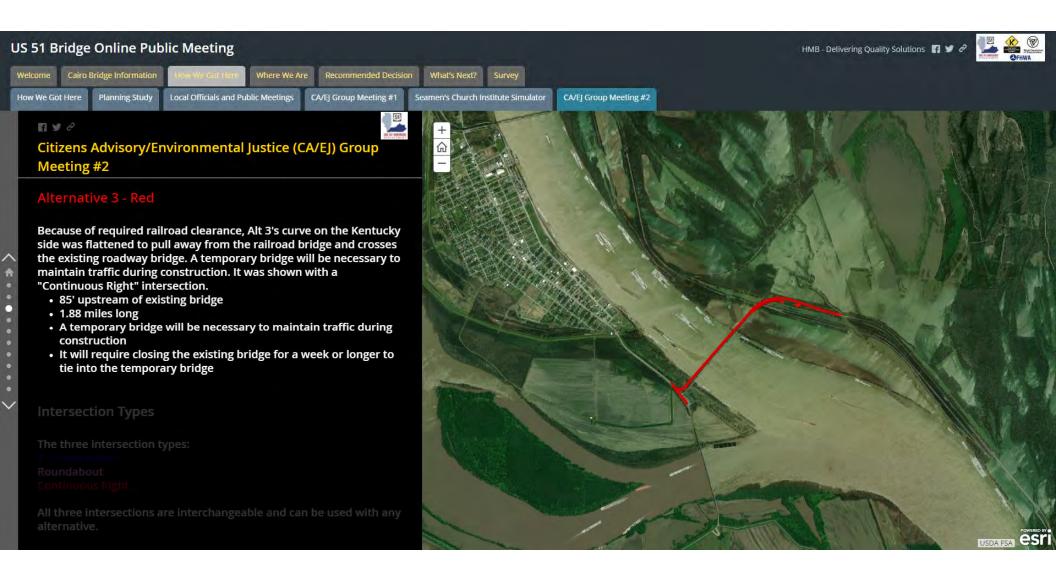


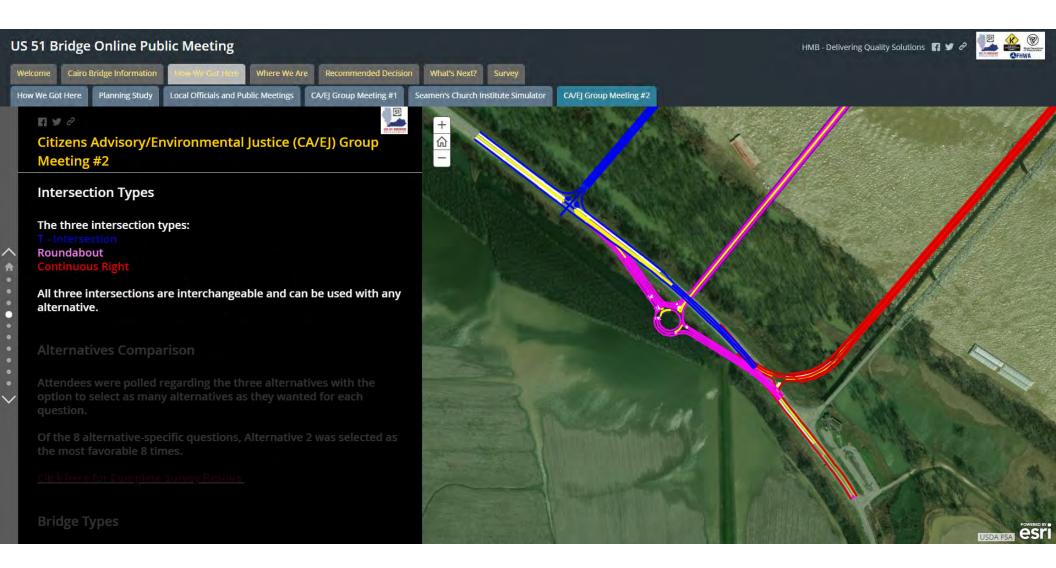




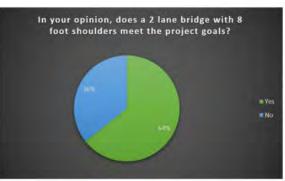






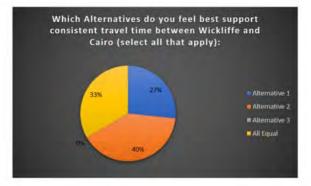


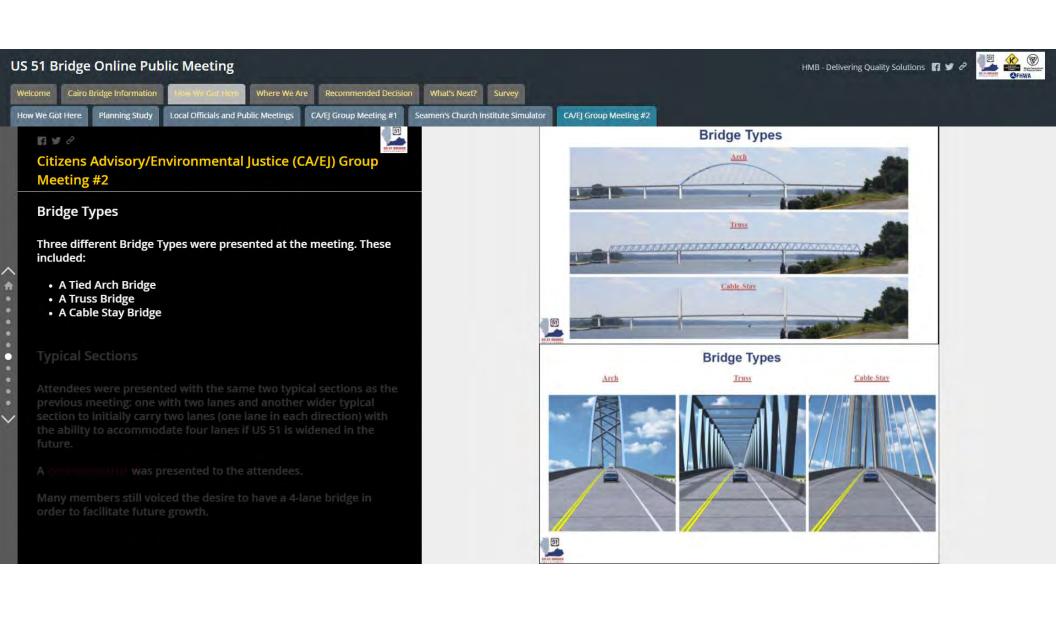


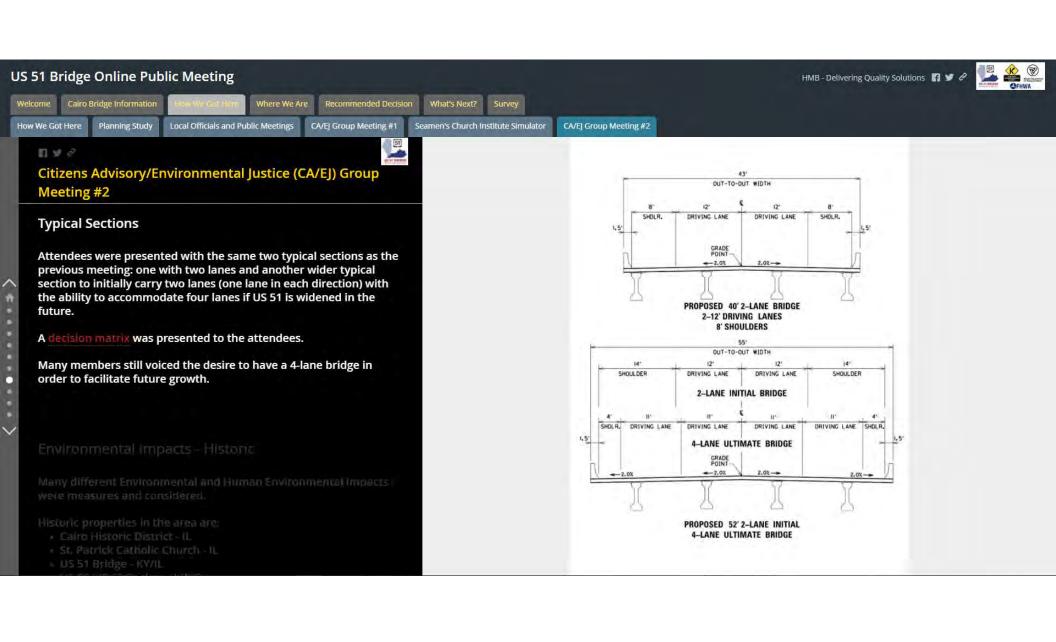


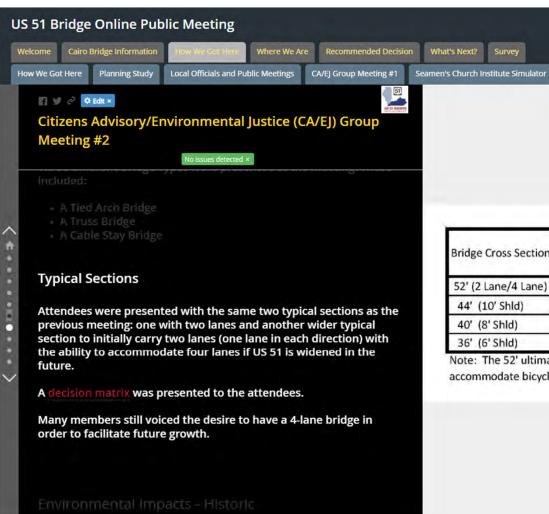


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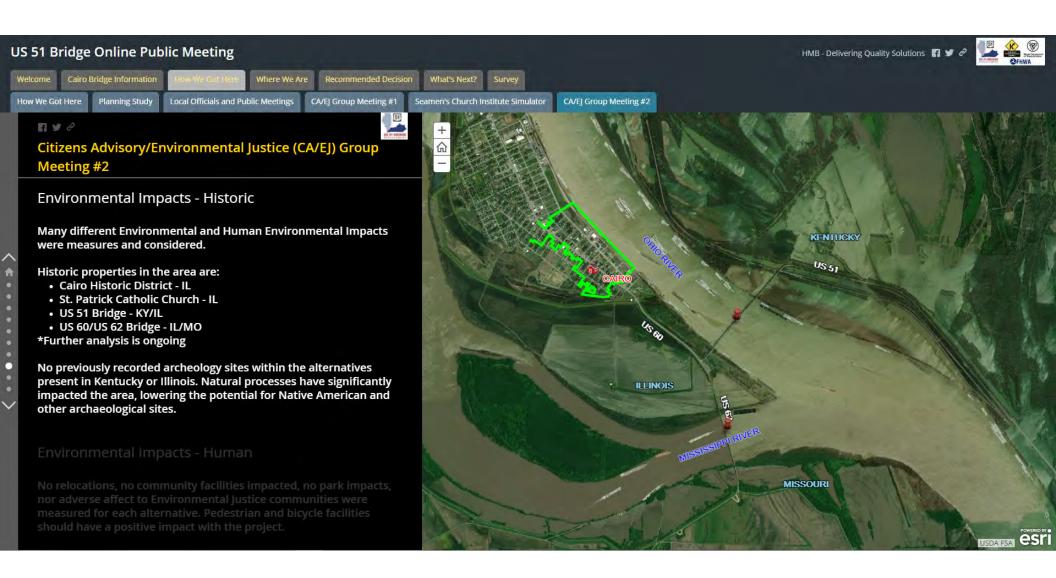
Bridge Cross Section	Bridge Cost	IL Design Exception Needed	KY Design Exception Needed	Bicycle Accomodations	Emergency Refuge	Agricultural Traffic
52' (2 Lane/4 Lane)	\$341M	NO	NO	•	•	
44' (10' Shld)	\$288M	NO	NO	•	•	•
40' (8' Shld)	\$270M	NO	NO	•		9
36' (6' Shld)	\$246M	YES	YES	X	X	X

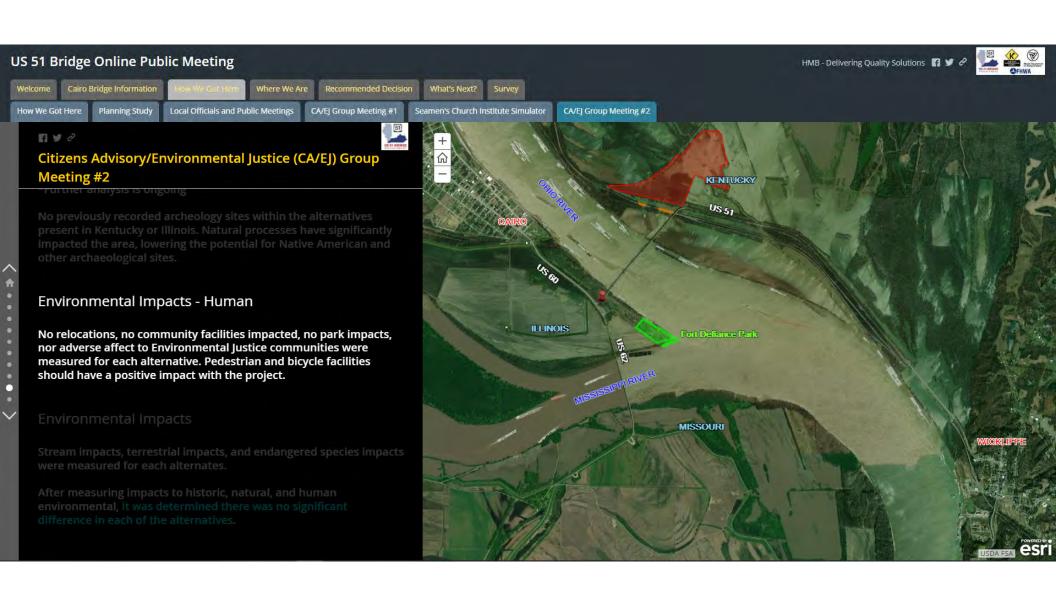
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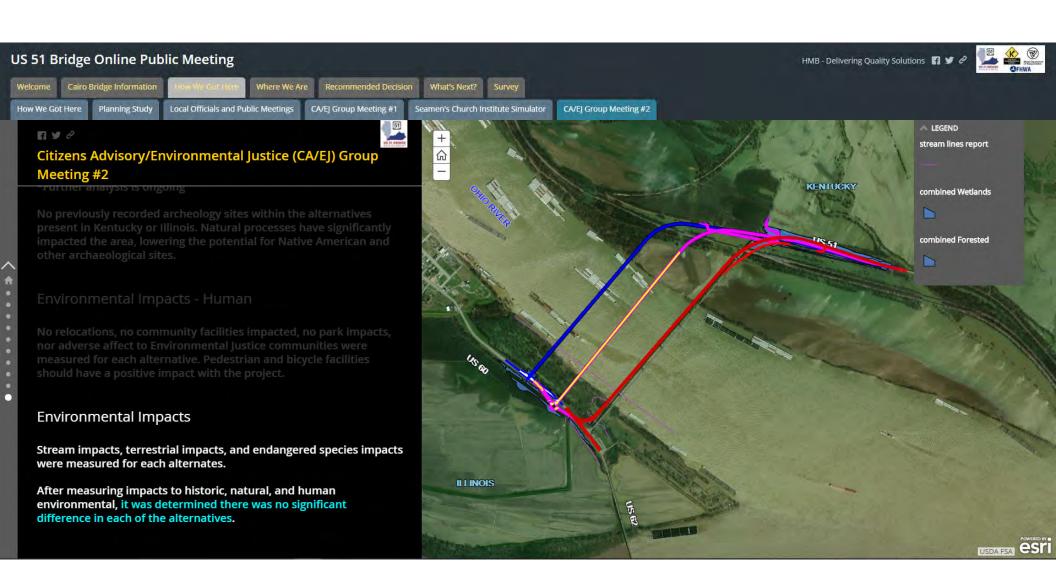
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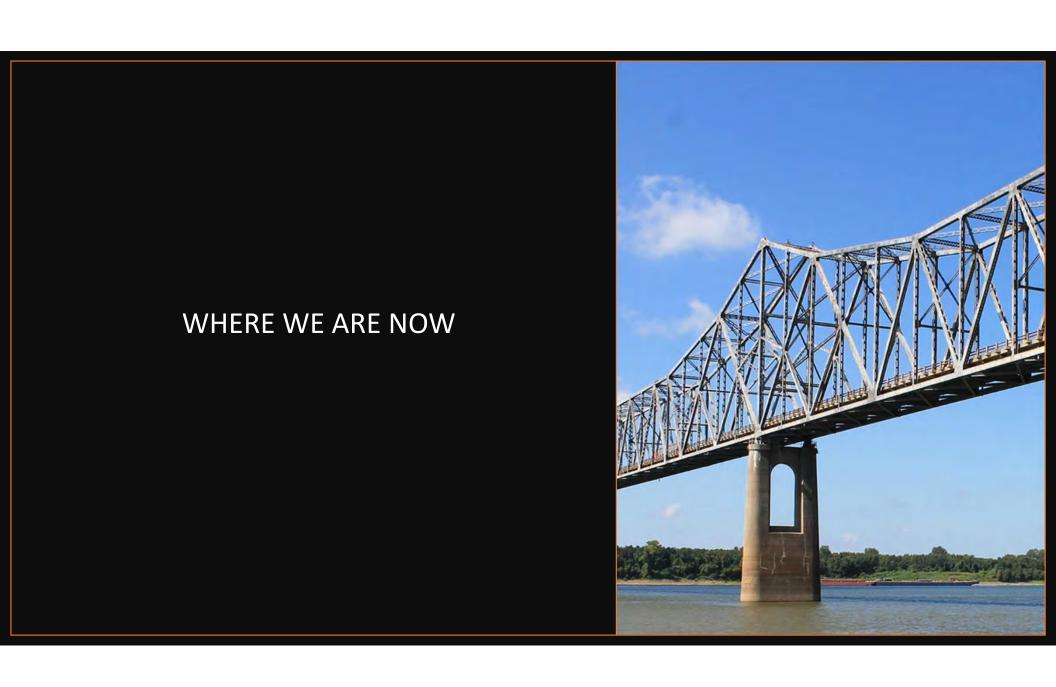
Note: The 52' ultimate 4-Lane typical section will require a design exception for both states and will not accommodate bicycles, agricultural traffic, or emergency refuge.

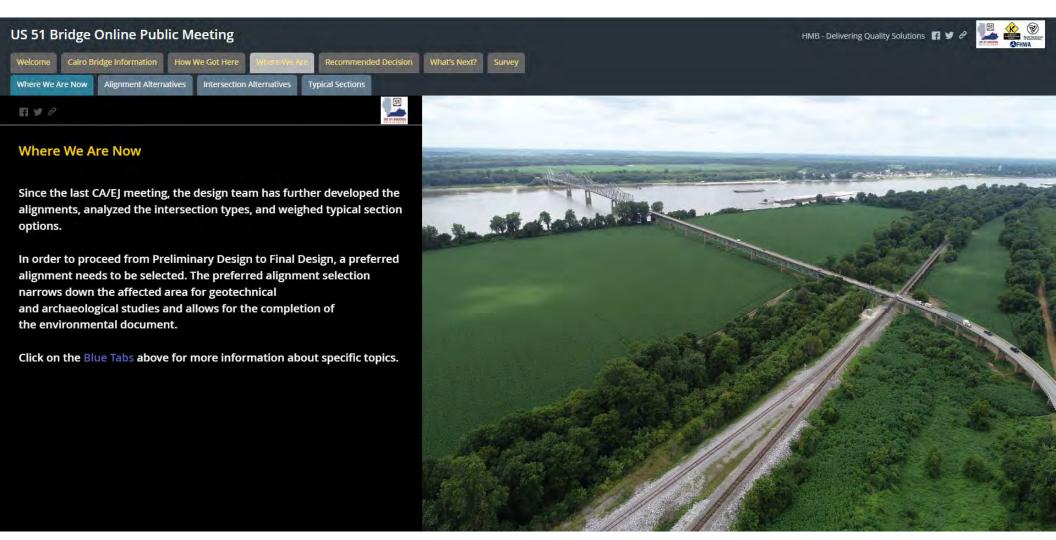
CA/EJ Group Meeting #2



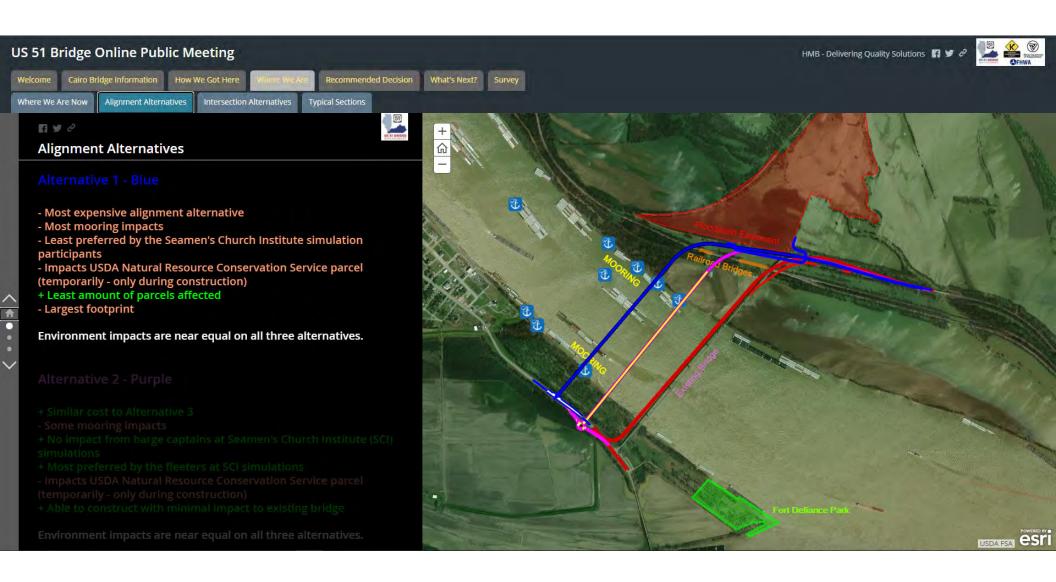




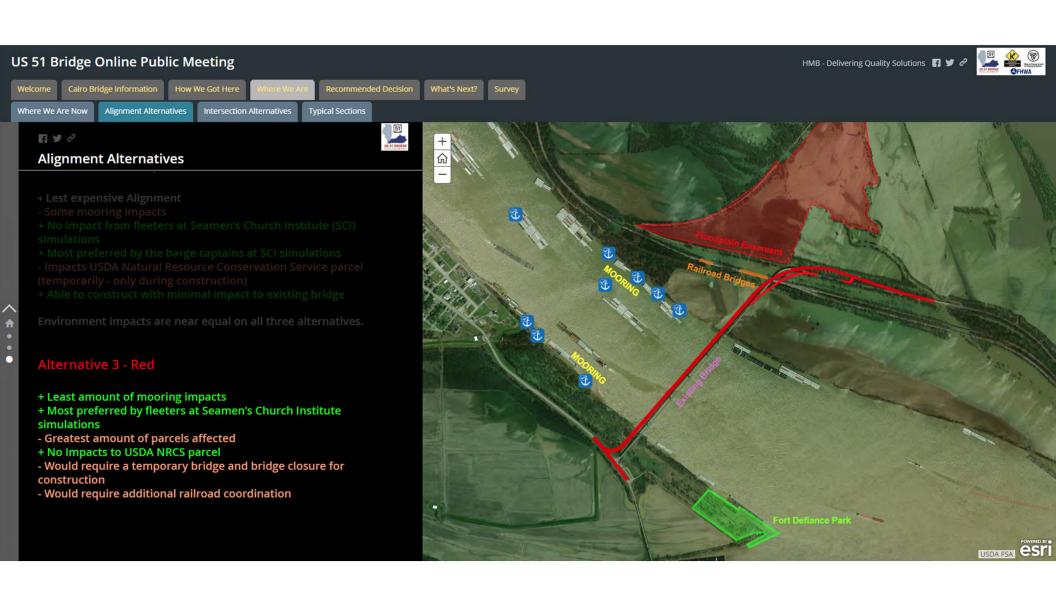


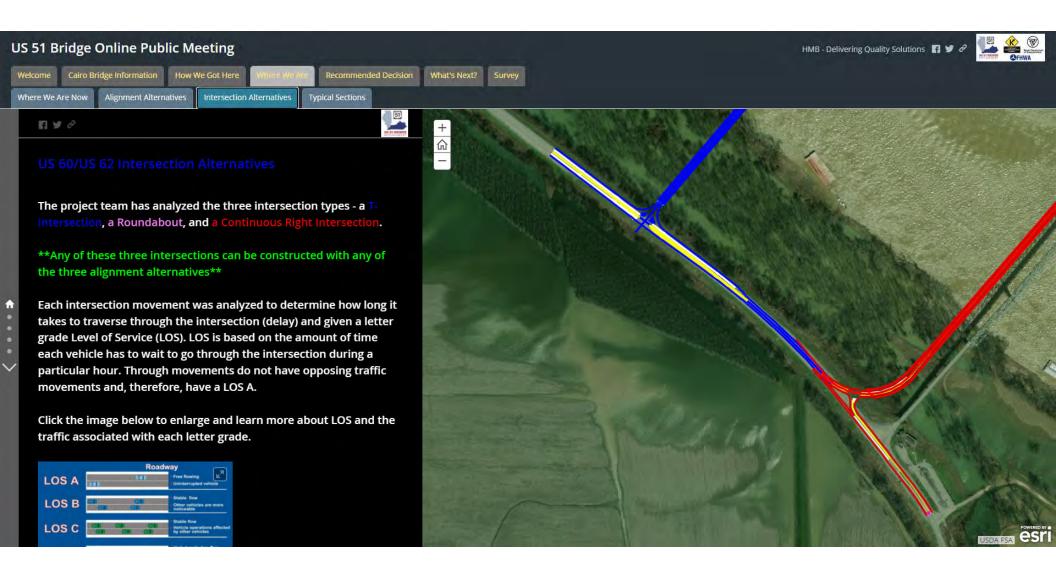


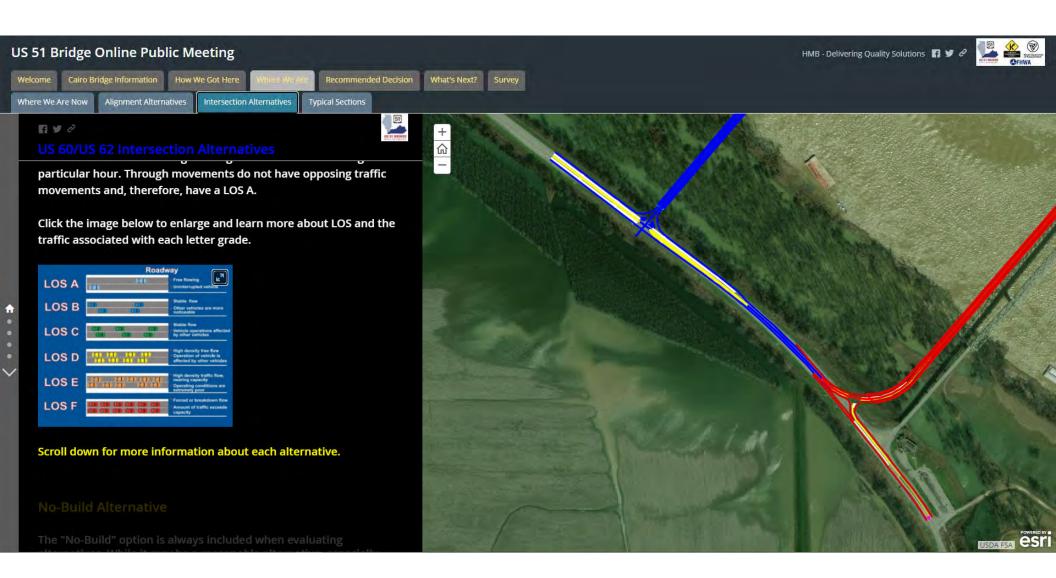


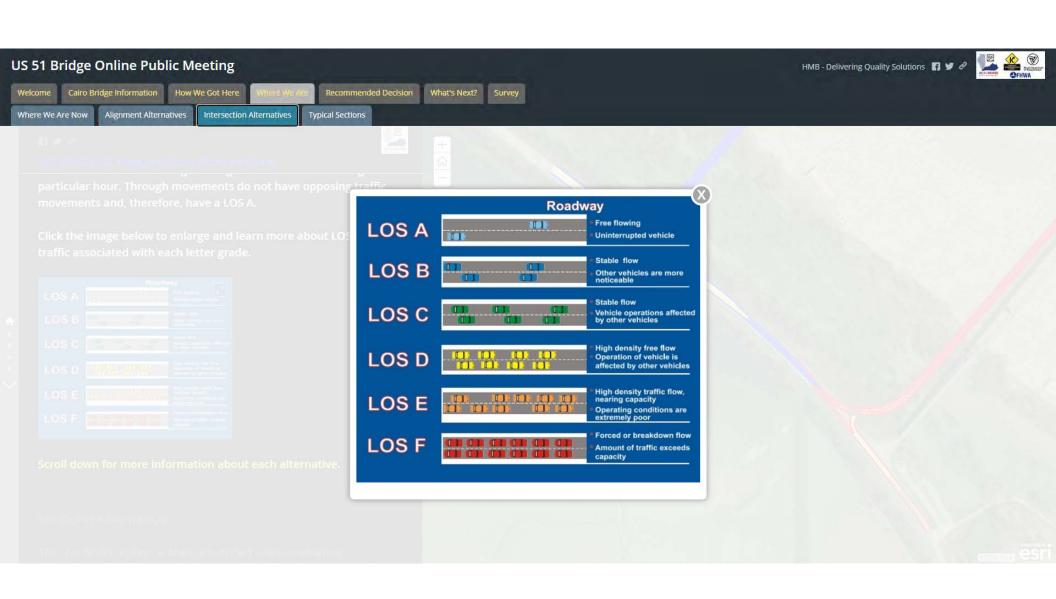


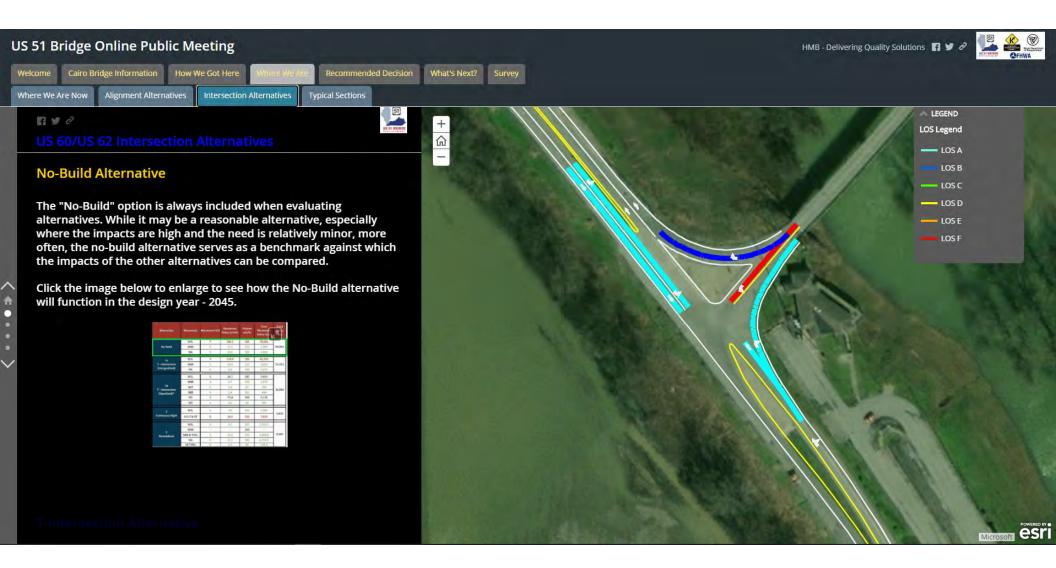


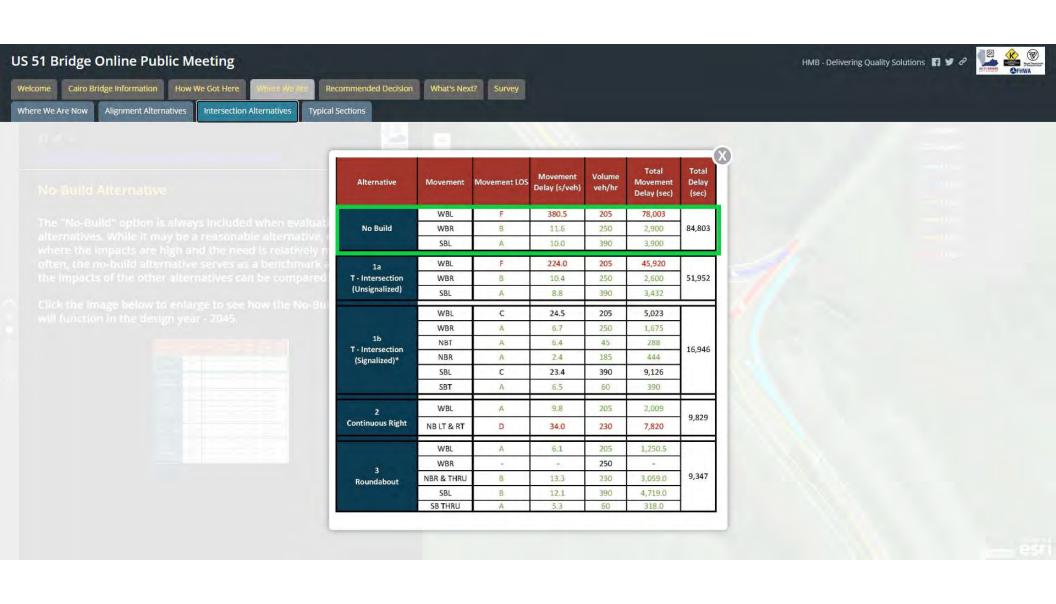


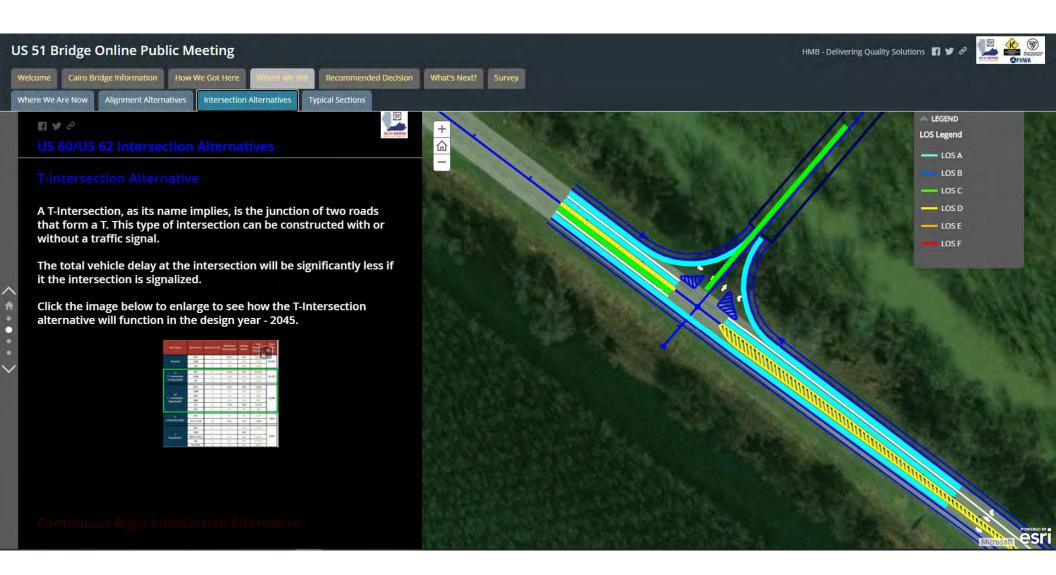


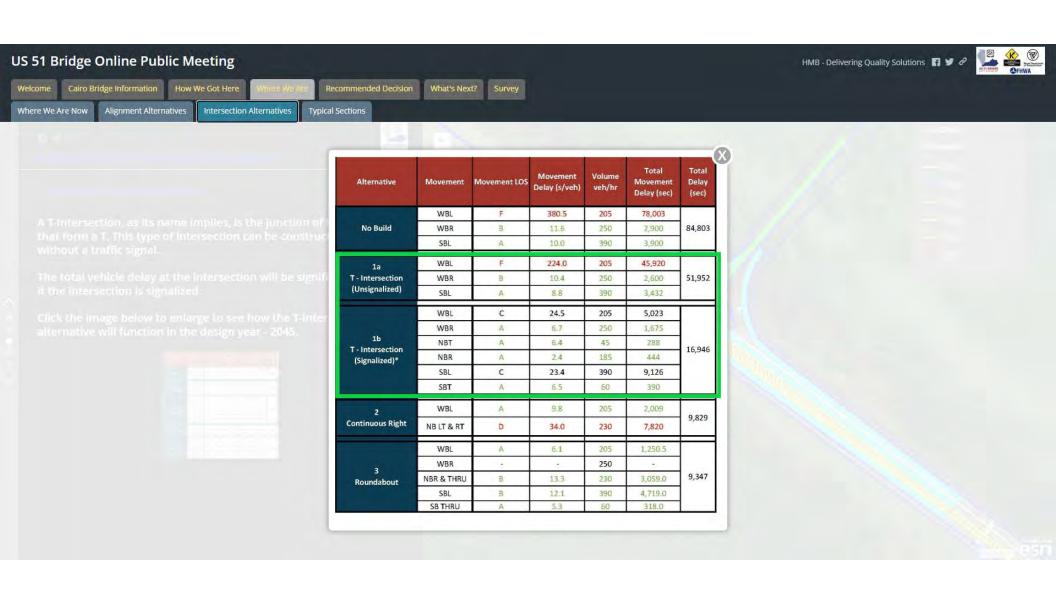


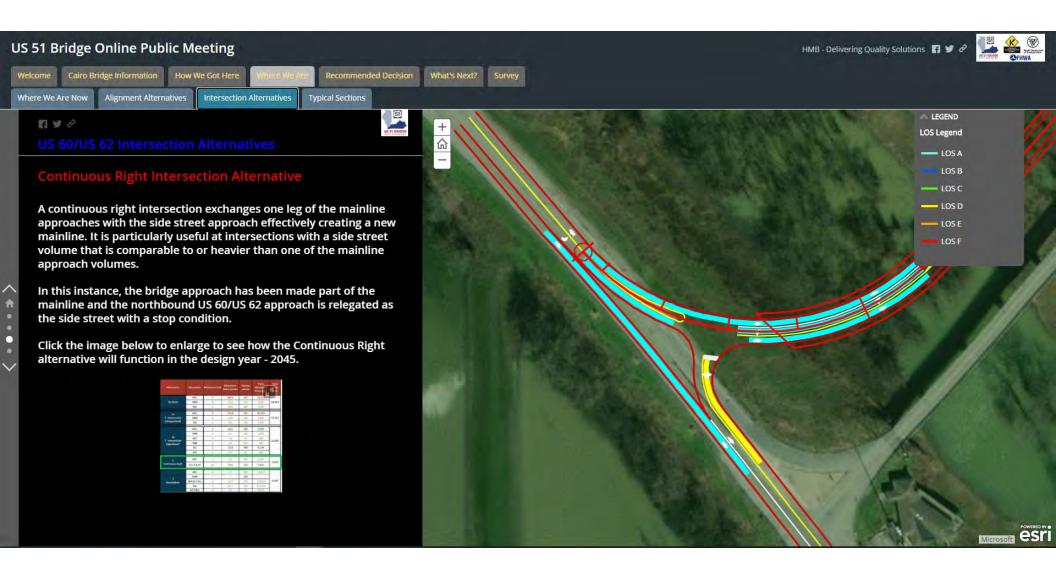




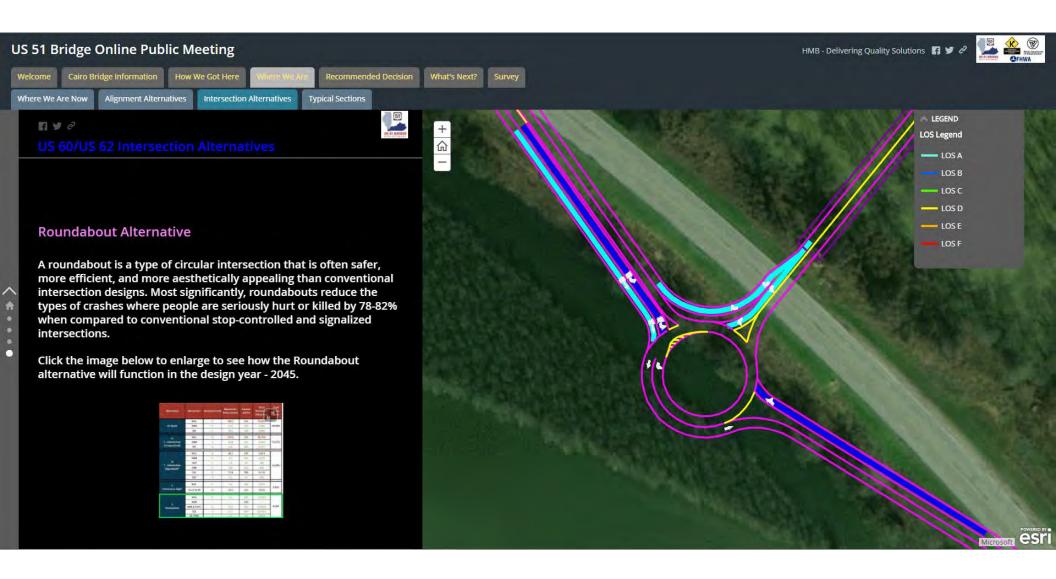




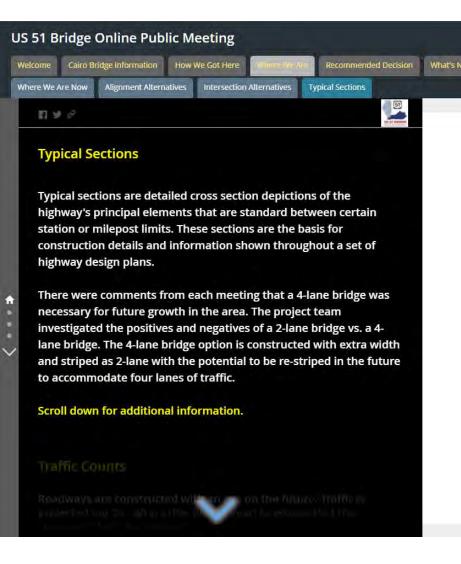


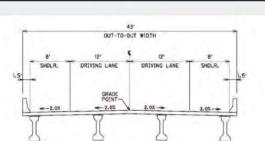






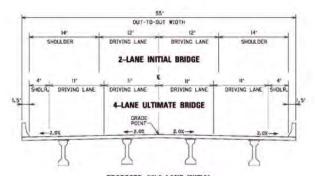




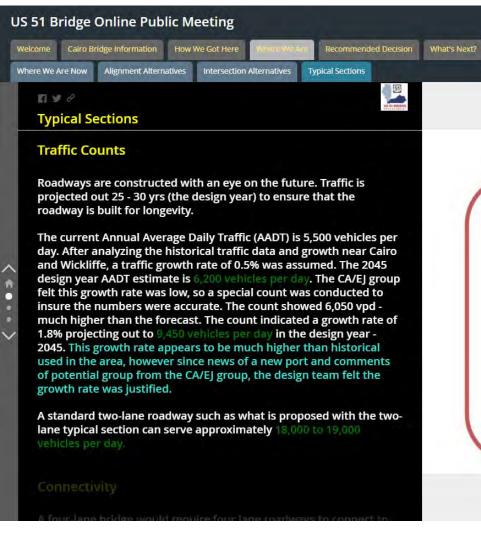


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PROPOSED 40' 2-LANE BRIDGE



PROPOSED 52' 2-LANE INITIAL 4-LANE ULTIMATE BRIDGE



TRAFFIC PROJECTIONS

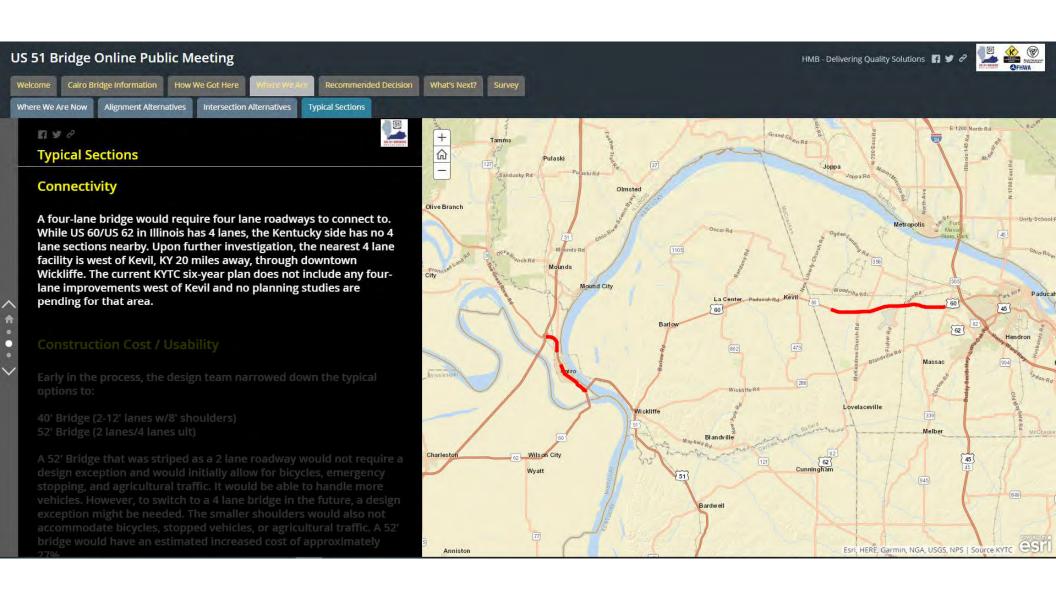
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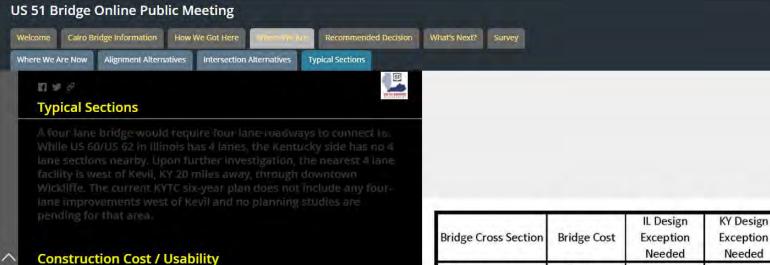
Traffic Projections for the US 51 Ohio River Bridge:

HISTORIC TRAFFIC	AADT 5,350 vpd	
2013 Traffic Count (KYTC)		
2020 Current Year (KYTC)	6,050 vpd	
TRAFFIC FORECAST	AADT	
2025	6,600 vpd	
2045	9,450 vpd	

Notes: Future years forecast using 1.8% annual growth rate AADT = Annual Average daily traffic vpd = Vehicles per day

- Approximately 35% of traffic using bridge is truck traffic
- ·Two Lane Bridge is Adequate





52' (2 Lane/4 Lane)

44' (10' Shld)

40' (8' Shld)

36' (6' Shld)

\$341M

\$288M

\$273M

\$246M

Note: The 52' ultimate 4-Lane typical section will require a design exception for both states and will not accommodate bicycles, agricultural traffic, or emergency refuge.

NO

NO

NO

YES

NO

NO

NO

YES

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Agricultural

Traffic

X

Emergency

Refuge

.

X

Bicycle

Accomodations

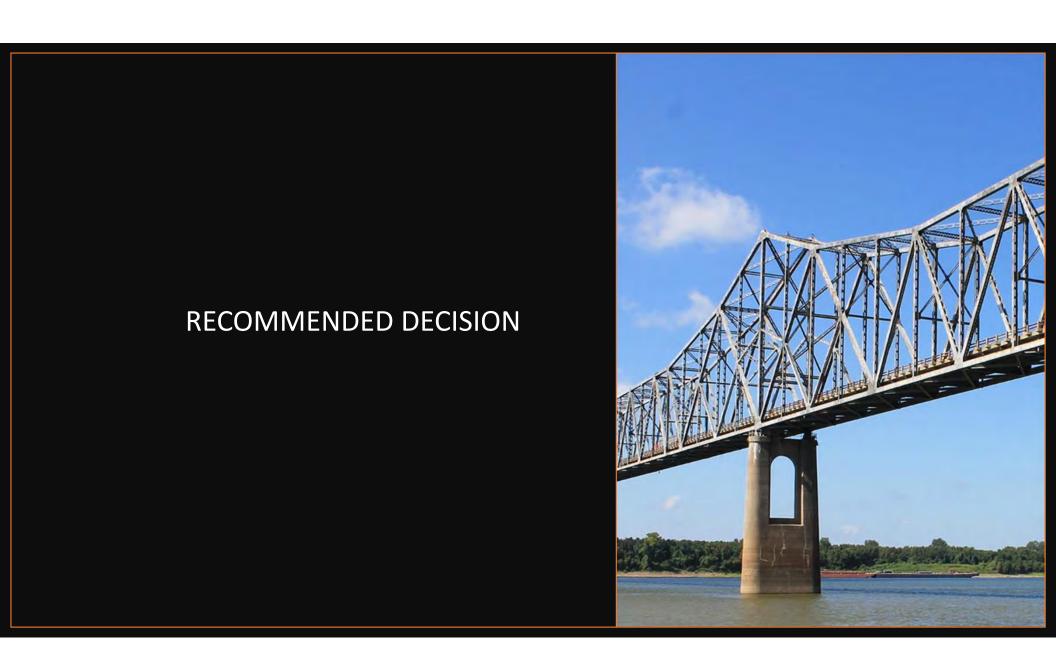
X

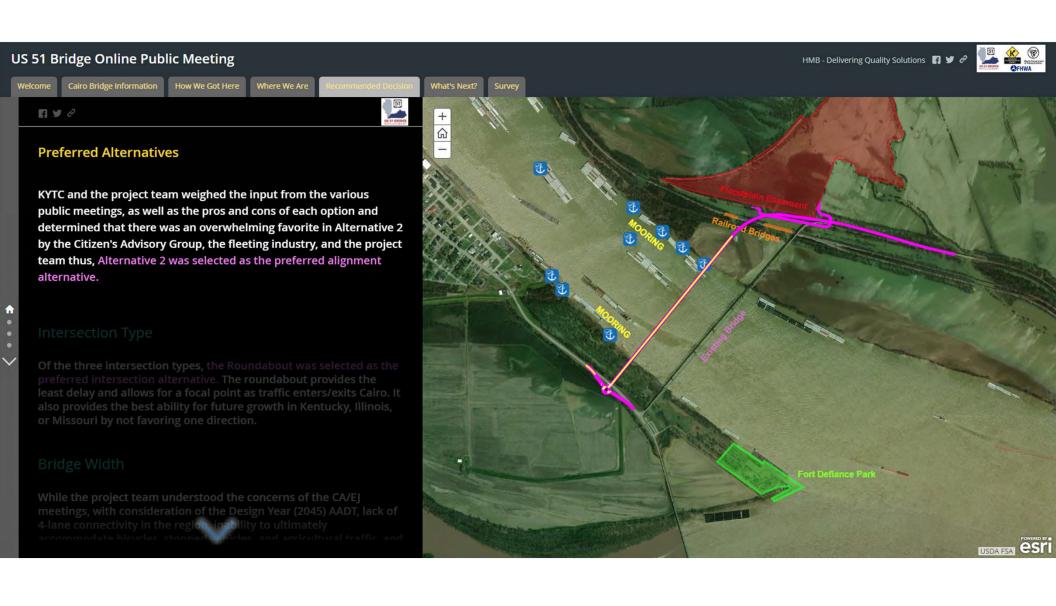
A 52' Bridge that was striped as a 2 lane roadway would not require a design exception and would initially allow for bicycles, emergency stopping, and agricultural traffic. It would be able to handle more vehicles. However, to switch to a 4 lane bridge in the future, a design exception might be needed. The smaller shoulders would also not accommodate bicycles, stopped vehicles, or agricultural traffic. A 52' bridge would have an estimated increased cost of approximately 27%.

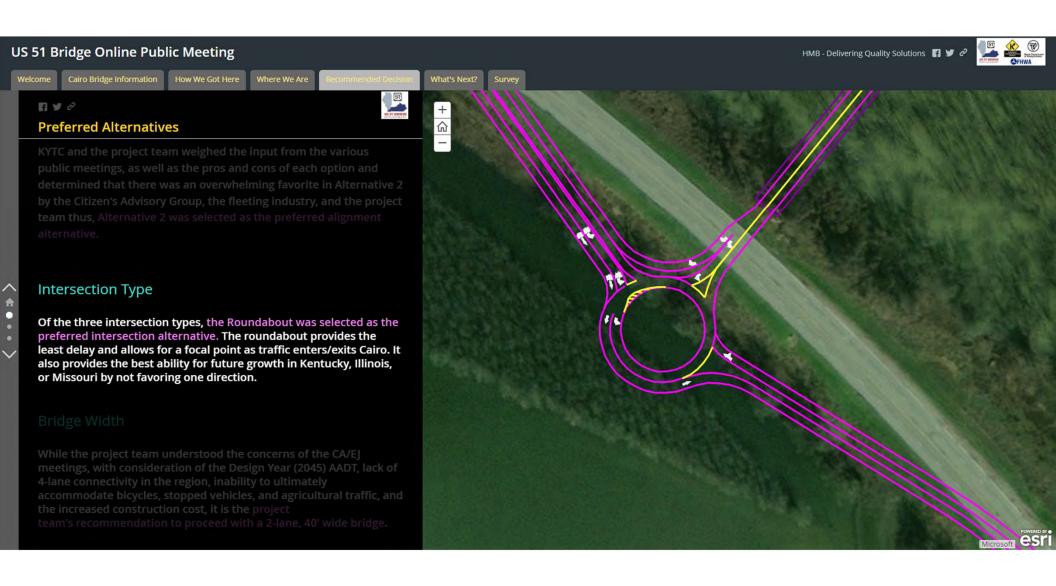
Early in the process, the design team narrowed down the typical

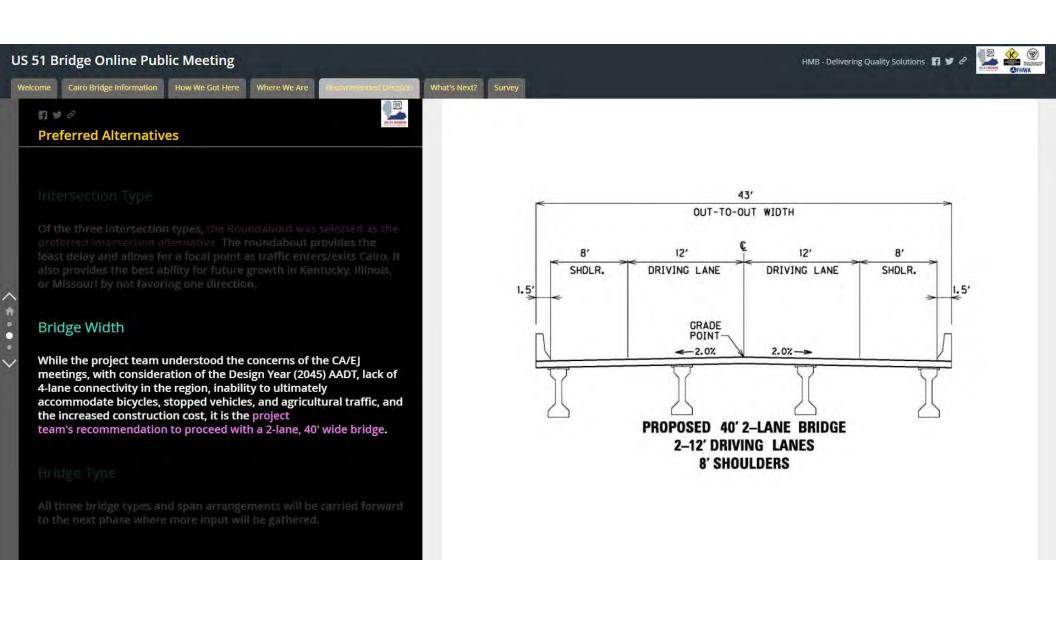
options to:

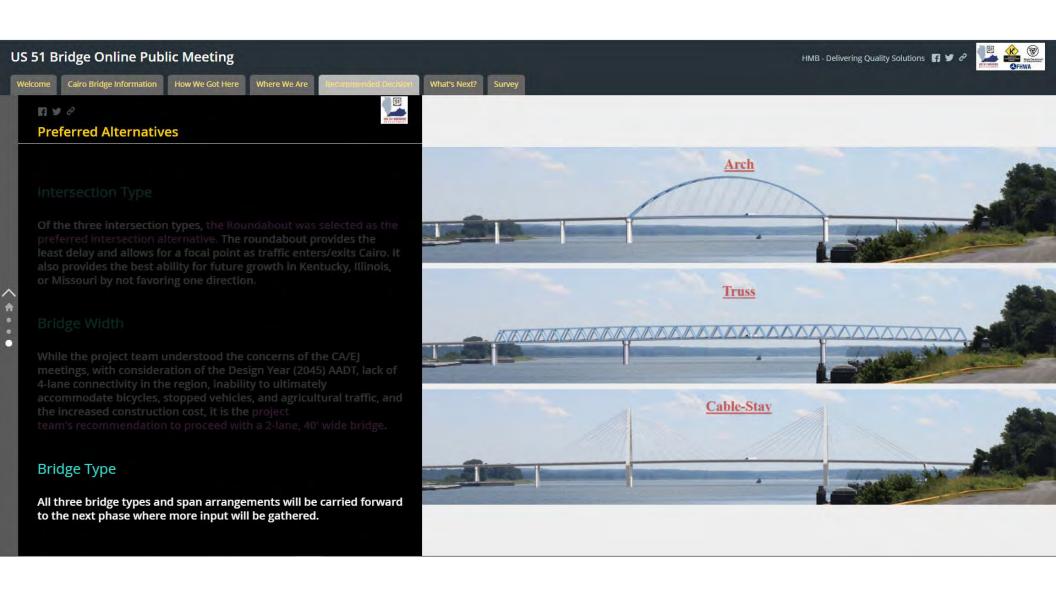
40' Bridge (2-12' lanes w/8' shoulders) 52' Bridge (2 lanes/4 lanes ult)



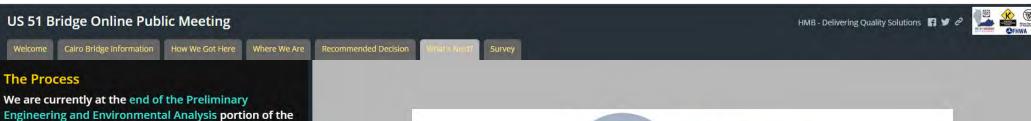


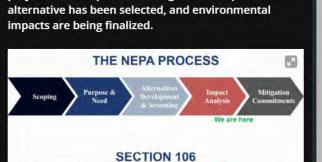






WHAT'S NEXT?





project. Public input has been gathered, a preferred

Once the environmental impacts are finalized, the environmental document will be submitted to the Federal Government to insure that there is no significant effect on the human or natural environment. This signifies the end of Preliminary Engineering.

Identify

Historic Properties

Initiate

The Design team will immediately move into Phase II - Final Design. Below is a rough timeline of the events to come:



