



STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
16 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0016

Janet T. Mills
GOVERNOR

Dale F. Doughty
COMMISSIONER

July 6, 2026

Gary Marquis, Superintendent
Parks and Recreation Department
55 Bennett Drive
Caribou, ME 04736

RE: Bridge Rehabilitation Project
Caribou, ME
Section 4(f) Coordination with Official with Jurisdiction
Determination for City of Caribou Review and Concurrence

Dear Mr. Marquis,

The Maine Department of Transportation (MaineDOT) is planning the deck replacement of the Aroostook River Bridge (#5572) that carries Route 161/Fort Street over the Aroostook River in Caribou, Aroostook County. The scope of the undertaking will involve the replacement of the existing wearing surface and deck with sand-lightweight concrete, the installation of a MASH compliant railing system, patching of the substructure, reconstruction of the riprap fore-slopes, and strengthening of the structural elements as necessary for State Legal Loads. Construction is anticipated to begin in January 2027 and will be completed by December 2028.

As shown in Attachment 1, Figure 1, the proposed project would result in impacts to the publicly-owned parcels that contain access for the ATV Trail 632 (Trail). This section of the Trail is managed by the City of Caribou. Due to the use of Federal Highway Administration funds for this transportation project, the properties discussed in this document are subject to protection under Section 4(f) of the U.S. Department of Transportation (U.S. DOT) Act of 1966. Projects that require a federal action and that use Section 4(f) properties require approval by the lead federal agency, unless the work meets one of the exceptions identified at 23 CFR 774.13. Please note, MaineDOT completes environmental review, consultation, and other actions required by applicable Federal environmental laws for federal-aid projects pursuant to the following: 23 U.S.C. 326 and a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) executed by FHWA and MaineDOT dated October 9, 2024, and 23 U.S.C. 327 and an MOU executed by FHWA and MaineDOT dated January 30, 2026.

This document describes the potential use of the Trail. The Section 4(f) property, the project's proposed use, and measures to minimize harm are described below. Figures showing the location of the Trail within the project area and the impact to said property associated with the proposed undertaking are shown in Attachment 1.

The purpose of this letter is to inform the City of Caribou of MaineDOT's intention to make a determination of a Section 4(f) *de minimis* impact to the Section 4(f) property under the City's jurisdiction. Pursuant to the coordination requirements at 23 CFR 774.5(b)(2)(i), MaineDOT will publish this information on the MaineDOT's Public Involvement website for a two-week period to allow for public review and comment on

DRAFT – PUBLIC COMMENT COPY

the MaineDOT's intention to make a determination of a Section 4(f) *de minimis* impact. Following the conclusion of the public comment period, MaineDOT will review and consider any relevant comments and provide them to the City of Caribou for review. After consideration of any comments from the public, MaineDOT will then make a *de minimis* impact determination if the City of Caribou concurs that the proposed project, after measures to minimize harm are employed, would not adversely affect the activities, features, or attributes that make the Trail eligible for Section 4(f) protection.

Project Impacts to Section 4(f) Properties

MaineDOT has identified one Section 4(f) property within the project area, discussed further below, that including measures to minimize harm, would experience a *de minimis* impact from the project, for which MaineDOT intends to make a *de minimis* impact finding pursuant to 23 CFR 774.3(b), 23 CFR 774.5(b)(2)(ii), and 23 CFR 774.17. A *de minimis* impact is one that will not adversely affect the features, attributes, or activities qualifying the property for protection under Section 4(f).

ATV Trail 632

Section 4(f) Property on Figure 1 in Attachment 1

Total Approximate Permanent Impacts: 0.135 acres

The Trail is located just southwest of the Aroostook River Bridge on two City-owned parcels of land. A wooden ramp on the western side of the bridge provides access from Fort Street/Route 161. The ramp slopes east down to the two City-owned parcels before terminating to a dirt trail that intersects with the abandoned railroad line that runs parallel to Lower Lyndon Street. The project area encompasses approximately 160 feet of the Trail. The Trail is part of the 1,000+ mile network that runs through Aroostook County in Maine.

The proposed project would require the reconstruction of the side slope at the southwest corner of the bridge, which is adjacent to the Trail. MaineDOT would require approximately 0.135 acres for two slope easements and one construction and maintenance easement to allow for the completion of work and for future maintenance access. The details of the proposed impact are shown in Figure 2. The permanent easements thus constitute a "Use" under 23 CFR 774.17.

The proposed project would also require approximately 684 square feet of temporary construction rights at the two City-owned parcels. This constitutes a "Temporary Occupancy" under 23 CFR 774.13(d).

As part of this work, the existing wooden access ramp would be removed and MaineDOT would grade a new ramp into the side slope that is in the approximate location of the existing. The new graded trail would connect to the existing.

Access to the Trail would not be restricted during construction. The recreational features, activities, and attributes of the Trail would not be adversely affected as a result of the proposed project, as the proposed work would ultimately provide a new access ramp and trail, thus improving the Trail for the public. In consideration of the impacts and minimization measures described above, the MaineDOT has determined the proposed impacts to the Trail are consistent with the definition of Section 4(f) *de minimis* impact pursuant to 23 CFR 774.17.

Request for Concurrence

MaineDOT requests your concurrence, as the official with jurisdiction, with its determination that the impacts to the Trail are consistent with the definition of Section 4(f) *de minimis* impact at 23 CFR 774.17. Pursuant to the coordination requirements at 23 CFR 774.5(b)(2)(i), MaineDOT will publish this information on MaineDOT's Public Involvement website for a two-week period to allow for public review and comment on MaineDOT's intention to make a determination of a Section 4(f) *de minimis* impact. Following the conclusion of the public comment period, MaineDOT will review and consider any relevant comments and provide

DRAFT – PUBLIC COMMENT COPY

them to the City of Caribou for review. After consideration of any comments from the public, MaineDOT will then make a *de minimis* impact determination if the City of Caribou concurs that the proposed project, after measures to minimize harm are employed, would not adversely affect the activities, features, or attributes that make the Trail eligible for Section 4(f) protection.

By signing your concurrence below, you indicate that the City of Caribou agrees the proposed project, after consideration of any comments from the public and after measures to minimize harm are employed, would not adversely affect the activities, features or attributes that make the property eligible for Section 4(f) protection and that the agency concurs with MaineDOT's Section 4(f) *de minimis* impact determination.

Date Approved

Official with Jurisdiction

DRAFT – PUBLIC COMMENT COPY

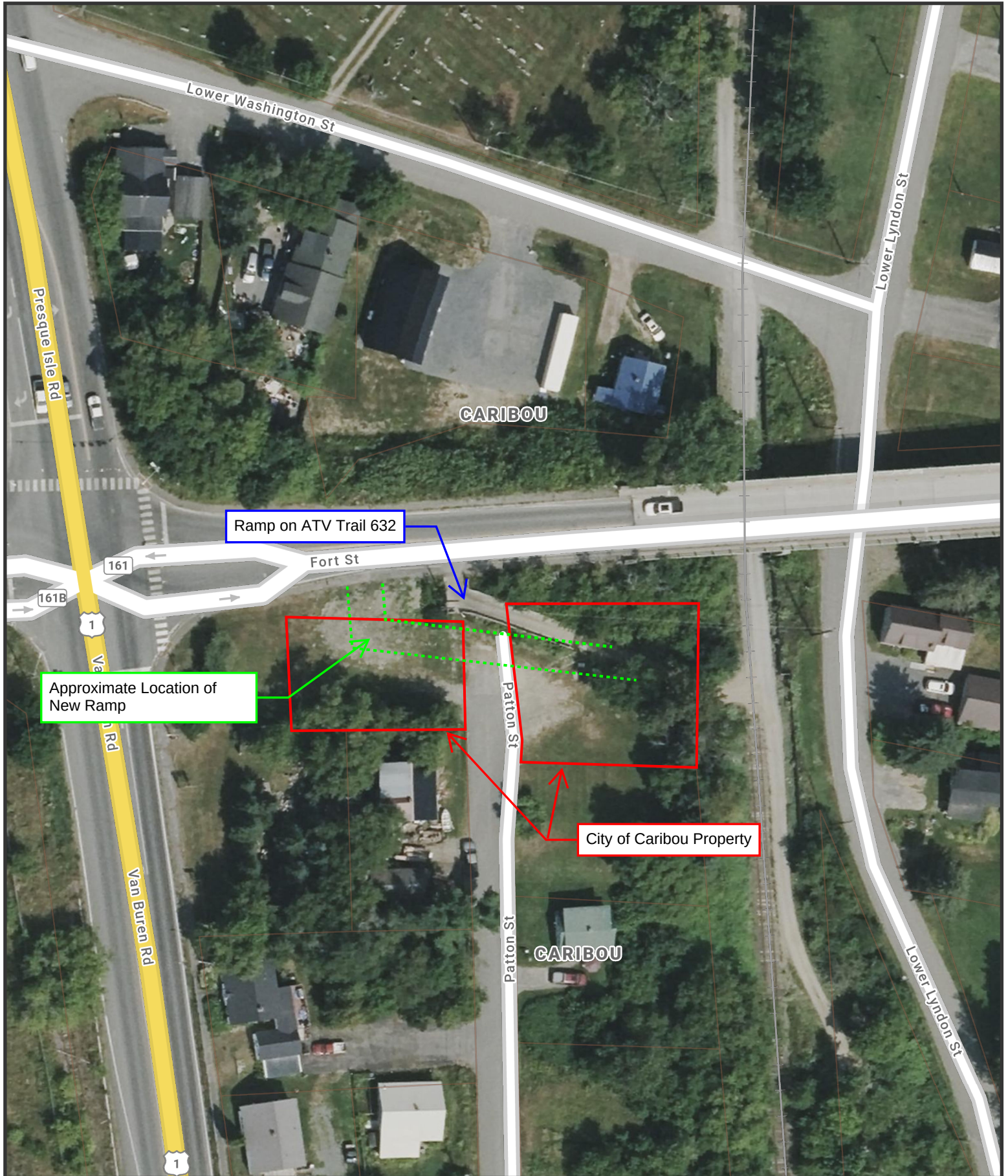
ATTACHMENT 1

Section 4(f) Documentation

Caribou Bridge Rehabilitation Project

MaineDOT WIN 27278.00

FIGURE 1

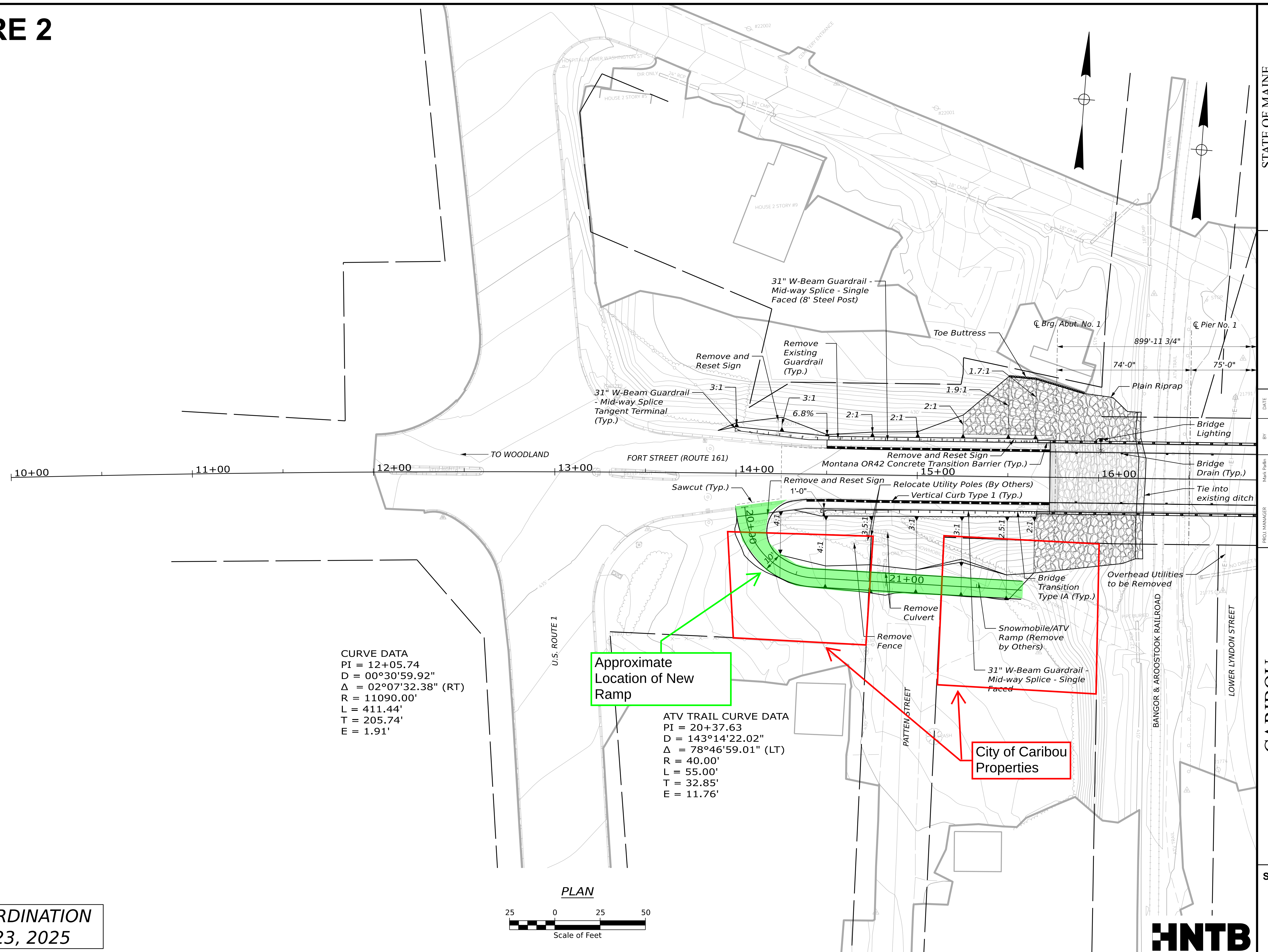


The Maine Department of Transportation provides this publication for information only. Reliance upon this information is at user risk. It is subject to revision and may be incomplete depending upon changing conditions. The Department assumes no liability if injuries or damages result from this information. This map is not intended to support emergency dispatch.

0.01
Miles
1 inch = 0.02 miles

Date: 7/6/2026
Time: 9:26:45 AM

FIGURE 2

[illegible]

ATV COORDINATION

PLAN

Scale of Feet

