

# Maine-NH Connections Study

Final Steering and Stakeholder  
Committee Meeting  
*November 16, 2010*



# Agenda

- Welcome
- Recent Events
- Draft Study Report Overview
- Next Steps
  - Memorial Bridge
  - Sarah Mildred Long Bridge

# Recent Events

- Governor's Announcement on October 5
  - Task force formed to identify funding for three bridges
  - 3 members from each State
- Connections Study winding down:
  - Draft Final Report distributed November 9<sup>th</sup>
  - Final Report due December 2010
  - Recommend three alternatives to move forward
  - Public Meeting tonight – November 16<sup>th</sup>
- TIGER II Grant awarded - \$20 Million

# Draft Study Report Overview

- Today - we will provide a brief overview of each chapter of the Report
- Will review remaining alternatives recommended to move forward
- Report is available online at:

[www.mainerhconnections.org](http://www.mainerhconnections.org)

# Draft Study Report Overview

- Executive Summary
  - Overview of entire Report
- Study Background
  - History and problems indicating need for study
- Public Outreach Process
  - Committees, Meetings, Agendas, Minutes, Summary
- Purpose and Need Statement
  - Final Purpose and Need Statement for Study as approved by agencies and public

# Draft Study Report Overview

- Fatal Flaw Analysis:
  - Did they meet Purpose and Need?
  - Did they have significant environmental impacts?
  - Were they permittable?
  - Were they financially feasible?
  - Were they physically feasible?
  - Were they clearly inferior to other alternatives?
- 63 Alternatives Identified
  - Rehab and replacement for both bridges, new alternatives on new alignments

# Draft Study Report Overview

- Fatal Flaw Analysis Results:
  - Three Memorial Bridge options remained
  - Three Sarah Long Bridge options remained
- Post Fatal Flaw, three new options identified
  - Memorial Closed, Transit system
  - Sarah Mildred Long hybrid (mid level) bridge (5% and 6% grade options)
- 11 Total Alternatives remained, including No-Build Alternative

# Alternatives remained from Fatal Flaw Analysis: NOT FINAL ALTERNATIVES!!!

**No Build Alternative:** Memorial Bridge Closed, Sarah Long Bridge maintained

**4.** Memorial Bridge replaced, Sarah Long Bridge rehabilitated

**5a.** Memorial Bridge replaced, Sarah Long Bridge replaced on alignment (2-lane)

**5b.** Memorial Bridge replaced, Sarah Long Bridge replaced on alignment (4-lane)

**6a.** Memorial Bridge replaced, Sarah Long Bridge replaced upstream (2-lane)

**6b.** Memorial Bridge replaced, Sarah Long Bridge replaced upstream (4-lane)

**7.** Memorial Bridge replaced (bicycle/pedestrian only), Sarah Long Bridge replaced on alignment (4-lane)

**8.** Memorial Bridge replaced (bicycle/pedestrian only), Sarah Long Bridge replaced upstream (4-lane)

**9.** Memorial Bridge replaced, Sarah Long Bridge replaced upstream with Hybrid

**10.** Memorial Bridge replaced (bicycle/pedestrian only), Sarah Long Bridge replaced upstream with Hybrid

**11.** Memorial Bridge closed, Transit system implemented, Sarah Long Bridge replaced upstream with Hybrid



# Draft Study Report Overview

- Inspection Reports:
  - Detailed look at both Memorial Bridge and Sarah Mildred Long Bridge
  - Resulted in removing all five Memorial Bridge Rehabilitation alternatives from further consideration
  - Basis for Sarah Mildred Long Rehabilitation option that includes replacement of approach spans

# Draft Study Report Overview

- Evaluation Criteria and Measures of Effectiveness (MOEs)
  - Major Categories:
    - Structural Improvement
    - Mobility
    - Accessibility
    - Planning Level Costs
    - Historic
    - Natural Environment
    - Physical Environment
    - Environmental Clearances (permitting)

# Draft Study Report Overview

- Based on Study data, Study Team dismissed:
  - No Build Alternative: Did not meet Purpose and Need
  - Alternative 5b (MB replace, SL replace (4-lane))
  - Alternative 6b (MB replace, SL replace (4-lane upstream))
    - The two alternatives that combined would have added six total lanes at SL and MB – 6 lanes not needed
  - Alternative 5a (MB replace, SL replace (2-lane))
  - Alternative 7 (MB replace bike/ped, SL replace (4-lane))
    - The two SL alternatives that were on-alignment
  - Alternative 8 (MB replace bike/ped, SL replace (4-lane))
    - The SL four-lane alternative in favor of the Hybrid alternative

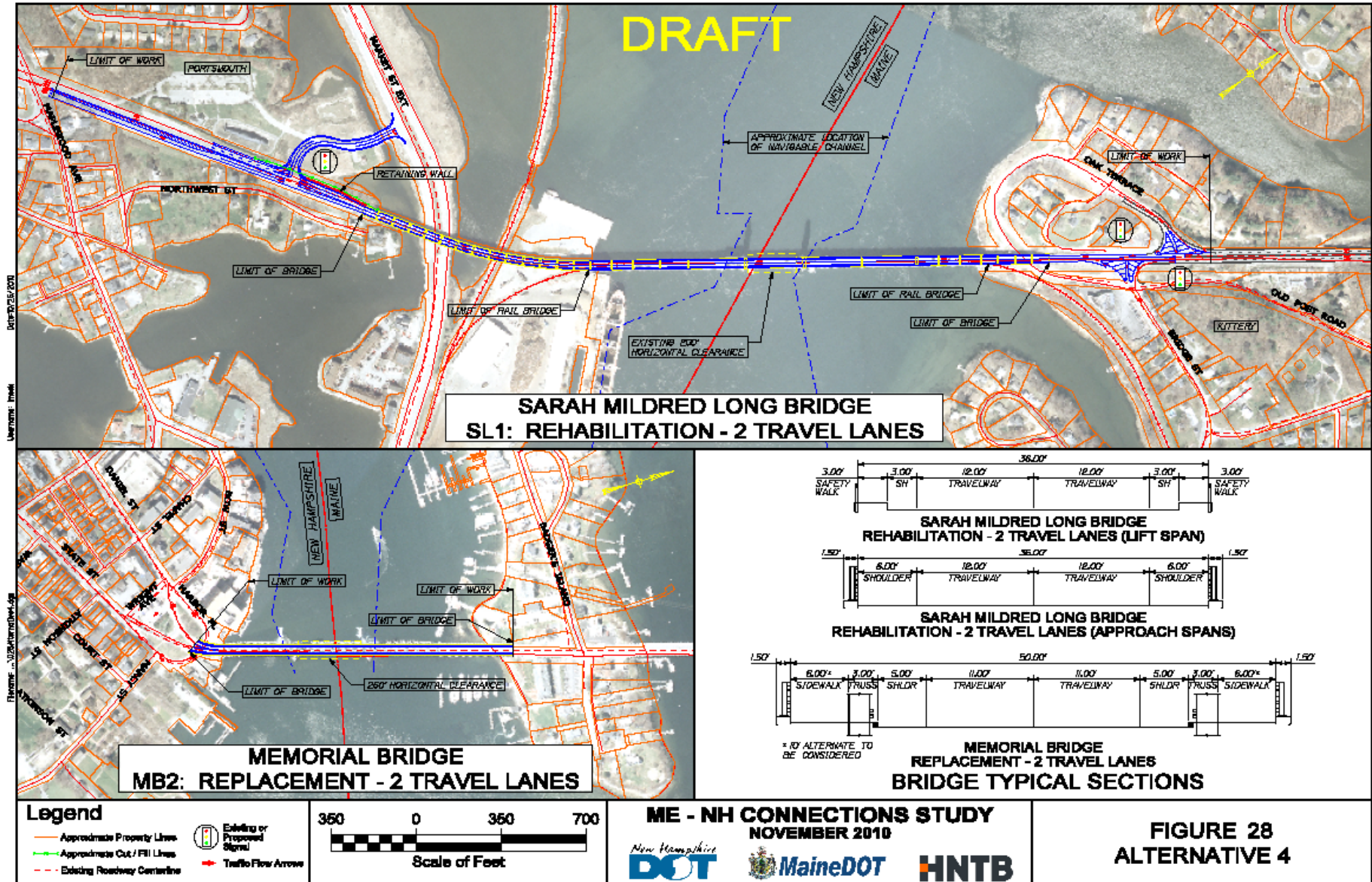
# Draft Study Report Overview

- Alternatives 10 and 11 dismissed as they:
  - would not maintain or improve access to downtowns and PNSY
  - would not improve bicycle access across Piscataqua River
  - would not maintain or improve emergency evacuation access across Piscataqua River
  - would preclude future transportation alternatives
  - NH DOT had no funding sources for bicycle/ pedestrian bridges or transit services
  - There was virtually no support for any alternative that did not contain a Memorial Bridge replacement

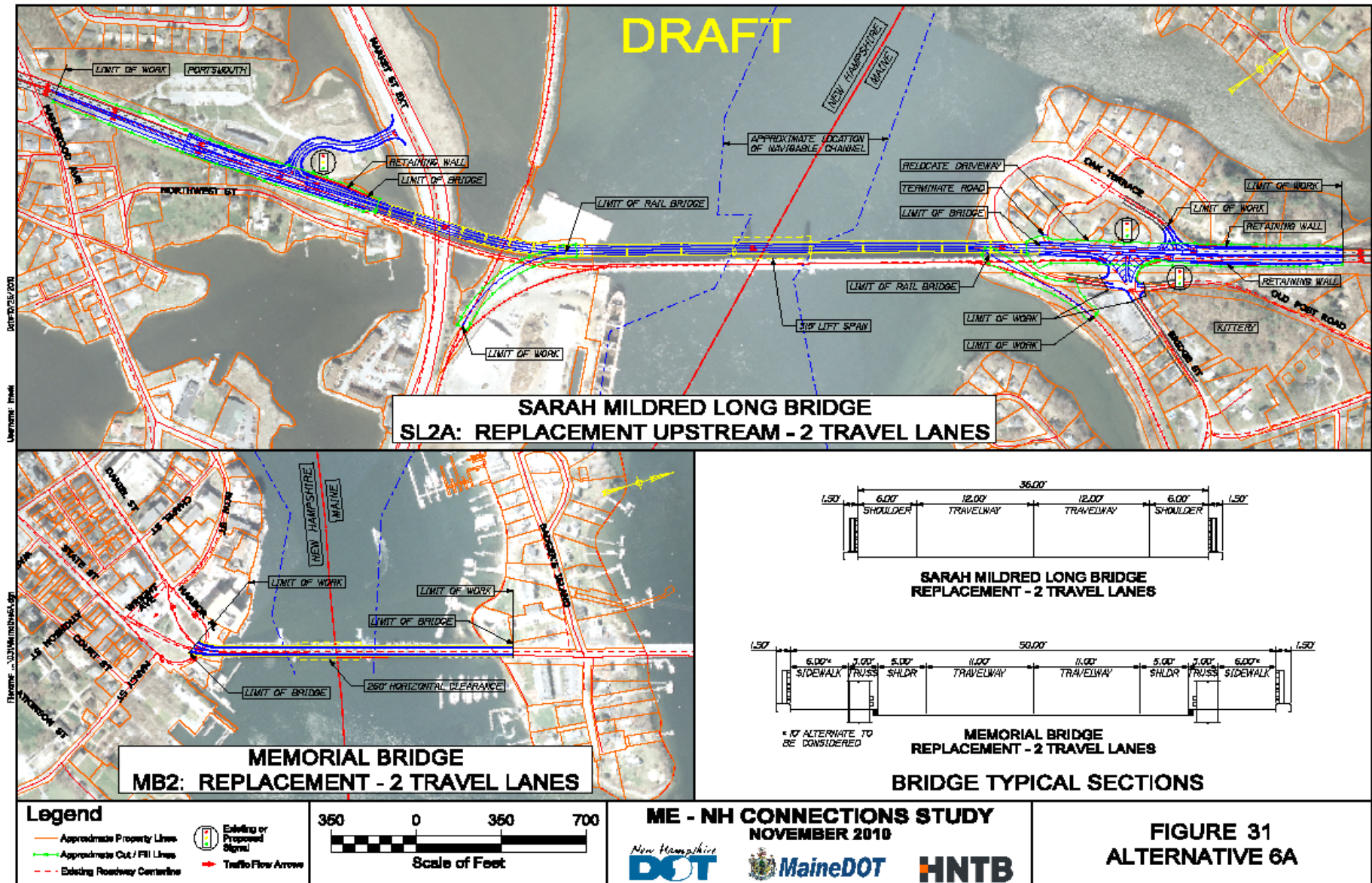
# Draft Study Report Overview

- Three Alternatives Recommended to be Carried Forward
  - Alternative 4: Memorial Bridge Replacement with Sarah Long Rehabilitation
  - Alternative 6a: Memorial Bridge Replacement with Sarah Mildred Long Replacement Upstream
  - Alternative 9: Memorial Bridge Replacement with Sarah Mildred Long 6% Hybrid Replacement Upstream

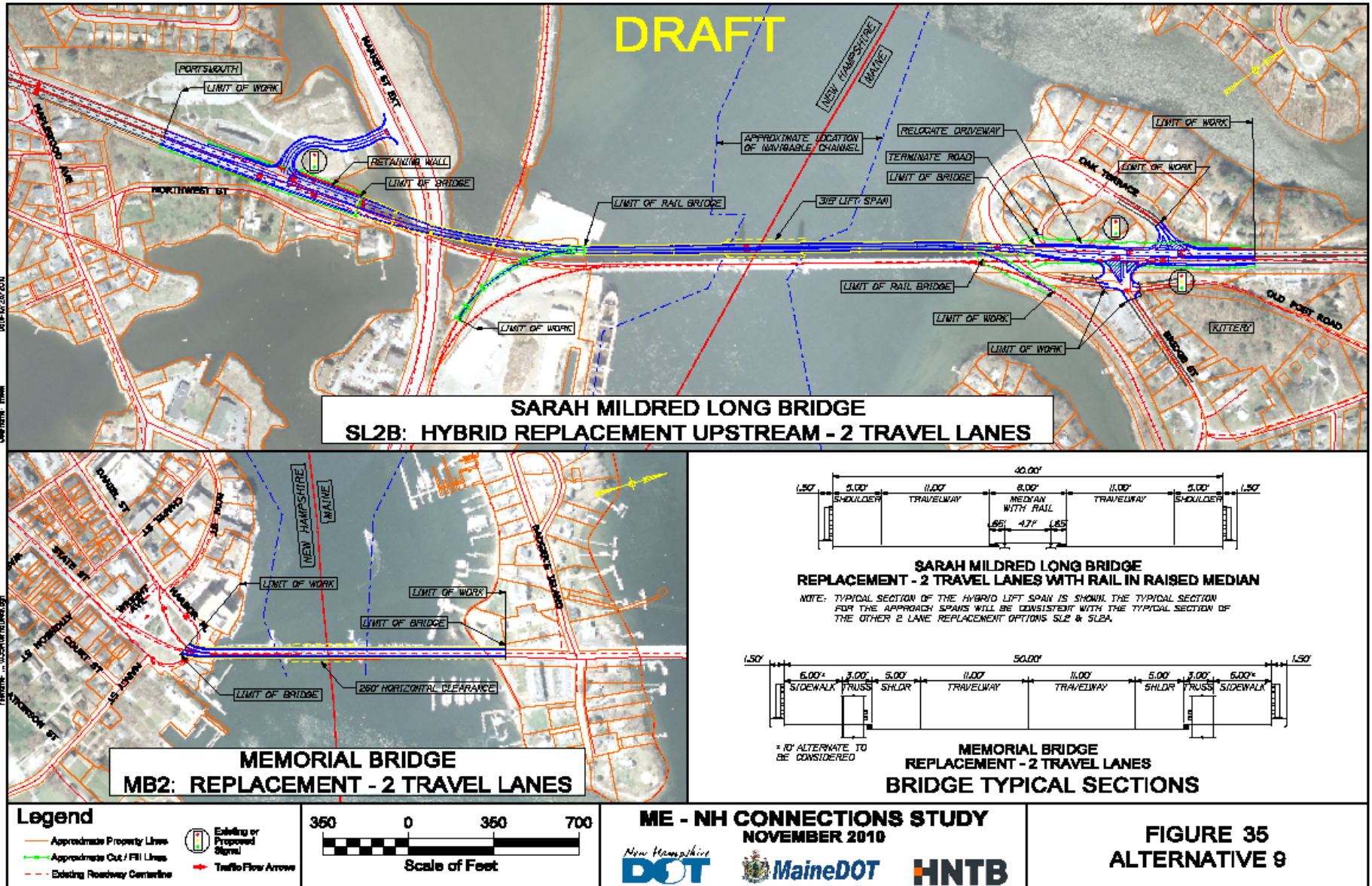
# Alternative 4



# Alternative 6a



# Alternative 9





# Governors' Task Force on Funding

- Bi-state task force to identify, evaluate and recommend funding mechanisms for all three bridges (I-95, Sarah, Memorial)
- 3 Members from each State
  - Maine (David Cole, Gerald Conley, Dana Connors)
  - New Hampshire (George Campbell, Beverly Hollingworth, Henry Stebbins)
- Report/recommendations by December 15th
- Update on Task Force Progress

# Next Steps

- Remaining alternatives recommended to be separated for independent Section 4(f), Section 106, and NEPA analyses
- NHDOT will take lead on Memorial Bridge
- MaineDOT will take lead on Sarah Long Bridge
- Public process included in both

# Next Steps

- Memorial Bridge Replacement
  - Memorial Bridge Replacement only option remaining
  - New Hampshire DOT is responsible for environmental documentation & implementing
  - Design-Build process to construct planned
  - Public Meeting November 23<sup>rd</sup> in Portsmouth
  - Overview of Schedule and process
  - Question to Robert Landry, NHDOT

# Next Steps

- Sarah Mildred Long Process
  - Three options still under consideration
  - MaineDOT responsible for evaluation, environmental documentation & implementation
  - FHWA to determine what level of NEPA documentation required (CE, EA)
  - Overview of Schedule and process
  - Questions to Gerry Audibert, MaineDOT

# Next Steps

- Draft Report released – 30 day comment period
- Comments due in writing by December 9<sup>th</sup>
- Comments to:
  - [pgodfrey@hntb.com](mailto:pgodfrey@hntb.com), or

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# Questions/Comments

**Thank you!!**