August 18, 2026

Bush River Bridge Project and Gunpowder River Bridge Project

Gunpowder Bush Waterways Advocacy Group Meeting

AMTRAK®

Agenda

- Introductions & Safety and Security Briefing
- Meeting Goals
- Project Background & Purpose
- Phases of Project Delivery
- Role of U.S. Coast Guard (USCG)
- Process & Timeline Overview
- Q&A + Public Input

Safety & Security Briefing

Emergency Preparedness

Our physical address is

725 Trimble Road
Joppatowne, MD
21085

Who will call 911, and who is their backup?

Who is CPR/AED qualified?

Know the location of emergency equipment (e.g., AED, spill kit)

Evacuation

Communicate the need to evacuate.

Follow the Facility Emergency Plan (FEP).

Know your evacuation plan/ route & muster point.

Assist those who may need help evacuating.

Wait for permission to re-enter the facility.

Safety Reporting

Proactively identify & report unsafe conditions or behaviors.

Use AVSRS through the Safety page on All Aboard or scan the QR code for the Enablon-Go mobile app.

Questions contact:
Systemsafety@amtrak.com

Health and Wellbeing

Take healthy actions:

- Physical Activity
- Healthy Nutrition
- Adequate Sleep
- Mental Well-being

Stay up to date with preventive services.

Take time to refresh & recharge.

Security

If You See Something, Say Something®. Call 800-331-0008 / text 27311.

Active Shooter:
Run, Hide, Fight.

Always be aware of surroundings.

Display and verify proper ID on Amtrak property.

Cybersecurity

Don't click on links or attachments from unknown sources.

Be alert for phishing traps and use "Report" in Outlook.



Report other suspicious computer activity to:

AmtrakServiceDesk@amtrak.com

Introductions

- Gunpowder Bush Water Advocacy Group (Host)
- Amtrak (Owner)
- Amtrak's Consultant Team
  - HNTB
  - Calladium Group

...and a general welcome to everyone else!

Amtrak Mission Statement

"As defined by Congress, Amtrak's mission is to "provide efficient and effective intercity passenger rail mobility consisting of high-quality service that is trip-time competitive with other intercity travel options."

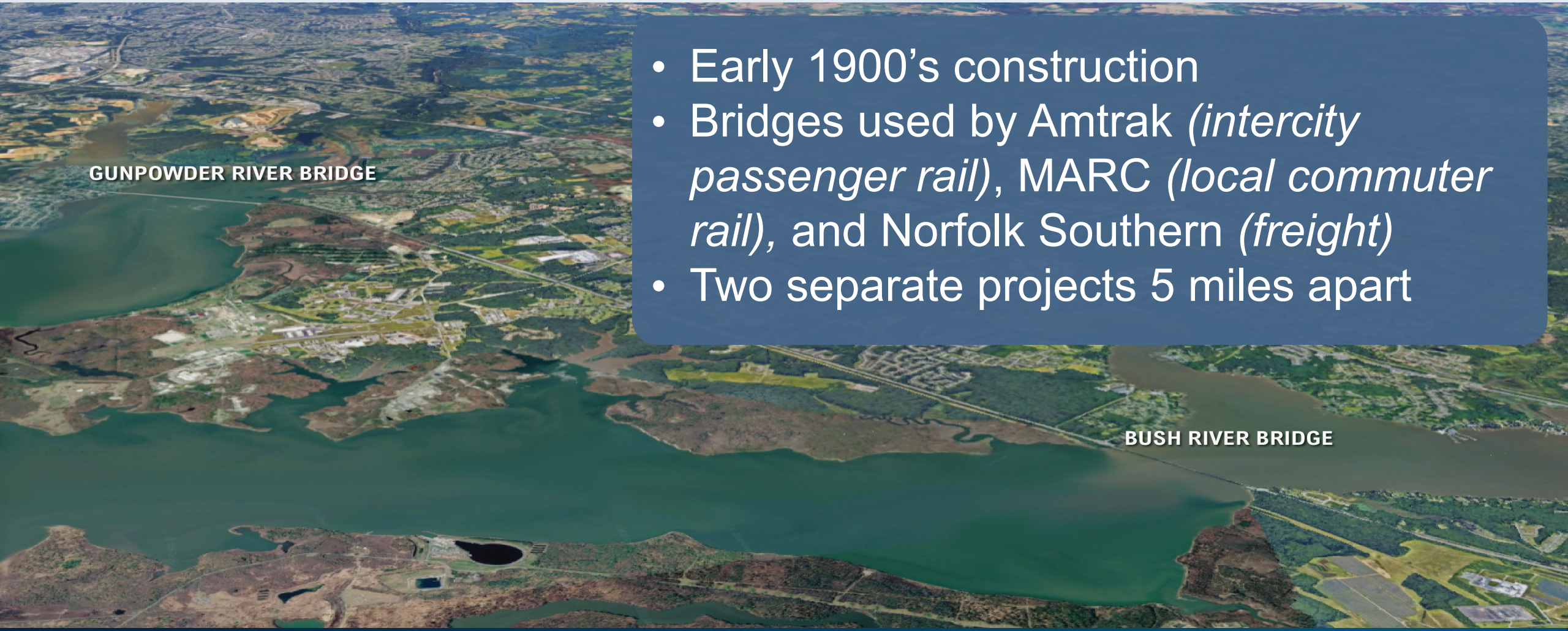
Goals of the Meeting

- Inform and bring the community into Amtrak's process
- Update on current status and future steps
- Establish open communication & public collaboration
- Receive questions & feedback



Gunpowder Bush Waterways Advocacy Group
Created by Sarah Kestner

Bush and Gunpowder River Bridges (BGRB)

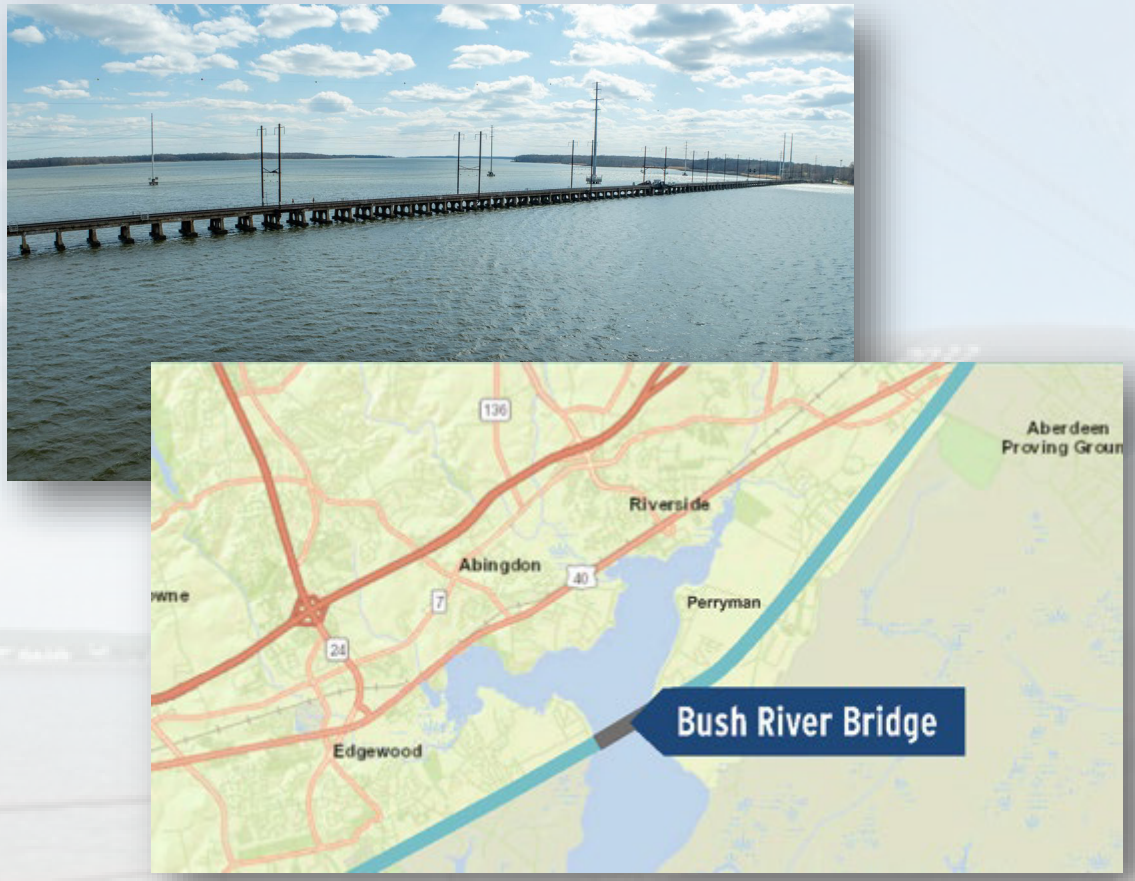


- Early 1900's construction
- Bridges used by Amtrak *(intercity passenger rail)*, MARC *(local commuter rail)*, and Norfolk Southern *(freight)*
- Two separate projects 5 miles apart

Purpose of the BGRB Projects

The purpose of the Bush River Bridge Project and the Gunpowder River Bridge Project is to provide a safe, reliable and efficient crossing for Amtrak and MARC passenger trains and Norfolk Southern freight trains over the Bush and Gunpowder Rivers, that optimizes existing and planned infrastructure and accommodates future commuter, intercity, and high-speed rail operations, while meeting the reasonable needs of navigation.

Bush River Bridge Project Elements

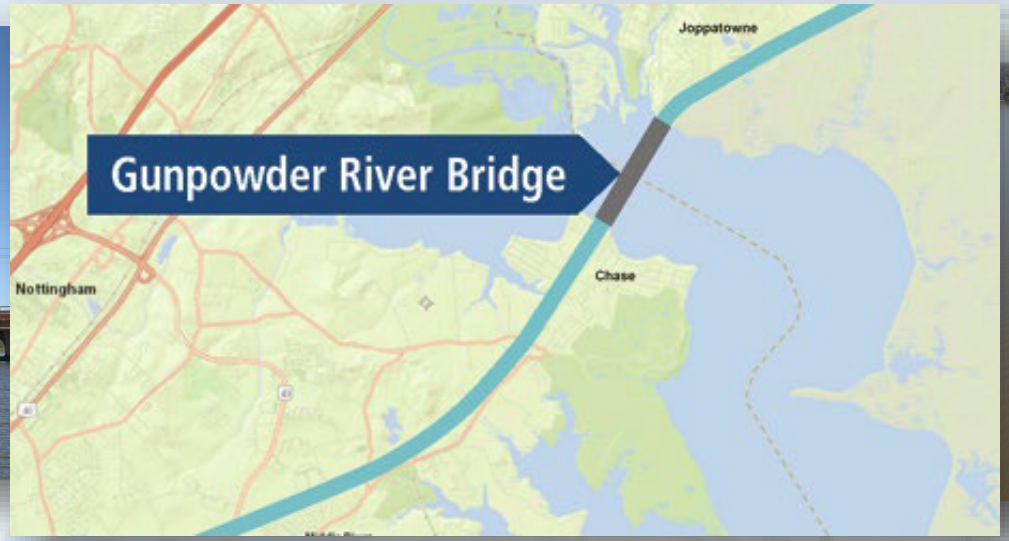


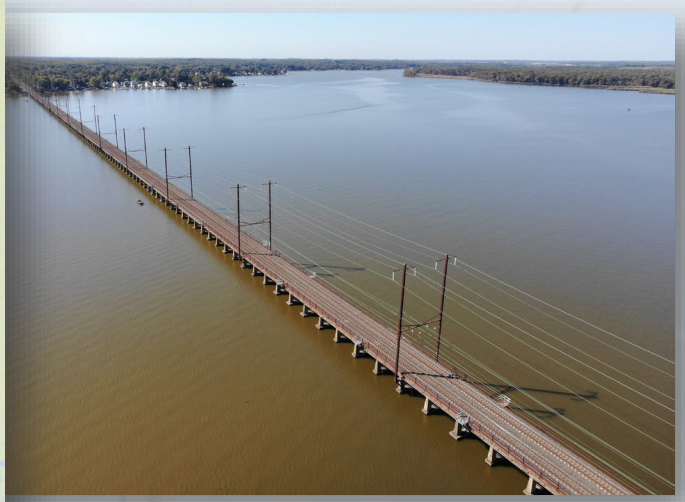
- Spans the Bush River between Edgewood and Perryman, MD
- <u>Modernize Rail Infrastructure</u>
  - Reduce frequent maintenance needs
  - Enhance capacity for more frequent train service
  - Increase train speeds
  - Accommodate increased ridership

Gunpowder River Bridge Project Elements



Gunpowder navigation span





- Spans the Gunpowder River between Chase and Joppatowne, MD
- Improvements to service reliability and enable higher speeds
- More reliable Amtrak, MARC and Norfolk Southern service on the Northeast Corridor (NEC)

Phases of Project Delivery



[Arrows are not to scale based on duration]

Phase of Project: Planning

2024 – SEP 2025

Planning

What We've Done So Far

- Considered a range of potential solutions to replace both bridges
- Identified key project constraints
- Established initial environmental inventory
- Developed conceptual design of potential solutions
- Conducted Waterway User Surveys

Phase of Project: Preliminary Engineering & NEPA

2024 – SEP 2025

Planning

MAY 2026 – 2028

Preliminary Engineering & NEPA

Federal funding through this phase

What's Happening Now

- Stakeholder and public outreach
- Identify recommended preferred alternative
- Advance engineering to a 30% level of completion
- Complete National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) environmental review
- Establish framework for regulatory permits

Phase of Project: Final Design & Permitting



What's to Come

- Construction packaging
- Environmental mitigation
- Incorporating stakeholder feedback

Challenges, Constraints & Opportunities

- Environmental and cultural resources 15
- Adjacent properties
- Design and construction complexity
  - Construction means & methods
  - Limited access for construction
  - Shallow water
  - Poor soil conditions
- Maintaining train service during construction
- Reasonable needs of navigation



Project Sponsors/Funding Partners

MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION™

MARYLAND TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION

U.S. Department of Transportation
Federal Railroad Administration

AMTRAK®

AMTRAK®

Agency, stakeholder and public coordination













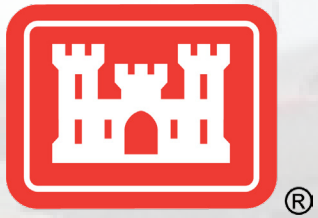


















U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) Mission Statement

"To protect the freedom of navigation and the quality of the environment and to ensure a balanced approach to land and water transportation systems."



Intermodal Mobility, Safety and Security

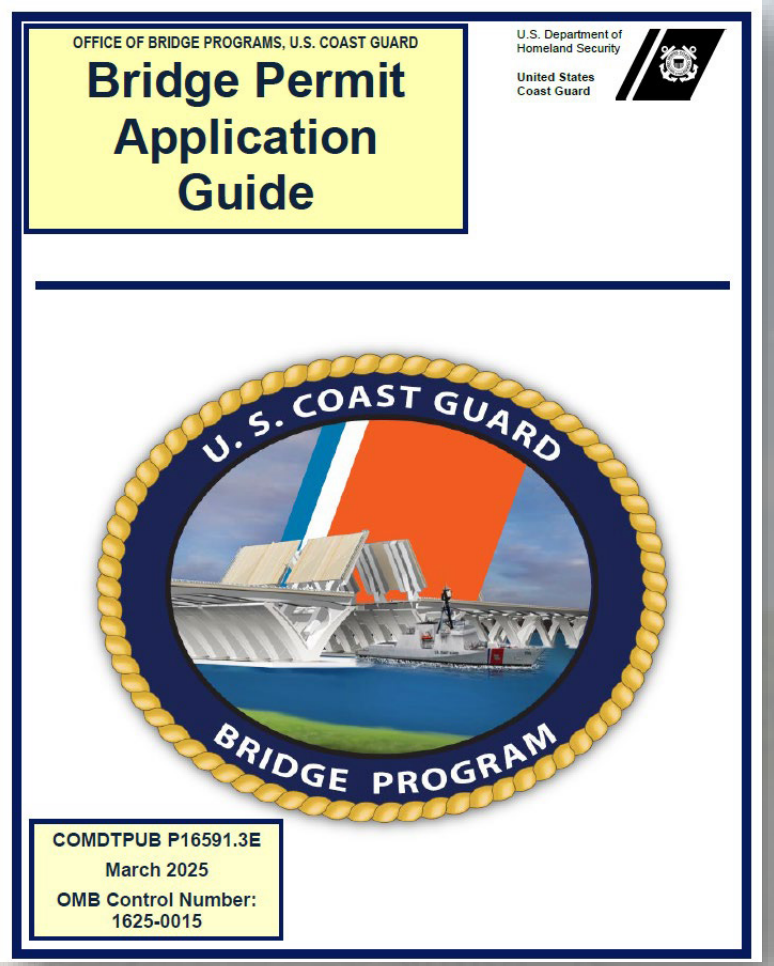
Role of United States Coast Guard (USCG)

- USCG assumed responsibility for bridges in 1967
- Approves location and plans of bridges and causeways constructed across navigable waters of U.S.
- Regulates drawbridge operations to balance both land and marine transportation needs
- Administers the alteration of bridges found to be unreasonable obstructions to navigation

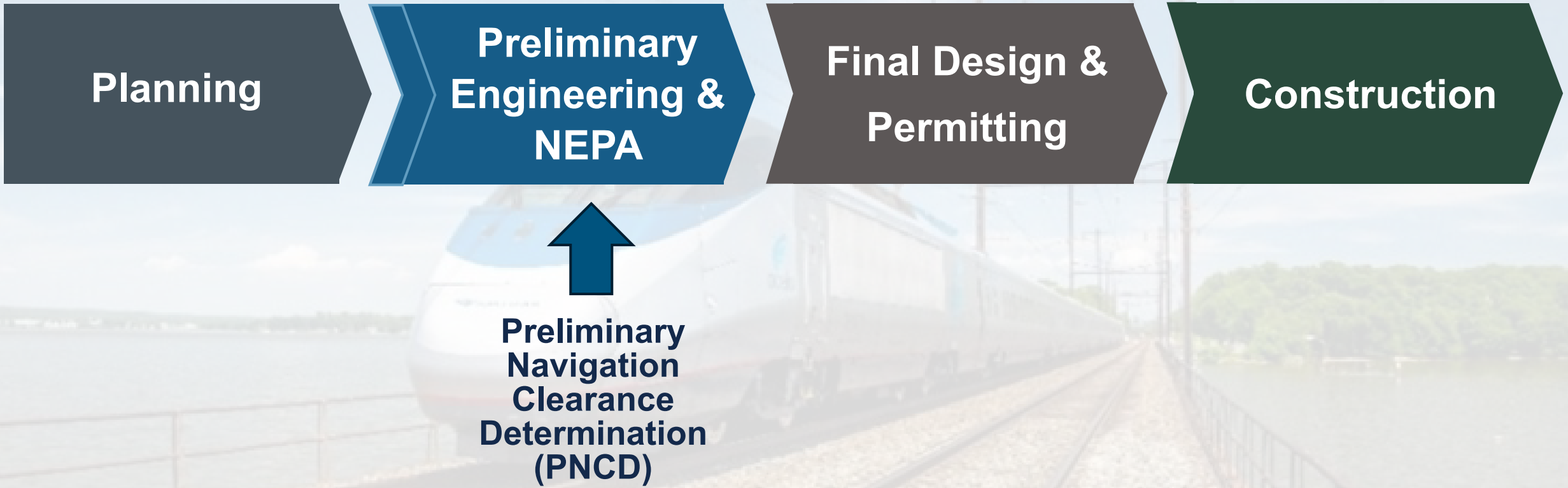


Reasonable Needs of Navigation

- Balance the need for bridges over navigable waterways with the reasonable needs of navigation; each waterway is unique. 20
- Ensure that proposed bridges do not unreasonably obstruct vessel passage, safety, or commerce on navigable waters.
- USCG Bridge Permit Application Guide (BPAG) →**Navigation Impact Report (NIR)**

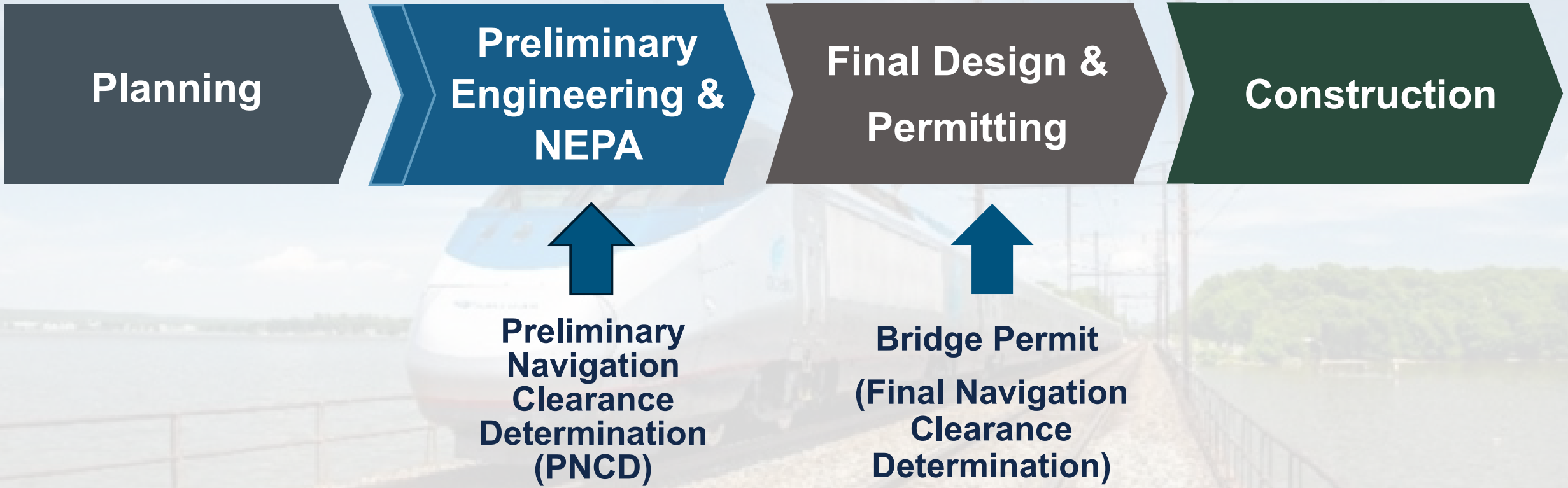


USCG Actions & Authority



[Arrows are not to scale based on duration]

USCG Actions & Authority



[Arrows are not to scale based on duration]

Process & Timeline

October 2024 — Amtrak notifies USCG of project initiation — START



Process & Timeline

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October 2024 — USCG advises Amtrak of Navigation Impact Report (NIR) needs

Completed by USCG

Process & Timeline

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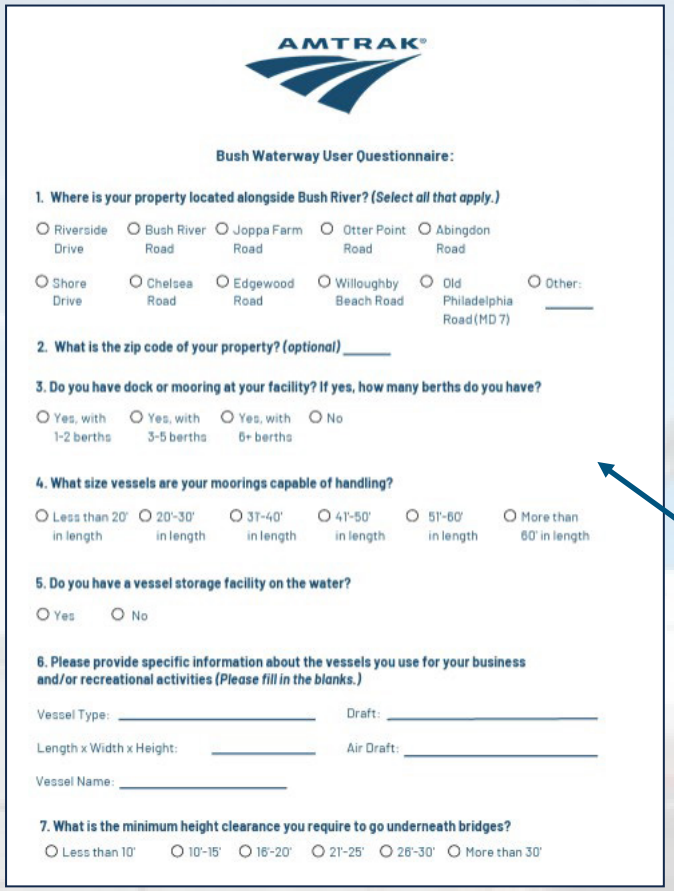
October 2024 — USCG advises Amtrak of Navigation Impact Report (NIR) needs

Completed by USCG

Oct 2024 – March 2025 — Amtrak collects waterway data (includes surveys)

Completed by **Amtrak**

Waterway User Questionnaire & Results



AMTRAK

Bush Waterway User Questionnaire:

1. **Where is your property located alongside Bush River?** *(Select all that apply.)*

○ Riverside Drive ○ Bush River Road ○ Joppa Farm Road ○ Otter Point Road ○ Abingdon Road

○ Shore Drive ○ Chelsea Road ○ Edgewood Road ○ Willoughby Beach Road ○ Old Philadelphia Road (MD 7) ○ Other: _____

2. **What is the zip code of your property?** *(optional)* _____

3. **Do you have dock or mooring at your facility? If yes, how many berths do you have?**

○ Yes, with 1-2 berths ○ Yes, with 3-5 berths ○ Yes, with 6+ berths ○ No

4. **What size vessels are your moorings capable of handling?**

○ Less than 20' in length ○ 20'-30' in length ○ 31'-40' in length ○ 41'-50' in length ○ 51'-60' in length ○ More than 60' in length

5. **Do you have a vessel storage facility on the water?**

○ Yes ○ No

6. **Please provide specific information about the vessels you use for your business and/or recreational activities** *(Please fill in the blanks.)*

Vessel Type: _____ Draft: _____

Length x Width x Height: _____ Air Draft: _____

Vessel Name: _____

7. **What is the minimum height clearance you require to go underneath bridges?**

○ Less than 10' ○ 10'-15' ○ 16'-20' ○ 21'-25' ○ 26'-30' ○ More than 30'

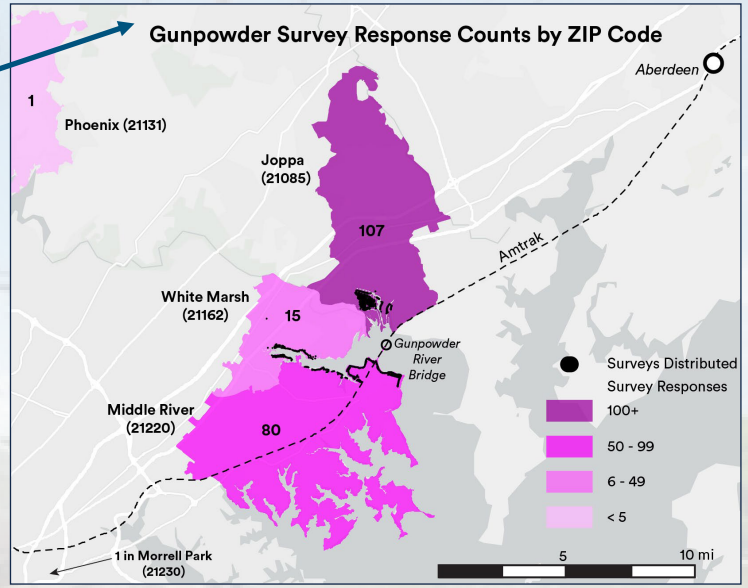
Bush Waterway User Questionnaire (1st page)

Gunpowder

Surveys Distributed: **1,375** Survey Responses Received: **211 (15%)**

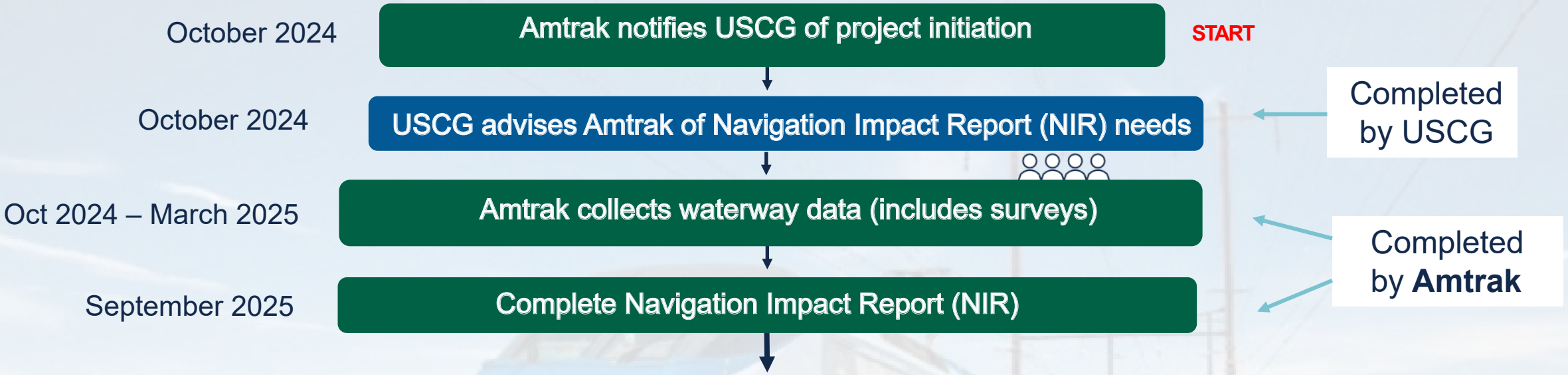
Bush

Surveys Distributed: **482** Survey Responses Received: **111 (23%)**



*7 surveys did not provide a ZIP Code

Process & Timeline



Planning: Navigation Impact Report (2025)

Completed Navigation Impact Reports (NIR) for *both* projects in accordance with UCSG Bridge Permit Application Guide

- Collected Early Public Input (online survey, email, mail back hardcopy)
  - **1,857** navigation surveys (for both bridges) were distributed to local marinas, boat launches, commercial users and private residences in the vicinity of the bridges
- Reviewed NOAA Navigational Chart 12273
- Site visit observations
- Provided initial navigation clearance recommendations



Navigation Impact Report (NIR) Conclusions

- Based on the waterway user input received through this study and survey, Amtrak recommended navigation clearances of: 29

Gunpowder River Bridge

15’ above mean high water MHW (vertical)

35’ minimum (horizontal)

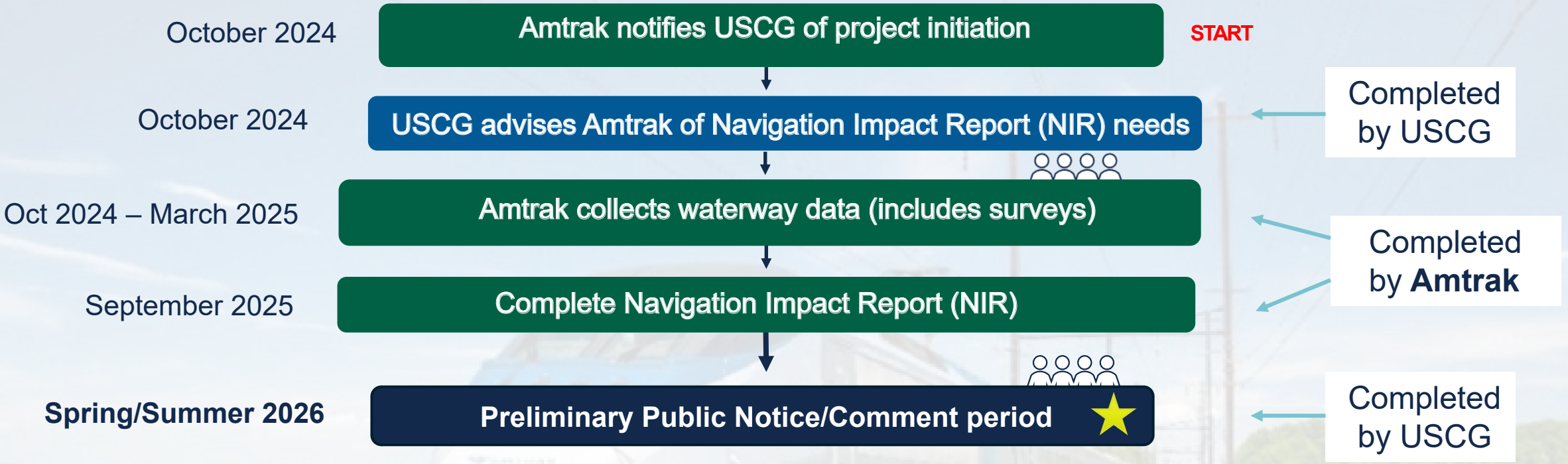
Bush River Bridge

30’ above mean high water MHW (vertical)

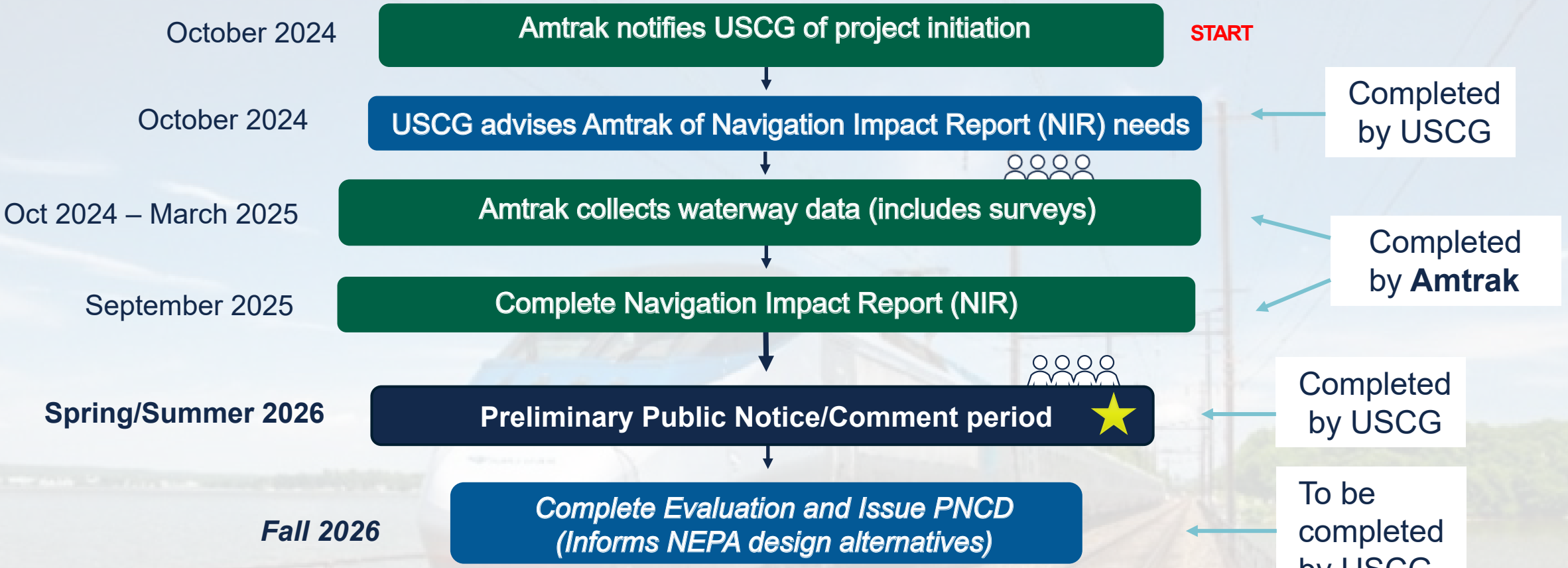
35’ minimum (horizontal)

- Ongoing coordination with the USCG and waterway users will continue as the project design advances.
- Amtrak acknowledges community concerns about the navigation clearances.

Process & Timeline

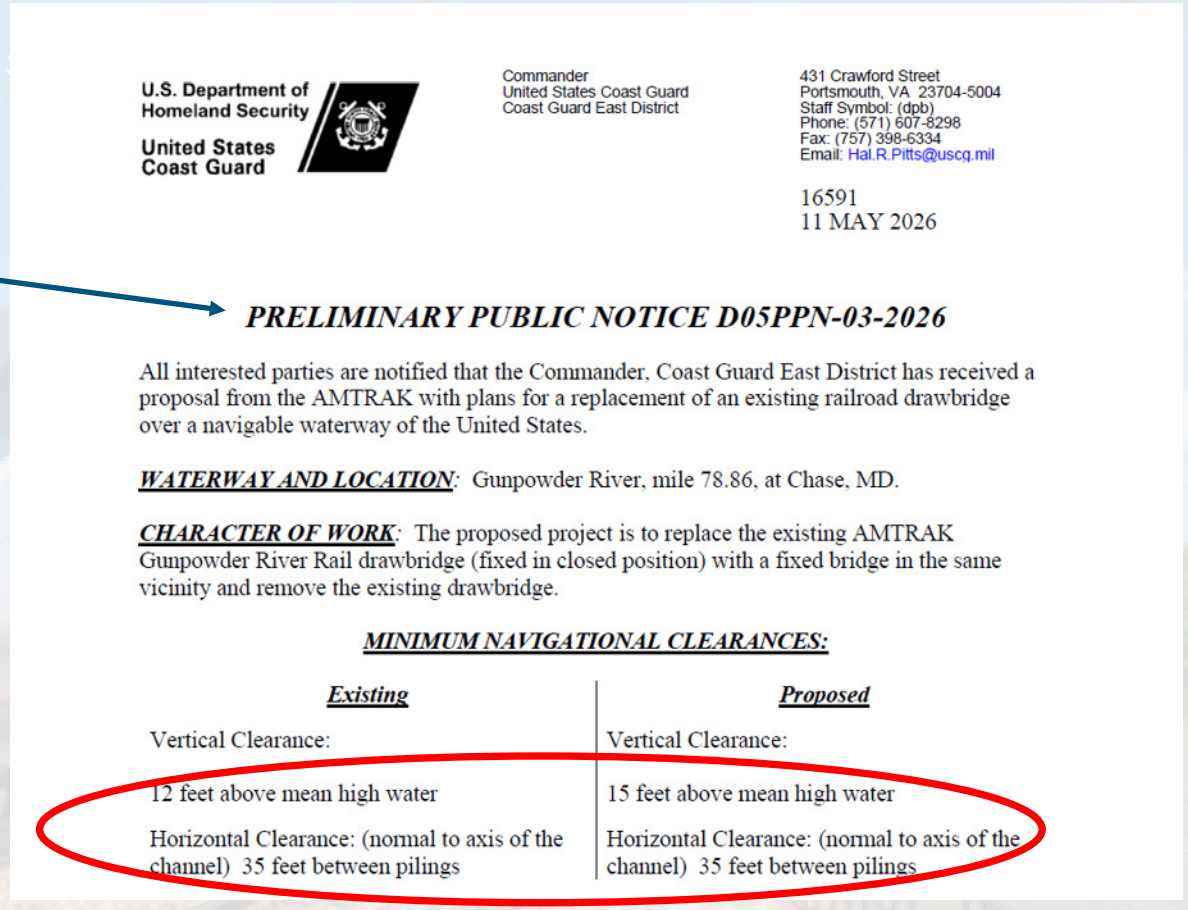


Process & Timeline



USCG Evaluation & PPN

- ☑ Review of Navigation Impact Report
- ☑ Issue Preliminary Public Notice (PPN)
- ☐ Synthesize all available data
- ☐ Additional Consultation
- ☐ Establish the Preliminary Navigation Clearance Determination (PNCD)



U.S. Department of Homeland Security
United States Coast Guard

Commander
United States Coast Guard
Coast Guard East District

431 Crawford Street
Portsmouth, VA 23704-5004
Staff Symbol: (dpb)
Phone: (571) 607-8298
Fax: (757) 398-6334
Email: Hal.R.Pitts@uscg.mil

16591
11 MAY 2026

PRELIMINARY PUBLIC NOTICE D05PPN-03-2026

All interested parties are notified that the Commander, Coast Guard East District has received a proposal from the AMTRAK with plans for a replacement of an existing railroad drawbridge over a navigable waterway of the United States.

WATERWAY AND LOCATION: Gunpowder River, mile 78.86, at Chase, MD.

CHARACTER OF WORK: The proposed project is to replace the existing AMTRAK Gunpowder River Rail drawbridge (fixed in closed position) with a fixed bridge in the same vicinity and remove the existing drawbridge.

MINIMUM NAVIGATIONAL CLEARANCES:

Existing	***Proposed***
Vertical Clearance:	Vertical Clearance:
12 feet above mean high water	15 feet above mean high water
Horizontal Clearance: (normal to axis of the channel) 35 feet between pilings	Horizontal Clearance: (normal to axis of the channel) 35 feet between pilings

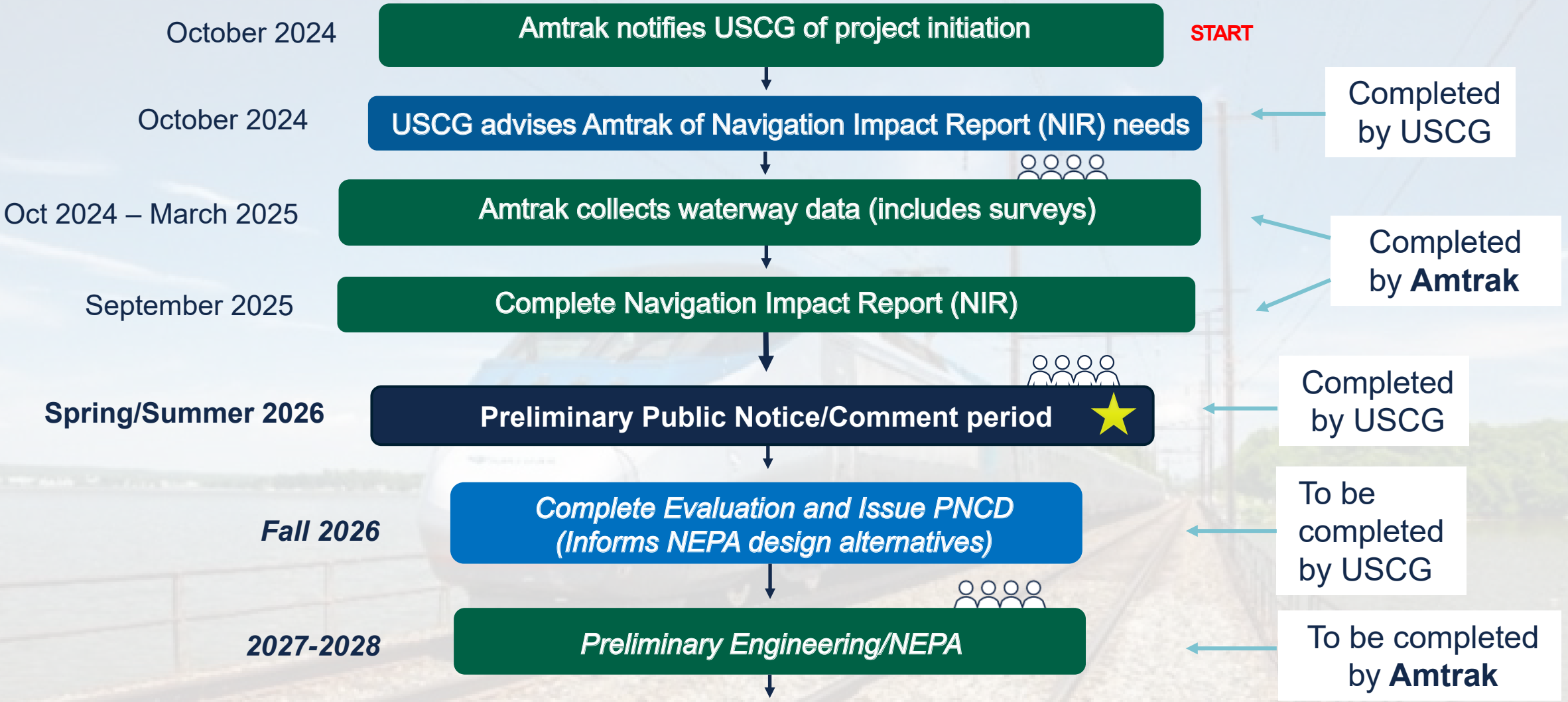
Establishing the PNCD

USCG reviews the NIR, public comments and conducts their Navigation Evaluation considering whether the proposed bridge will:

- Be an unreasonable obstruction for navigation
- Be the new governing structure for the waterway
- Impact current and prospective navigation, jobs, economic growth

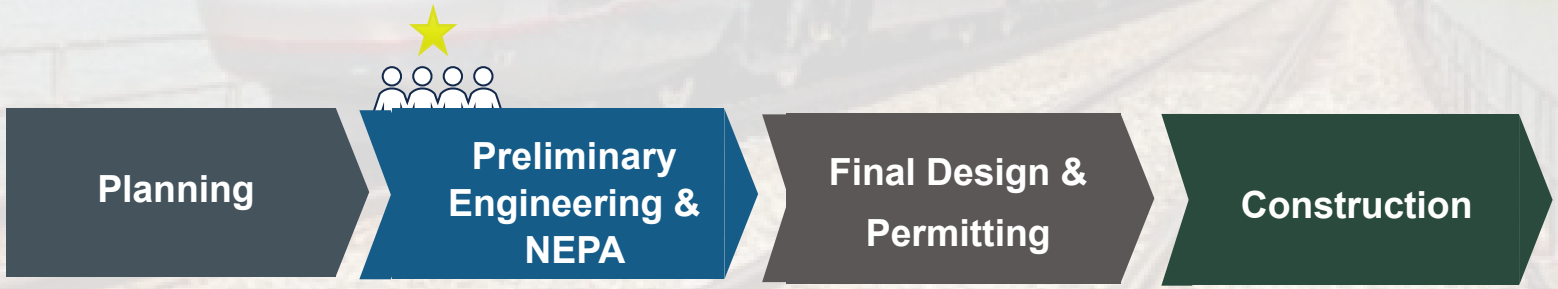


Process & Timeline



Summary

- Navigation Impact Reports have been completed for both Bush River Bridge Project and Gunpowder River Bridge Project 35
- USCG will evaluate data collected, public comments, and future needs of navigation, and issue the PNCD
- For both projects, Amtrak is still very early in the process and stakeholder coordination will continue



How to Stay Engaged

Email

BGRBProject@amtrak.com

Bush

Websites

Gunpowder

Q&A