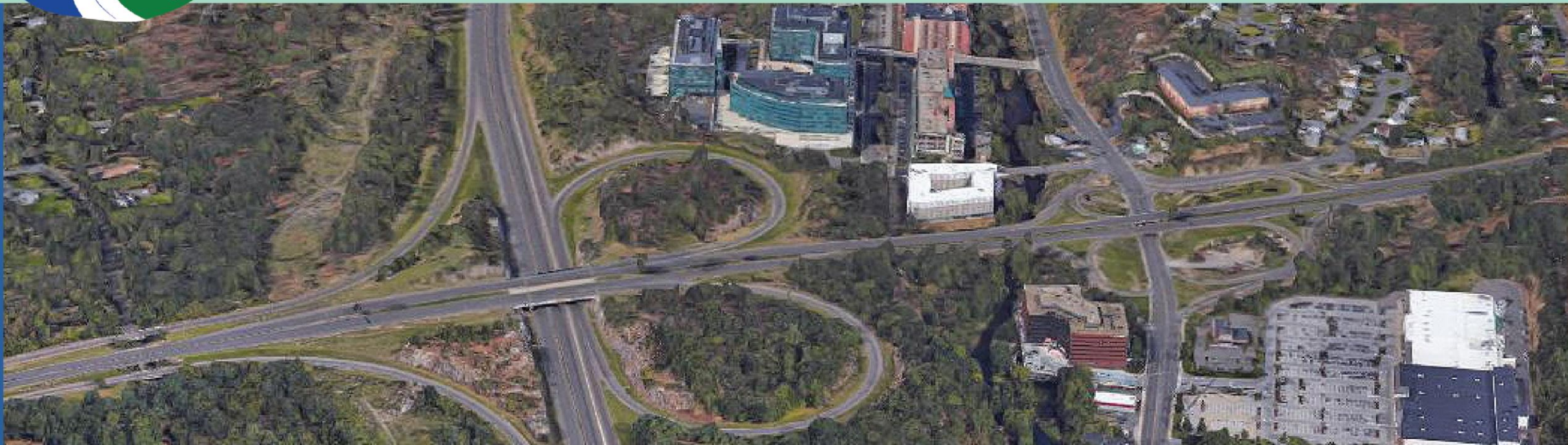




Route 7/15 NORWALK

PAC Landscape Subcommittee Meeting
September 24, 2024
CTDOT State Project #102-358



Route 7 and Route 15 Interchange Improvements **CTDOT State Project #102-358**

PAC Landscape Subcommittee Meeting
September 24, 2024



Meeting Agenda

PAC Landscape Subcommittee Meeting
September 24, 2024
CTDOT State Project #102-358



- **Project Team Introductions**
- **Project Overview**
 - Purpose and Need
 - Project Limits and Location
- **Landscape Architecture Update**
 - Review of MOA Landscape Guidelines
 - Landscape Preliminary Design (30%)
 - Visualization
- **Schedule and Next Steps**
- **Open Forum**





Project Leadership Team

PAC Landscape Subcommittee Meeting
September 24, 2024
CTDOT State Project #102-358



- **Connecticut Department of Transportation**
 - Michael Calabrese, PE, Division Chief
 - Nilesh Patel, PE, Principal Engineer
 - Kevin Burnham, PE, Project Manager
 - Krishalyn Macrohon, PE, Project Engineer
- **Consultant Design Team**
 - Reid Shankweiler, PE, Project Manager, Stantec
 - Gary Sorge, FASLA AICP, Landscape Architecture Lead, Stantec
 - Andrew Lessard, PE, Structures Lead, Stantec
 - Steve Fraysier, PE, Local Roads Design Lead, BL Companies
 - Ken Livingston, Public Outreach Lead, FHI Studio





Project Location





Project Purpose and Need

PAC Landscape Subcommittee Meeting
September 24, 2024
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Roadway System Linkages

- Construct missing connections between Route 7 and 15

Safety

- Address substandard acceleration/deceleration lanes, steep changes in grades, sharp curves, and limited sight distances

Mobility

- Provide local road network improvements to Main Avenue, Glover Avenue, and Creeping Hemlock Drive
- Provide improvements to bicycle, pedestrian, and transit facilities
- Address ADA compliance issues in the project area vicinity





Project Updates

PAC Landscape Subcommittee Meeting
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NEPA

- FONSI and Section 4f approved by FHWA (August 2024)

Outreach and Coordination Meetings

- Norwalk First District Water (September 8, 2023)
- Norwalk Bike-Walk Commission (October 2, 2023)
- NRVN/Norwalk/WestCOG (March 15, 2024)
- Town Roads Meeting (September 16, 2024)

Preliminary Design

- 2024 Traffic Volume Update
- Value Engineering Study (December 2023)
- Complete Streets Design and Evaluation





Existing Aerial Perspective View

PAC Landscape Subcommittee Meeting
September 24, 2024
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Proposed Aerial Perspective View

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Merritt Parkway Landscape

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Significant Designed Landscape

- Geometry of the roadway - cuts and fills designed to accentuate viewsheds for drivers and passengers
- Trees and plantings maintained or added to blend into and enhance natural surroundings
- Landscape used to “heal” man-made intrusions
- Associated elements - guardrails, signage





Merritt Parkway Landscape Assessment Guidelines

PAC Landscape Subcommittee Meeting
September 24, 2024
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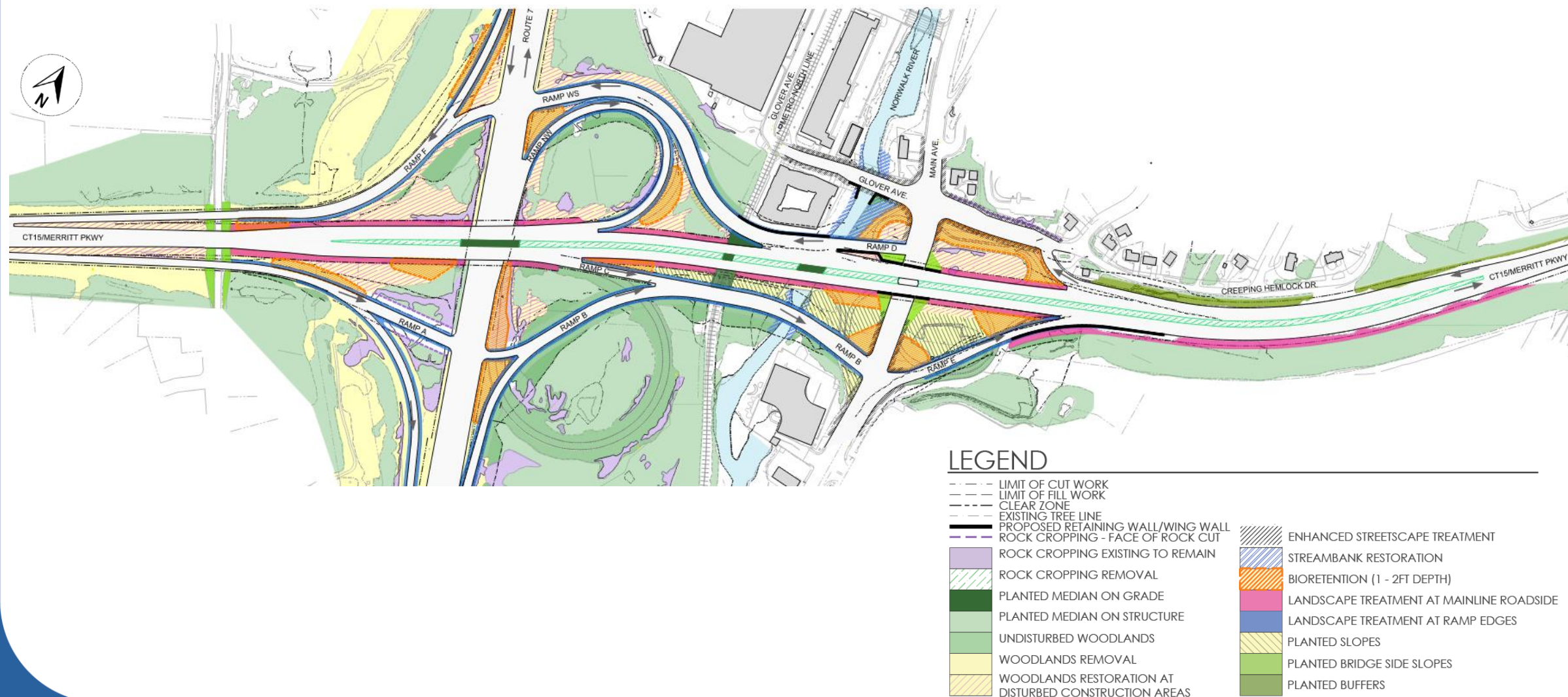
Category	Assessment Criteria
Views within, from, and to Parkway (all user groups)	Spatial organization, scale, focal points and park-like experiences
	Egress and access ramps are characteristic of the Parkway (scale, alignment, road-side)
	Bridge structures are prominent
	Distant landscape views beyond right-of-way (pastoral, architecture, scenic vistas)
Vegetation and planting design	Width of roadside adequate for planting
	Frame views, complement bridge structures, and screen unsightly views on road-side
	Specify non-invasive species and palette complementary of Parkway setting
	Seasonal interest and clusters of native and specimen plant species that provide contrast between ground plane, understory, and canopy
	Preserves existing buffer, woodlands, mature trees, and meadow
Topography	Built road-side transitions seamlessly into a naturalized vegetation
	Slight to moderate slopes on road-side conducive to views and landscape
Amenities	Design vocabulary is consistent and recognizable as the Parkway
Sustainability	Park-like landscape with ease of access for sustained maintenance
Natural features	Landscape reveals natural resources (watercourses, slopes, woodlands, rocky ledge)
Safety	Planting design and vegetated areas conform to CTDOT safety guidelines



Landscape Opportunities

Merritt Parkway

PAC Landscape Subcommittee Meeting
September 24, 2024
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Landscape Planting Plan

Original Merritt Parkway Planting List
Native to Connecticut
Current CTDOT Price Item List
Recently Used By CTDOT⁺⁺

Conifers and Evergreens					
Chamaecyparis thyoides (Atlantic White Cedar)	Ilex opaca (American Holly)	Juniperus virginiana (Eastern Red-Cedar)	Thuja occidentalis (Northern White Cedar)	Picea mariana (Black Spruce)	Pinus strobus (White Pine)
X	X	X	X	X	X
X	X	X	X		X
		X			X

Deciduous Trees - Major

[illegible]

Deciduous Trees – Minor

[illegible]

Deciduous and Evergreen Shrubs, Groundcover, and Vines

Original Merritt Parkway Planting List
Native to Connecticut
Current CTDOT Price Item List
Recently Used By CTDOT⁺⁺

	X	X	Aronia melanocarpa (Black Chokeberry)
		X	Ceanothus americanus (Jersey Tea)
	X		Cephalanthus occidentalis - (Butterbush)
	X	X	Chamaedaphne calyculata - (Leatherleaf)
		X	Clethra alnifolia - (Summersweet)
	X	X	Comptonia peregrina - (Sweet Fern)
		X	Cornus amomum - (Silky Dogwood)
	X	X	Cornus racemosa - (Gray Dogwood)
	X	X	Cornus sericea - (Red-osier Dogwood)
		X	Dirca palustris - (Leatherwood)
	X	X	Hamelis virginiana - (Witch-Hazel)
	X	X	Ilex verticillata - (Winterberry)
	X	X	Ilex glabra - (Holly)
		X	Kalmia latifolia - (Mountain Laurel)
	X	X	Kalmia polifolia - (Bog Laurel)
	X		Ledum groenlandicum - (Labrador Tea)
		X	Lindera benzoin - (Spicebush)
	X	X	Myrica pennsylvanica - (Bayberry)
		X	Parthenocissus quinquefolia - (Virginia Creeper)
	X	X	Rhododendron maximum - (Rosebay Rhododendron)
	X	X	Rhododendron nudiflorum - (Pinetreebloom Azalea)
	X	X	Rhododendron viscosum - (Swamp Azalea)
	X	X	Rhus aromatica - (Aromatic Sumac)
	X	X	Rhus glabra - (Smooth Sumac)
	X		Rhus typhina - (Staghorn Sumac)
	X	X	Sambucus canadensis - (Elderberry)
	X		Syringa reticulata - (Japanese tree lilac)
	X	X	Vaccinium corymbosum - (Highbush Blueberry)
	X	X	Viburnum acerifolium - (Mapleleaf Viburnum)
	X		Viburnum lentago - (Nannyberry)
	X	X	Viburnum dentatum - (Arrowwood)
		X	Viburnum opulus var. americanum (American Cranberry Bush)



Existing Conditions

Main Avenue

PAC Landscape Subcommittee Meeting
September 24, 2024
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Preliminary Design

Main Avenue

PAC Landscape Subcommittee Meeting
September 24, 2024
CTDOT State Project #102-358



Note: Proposed Landscape shown is currently under review and being coordinated with CTDOT and Project Stakeholders.



Existing Conditions

Main Avenue

PAC Landscape Subcommittee Meeting
September 24, 2024
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Preliminary Design

Main Avenue

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Existing Conditions

Creeping Hemlock Drive

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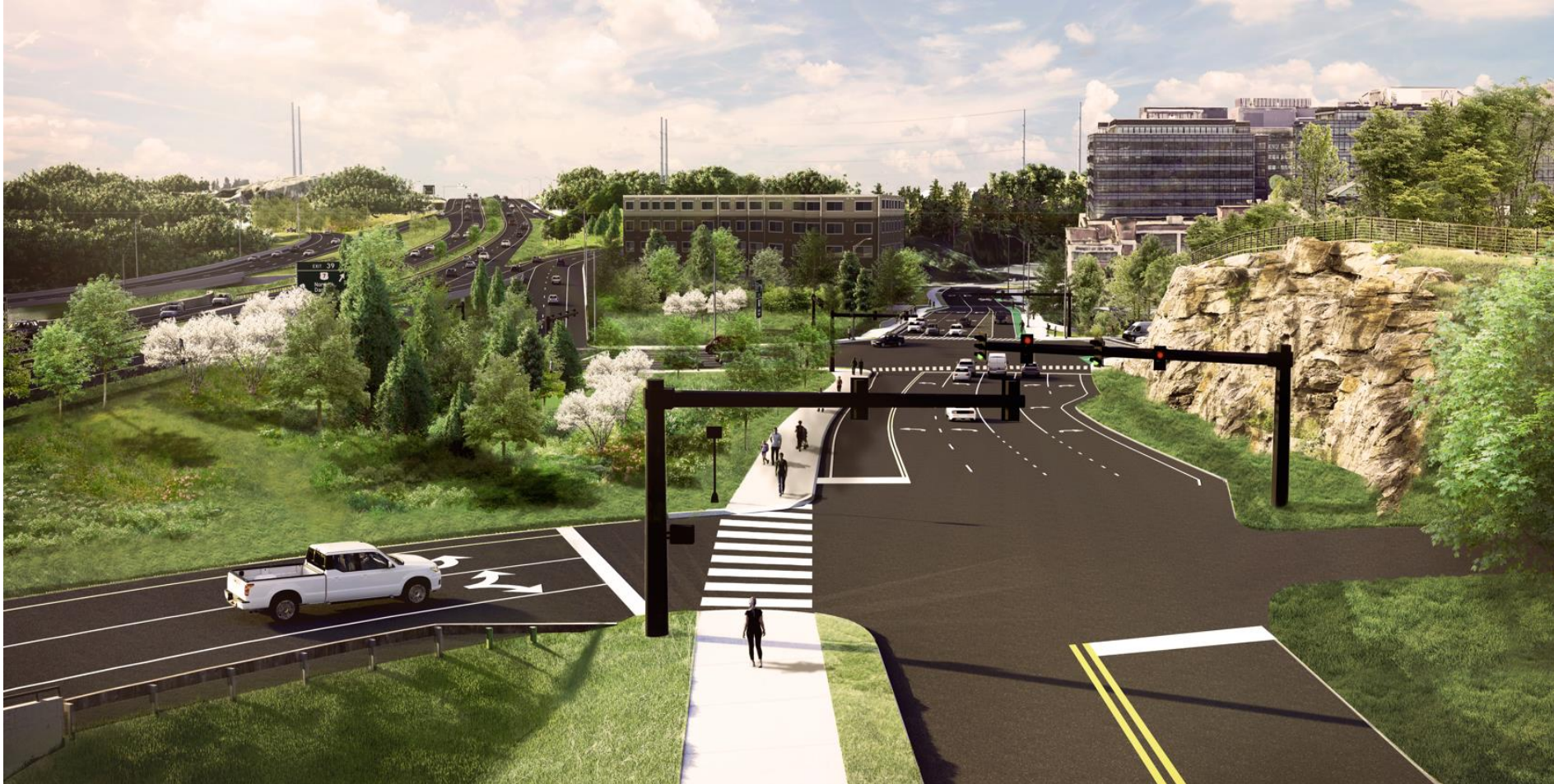




Preliminary Design

Creeping Hemlock Drive

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Existing Conditions

Glover Avenue

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September 24, 2024
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Preliminary Design Glover Avenue

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Existing Conditions

Route 7

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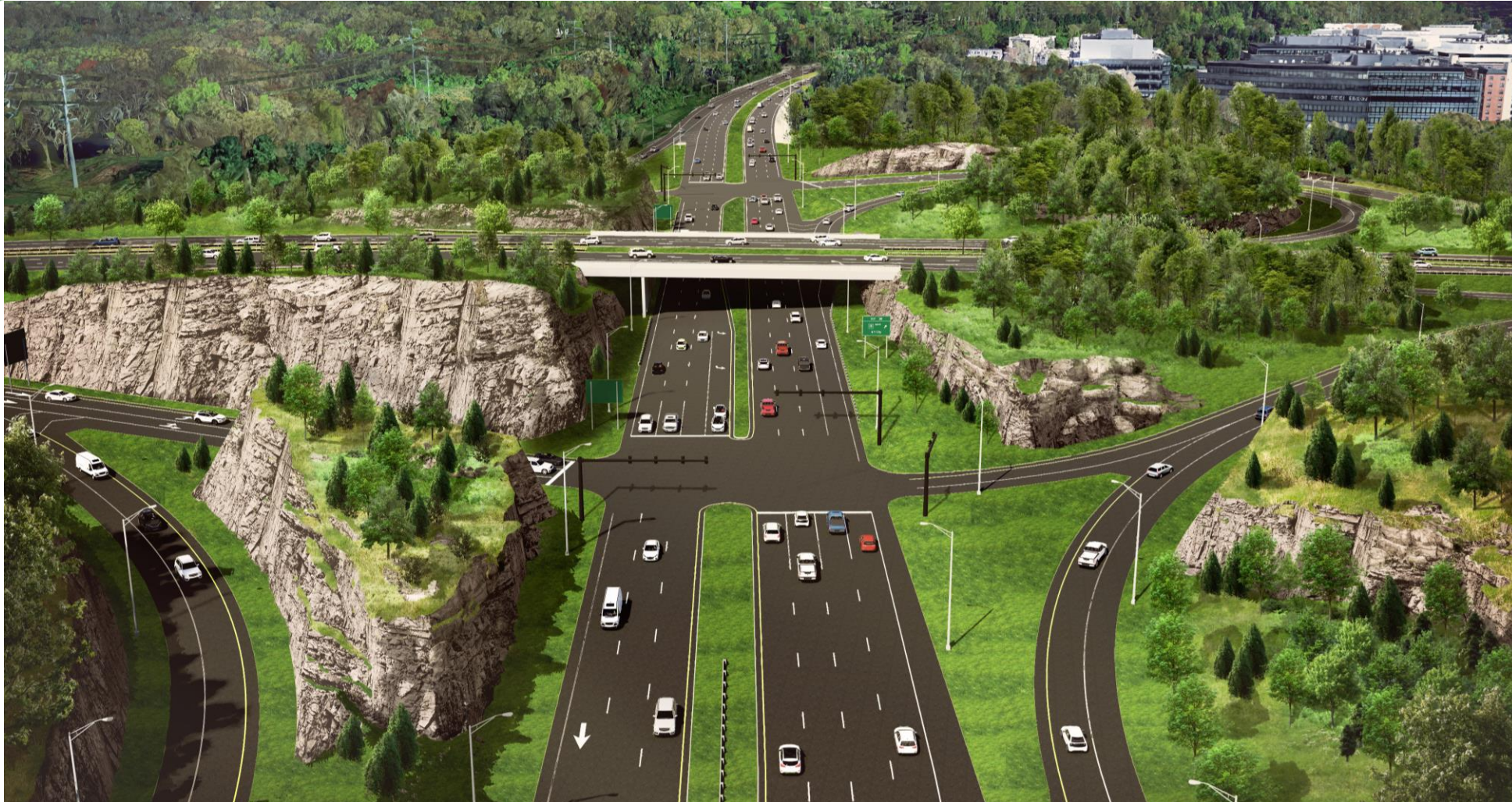




Preliminary Design

Route 7

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Schedule and Cost

PAC Landscape Subcommittee Meeting
September 24, 2024
CTDOT State Project #102-358



Outreach Schedule

- Town Roads Meeting: September 16, 2024
- PAC Landscape Subcommittee: September 2024
- PAC Meeting: November/December 2024
- Public Information Meeting: December 2024

Design and Construction

- Final Design Complete: Late 2026/Early 2027 (under review)
- Begin Construction: Anticipated 2027
- Anticipated Construction Duration: 3-4 Seasons

Total Construction Cost = \$162.3M

- 80% Federal Funding
- 20% State Funding



Thank You!
Questions?

