



## General Status

### 1. Cultural Resources Survey and Section 106 Process

**Required:** A revised CRS with an addendum summarizing the new survey data has been submitted to DOTD for review, after which it will be submitted to FHWA and the SHPO for review and comment.

A second Consulting Party meeting will be required during/after the SHPO review as part of the Section 106 process.

**Currently:** *The revised CRS was submitted to DOTD in January 2021, the complete CRS addendum was submitted in late February, with some edits the first week of March 2021. During the Agency Team Project Status meeting held April 22, 2021, DOTD advised that comments would be forthcoming in mid-May, as of May 18, 2021, Providence has yet to receive these comments.*

*A second Consulting Parties meeting for the Section 106 process will be scheduled either during or after the SHPO's review of the revised CRS and addendum, which will confirm culture resources anticipated to be adversely affected. SHPO review of the documents will not occur until after FHWA review, which has not begun.*

### 2. Finalize conceptual interchange layouts with potential impacts

**Completed:** Providence resubmitted Build Alternative 1 geometry with comments addressed from October 2019.

**Currently:** *Providence submitted revised geometry in January 2021. DOTD review of this material was completed, and additional comments provided on April 30, 2021 relative to both geometry and traffic. Revisions associated with the comments are on hold until the Section 106 process has further progressed.*

### 3. Bridge concepts

**Required:** Bridge structure types and layout are required as part of the line and grade, additionally, the project calls for the consideration of aesthetic designs/concepts for the urban section of elevated highway.

**Currently:** *Due to the progress on this work that had occurred prior to the stoppage of work for the Section 106 process, this work was completed in draft form and presented internally to the DOTD for comments. Comments were received, revisions associated with the comments are on hold until the Section 106 process has further progressed.*



#### **4. Prepare draft sections of the EIS for DOTD and FHWA Review**

*Currently: Providence developed an avoidance alternative that will be required for the EIS (and was referenced in the December 2020 update). This alternative will not be fully considered until after SHPO review of the revised CRS and addendum. Providence has updated as much detail in the previously drafted chapters of the EIS as can be done while awaiting the outcome of the Section 106 process.*

#### **5. Review and concurrence with the draft Alternatives Chapter of the draft EIS by FHWA and DOTD (required to complete the draft EIS) and the Preparation of Technical Studies**

These require completion of the Section 106 process and submittal, review, and agreement on the draft Alternatives chapter under Items 3 and 4 above.

#### **6. Public Outreach in the form of stakeholder briefings, a Citizen's Advisory Committee (CAC) Meeting, and a public hearing will be conducted in conjunction with the release of the draft EIS**

*Currently: We should be unveiling an upgraded project website in May 2021. No stakeholder briefings or the next CAC meeting will be scheduled until the Section 106 process is further progressed.*

#### **Other Items of Note:**

The second Project Status Update Meeting was held on April 22, 2021. These meetings involve multiple staff from the lead and decision-making agencies (NLCOG, FHWA, DOTD) and the consultant team (Providence, Stantec, Franklin, Coastal). The primary focus of this meeting was to discuss the status of the culture studies review and the impact of the Section 106 process on the overall schedule. The project website refresh, bridge structure aesthetics, and Context Sensitive Solutions were also discussed, along with any schedule items that could be worked while awaiting the conclusion of the Section 106 process.

These discussions did yield direction from FHWA that any work for the project that is in development through the contract with Providence and the environmental process that has not been reviewed and approved by DOTD with concurrence of FHWA is not to be shared in a public setting at this time and would be done so with the issuance of the Draft EIS. This guidance limits the materials that can be uploaded to the website as well as that which can be shared with interested parties to only those items/deliverables that are final and/or approved.

Project status meetings were not previously held on a specific schedule. As of the meeting held in April 2021, we will be holding these meetings every two months until the Section 106 process is complete, at which time it is likely we will hold monthly status meetings.