

U.S. Department of  
Homeland Security

United States  
Coast Guard



Commander  
Northeast Coast Guard District

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Boston, MA 02110-3350  
Staff Symbol: dpb  
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December 23, 2025

## **PUBLIC NOTICE D01-217-2025 WASHINGTON (I-195 WESTBOUND) BRIDGE**

All interested parties are herein notified that the Commander, Northeast Coast Guard District, has received application materials dated November 7, 2025, from the Rhode Island Department of Transportation (RIDOT) for approval of location and plans for the replacement of a bridge over a navigable waterway of the United States.

**BRIDGE, WATERWAY AND LOCATION:** Washington (I-195 Westbound) Bridge across the Seekonk River, mile 0.84, between the Cities of Providence and East Providence, Providence County, Rhode Island.

**CHARACTER OF WORK:** This project entails the replacement of the Washington (I-195 Westbound) Bridge with a fixed structure of identical horizontal and vertical clearances.

In December 2023, critical deficiencies were identified in certain structural components that, in the interest of public health and safety, required that RIDOT close the Washington (I-195 Westbound) Bridge to all vehicular traffic. Temporary crossovers and lane shifts were implemented to reroute I-195 westbound traffic to the Washington (I-195 Eastbound) Bridge, which now carries bidirectional traffic. Through subsequent evaluations and analysis of alternatives, RIDOT determined that the existing Washington Bridge (I-195 Westbound) Bridge was beyond repair and needed replacement. The existing Washington Bridge (I-195 Westbound) Bridge is currently being demolished under a separate project.

The proposed replacement bridge concept consists of a seven-span steel girder structure with 240-foot-long spans on new concrete piers and abutments over the Seekonk River. There will be four piers within the waterway for the main bridge and two piers in the waterway for the Gano Street off-ramp segment, a reduction of five piers from the previous structure. The navigation opening will remain in the same location and have the same minimum navigational opening dimensions (100 foot horizontal and 42-foot vertical clearances). The low chord elevation of the proposed bridge will be at or above the low chord elevation of the previous bridge.

The proposed piers in the waterway for the main bridge will consist of concrete multi-column piers on three, seven-foot diameter drilled shafts with a concrete tie beam connecting the shafts and column at the water surface level. The proposed piers for the Gano Street off ramp segment will be on single column piers supported by a single, seven-foot diameter drilled shaft.

The project also calls for the installation of permanent pier protection structures (dolphin piles) to protect the existing in-water piers of the adjacent Washington (I-195 Eastbound) Bridge from vessel impact.

**MINIMUM NAVIGATIONAL CLEARANCES:** The replacement bridge will have clearances as described in the table below. These clearances are identical to the clearances of the existing bridge and the immediately adjacent Washington (I-195 Eastbound) Bridge.

	<b>Vertical</b>	<b>Horizontal</b>
<b>Existing</b>	<b>42 feet above Mean High Water</b>	<b>100 feet between fenders</b>
<b>Proposed</b>	<b>42 feet above Mean High Water</b>	<b>100 feet between fenders</b>

Datum: Horizontal NAD83, Vertical NAVD88

#### **ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS:**

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) is the lead Federal agency for satisfying the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and is acting on behalf of the U.S. Coast Guard for the purposes of environmental laws. A Categorical Exclusion was issued by the FHWA on April 1, 2025, pursuant to National Environmental Policy Act, as amended. The USCG has tentatively determined that the proposed action will not have a significant impact for the purposes of NEPA and plans to issue a Categorical Exclusion for the project.

The Rhode Island Department of Transportation (RIDOT), applied for a water quality certification for the project on November 7, 2025, in accordance with Section 401 of the Clean Water Act, as amended. On December 19, 2025, the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management (RIDEM), waived its authority to act on the certification request. This project will have temporary impact to 1,610 square feet of wetlands and permanently impact 720 square feet of wetlands.

The applicant has made a determination that the project is consistent with the Rhode Island's coastal zone management program. A Federal Consistency Review was submitted to the Rhode Island Coastal Resources Management Council on November 7, 2025, to facilitate review and concurrence prior to construction.

The bridge is located in the floodplain. The 100-year flood elevation is 13.0 feet. The elevation of the low steel member of the navigation span is 44.5 feet. Elevations are referenced to NAVD 88 datum. The project will involve the placement of negligible amounts of temporary and permanent fill material below mean high water during construction of the bridge and approaches.

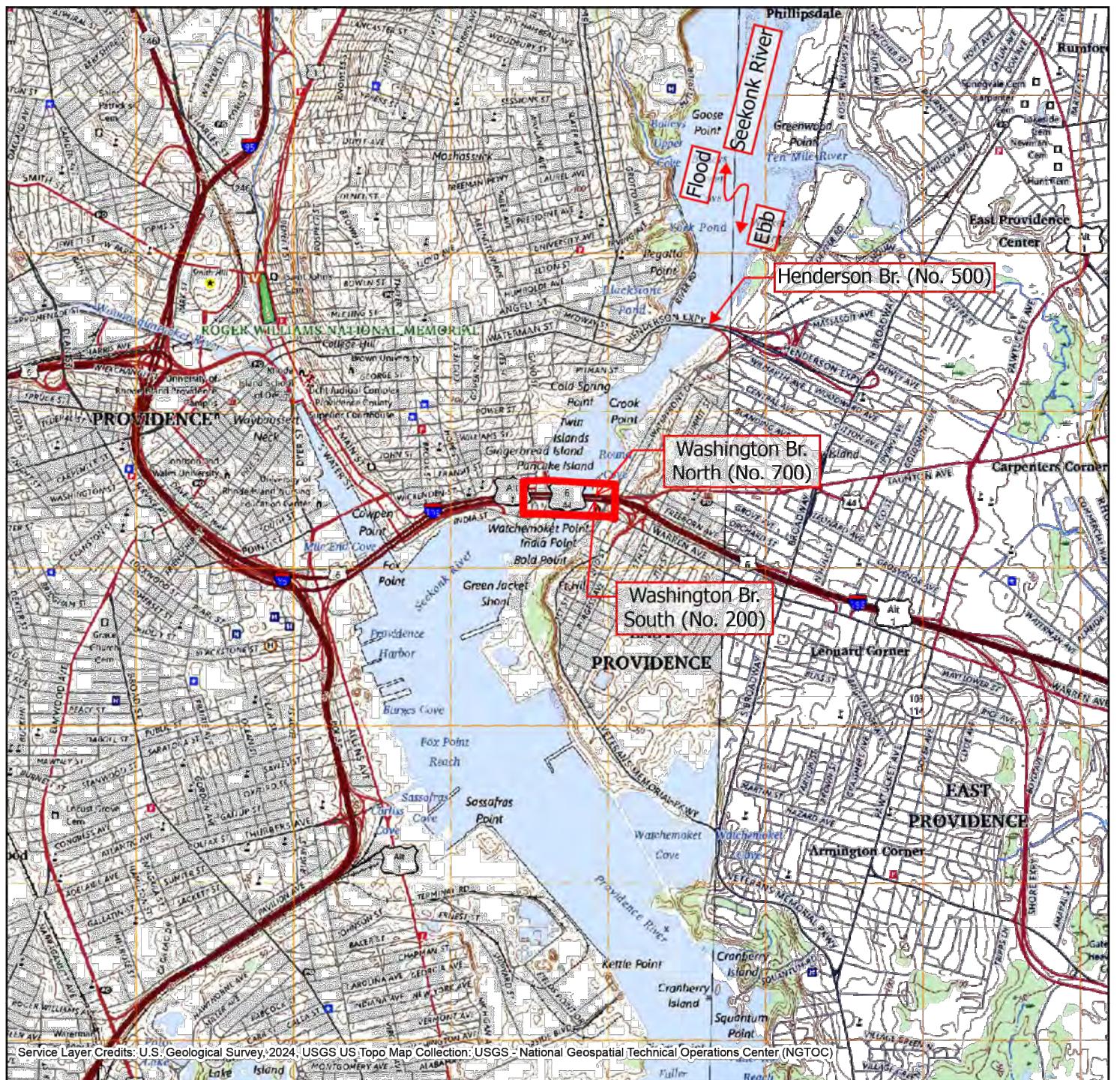
**SOLICITATION OF COMMENTS:**

Mariners are requested to comment on the proposed navigation clearances, placement of a bridge protective system and other navigational safety issues, including need for clearance gauges and extent of nighttime navigation to determine the need for bridge lighting. Interested parties are requested to express their views, in writing, on the proposed bridge project including its possible impacts to navigation.

We will forward comments of an environmental nature such as those regarding wildlife refuges, public parks, historic sites, wetlands, floodplain issues, air, water quality, etc. to FHWA. Comments will be received for the record at the address noted in the header or via email (SMB-D1Boston-Bridges-PublicNotices@uscg.mil) through **January 23, 2026**.

Map of location and plans attached.

G. P. Hitchen  
Bridge Program Manager  
By direction of the Commander  
Northeast Coast Guard District



### Legend

■ Washington Bridge

0 1,500 3,000



### Location of Site



RHODE ISLAND DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
WASHINGTON (I-195 WB) ACROSS SEEKONK RIVER  
PROPOSED BRIDGE REPLACEMENT PROJECT  
PROVIDENCE & EAST PROVIDENCE, RI  
PROVIDENCE COUNTY  
CONSULTANT: WSP USA, INC.

BRIDGE NO. 700  
M.P. 0.84

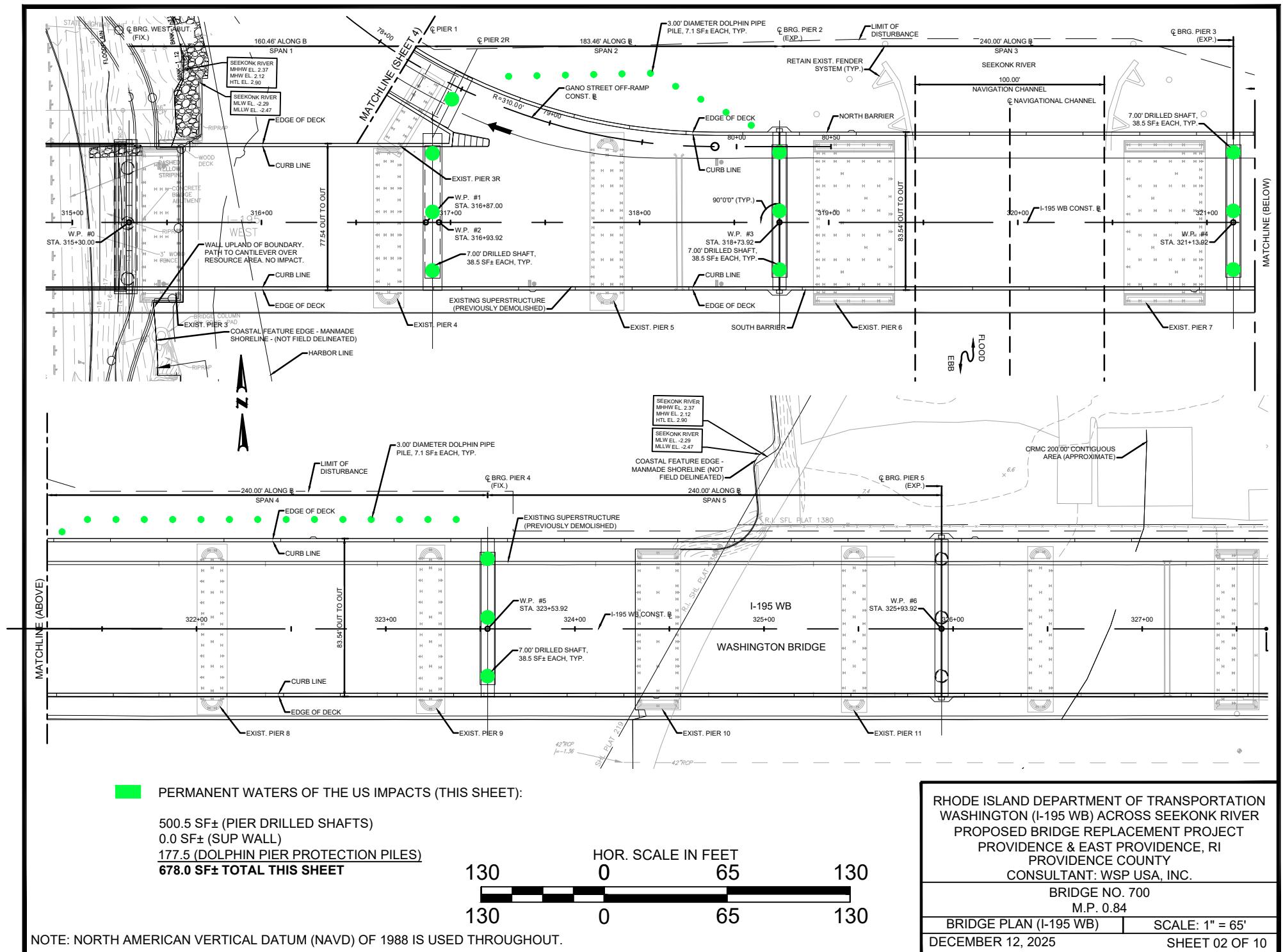
LOCATION MAP

SCALE: 1" = 3000'

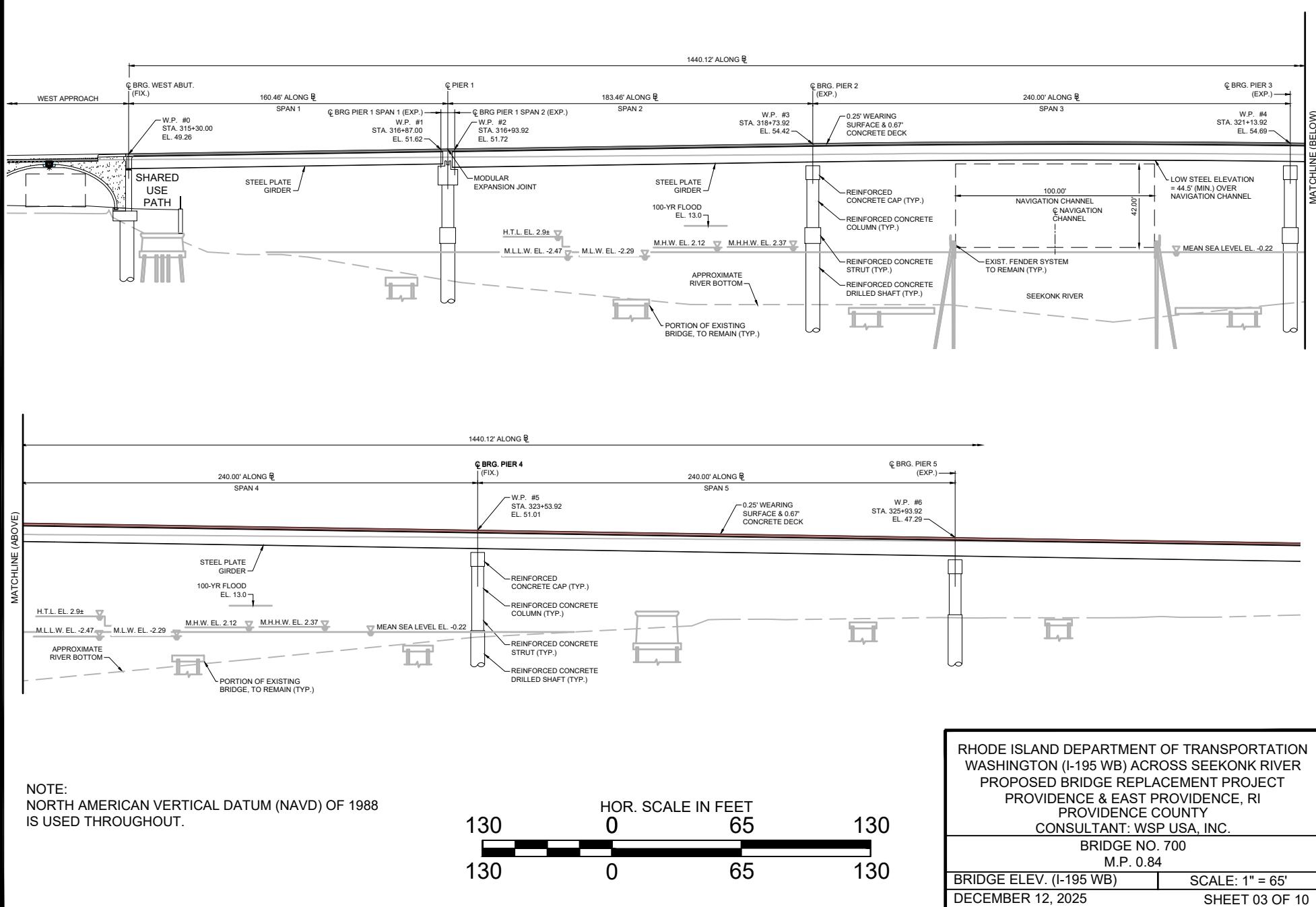
DECEMBER 12, 2025

SHEET 01 OF 10

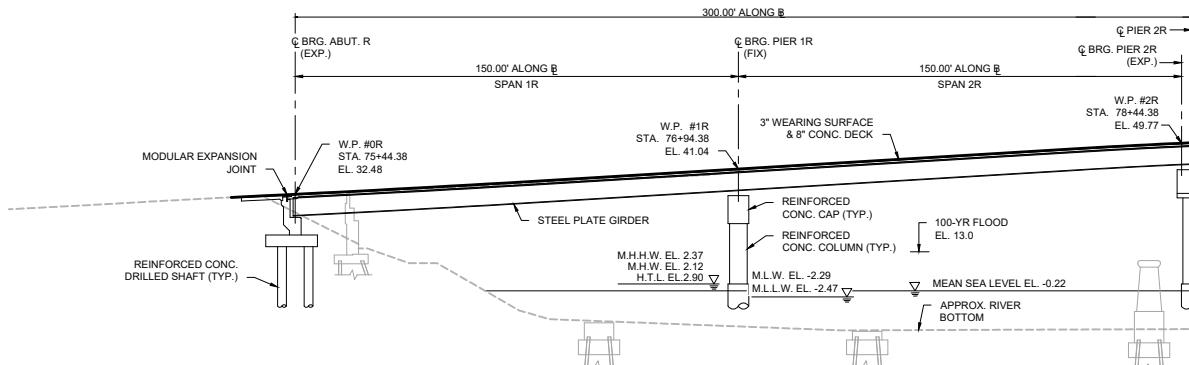
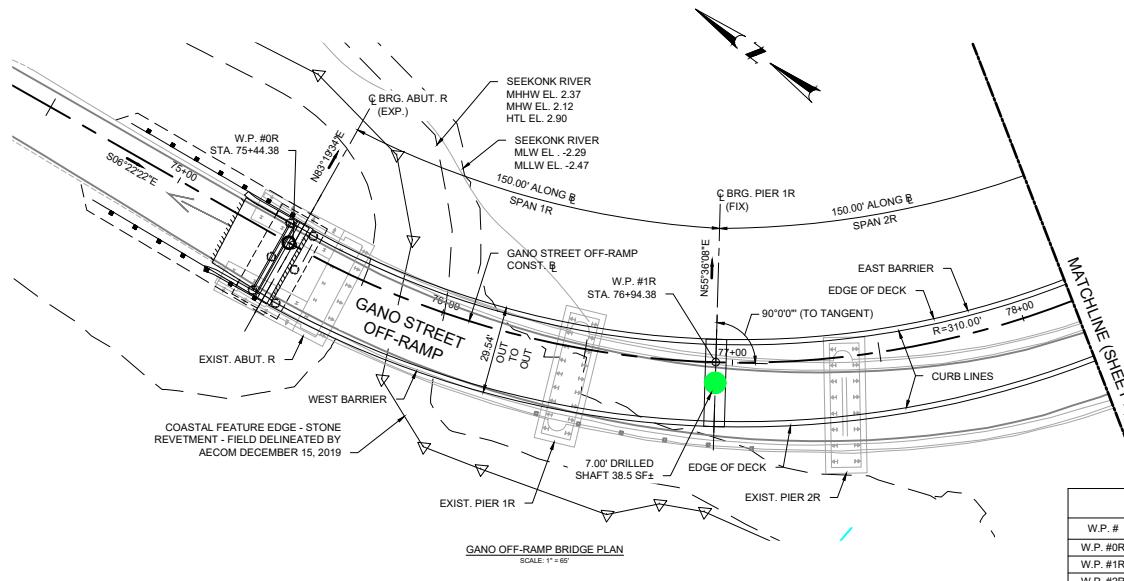
# Conceptual plans utilized to obtain Coast Guard bridge permit.



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## PERMANENT WATERS OF THE US IMPACTS (THIS SHEET):

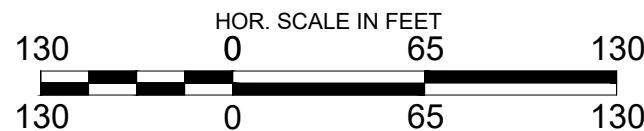
38.5 SF $\pm$  (PIER DRILLED SHAFTS)

0.0 SF $\pm$  (SUP WALL)

0.0 (DOLPHIN PIER PROTECTION PILES)

**38.5 SF $\pm$  TOTAL THIS SHEET**

NOTE:  
NORTH AMERICAN VERTICAL DATUM (NAVD) OF  
1988 IS USED THROUGHOUT.

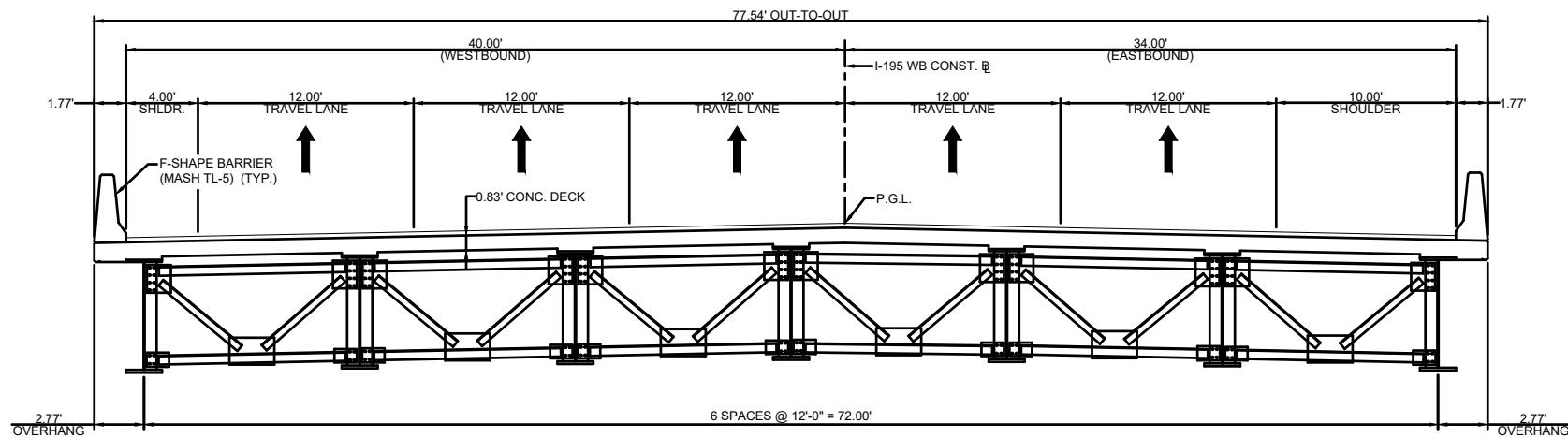


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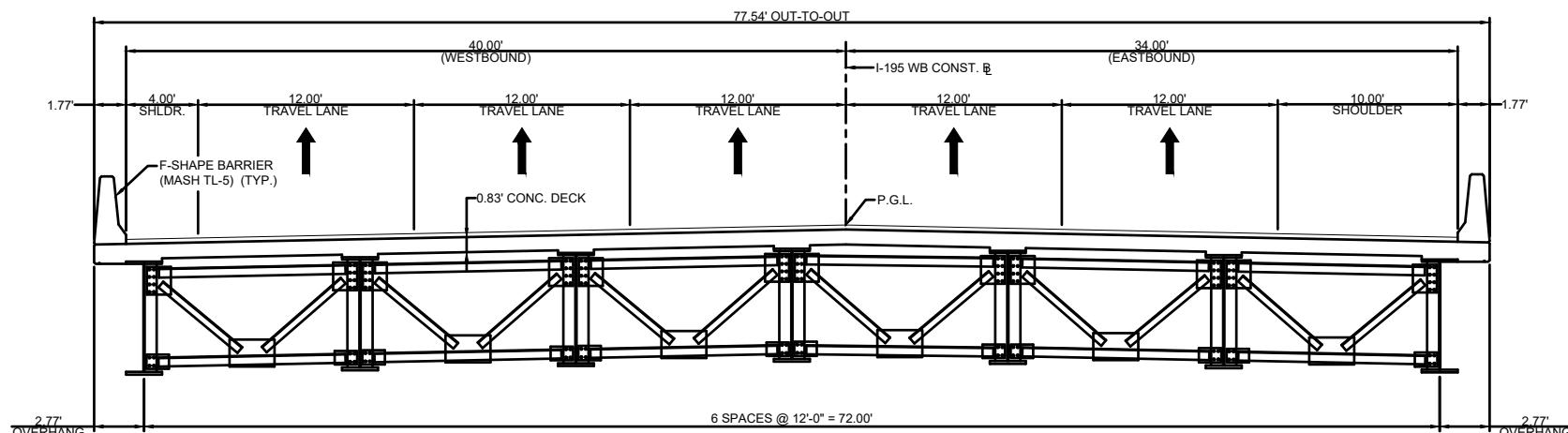
BRIDGE NO. 700  
M.P. 0.84

BR PLAN & ELEV (GANO RAMP) | SCALE: 1" = 65'  
DECEMBER 12, 2025 | SHEET 04 OF 10

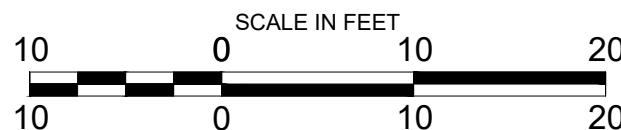
Conceptual plans utilized to obtain Coast Guard bridge permit.



I-195 BRIDGE TYPICAL SECTION - SPAN 1

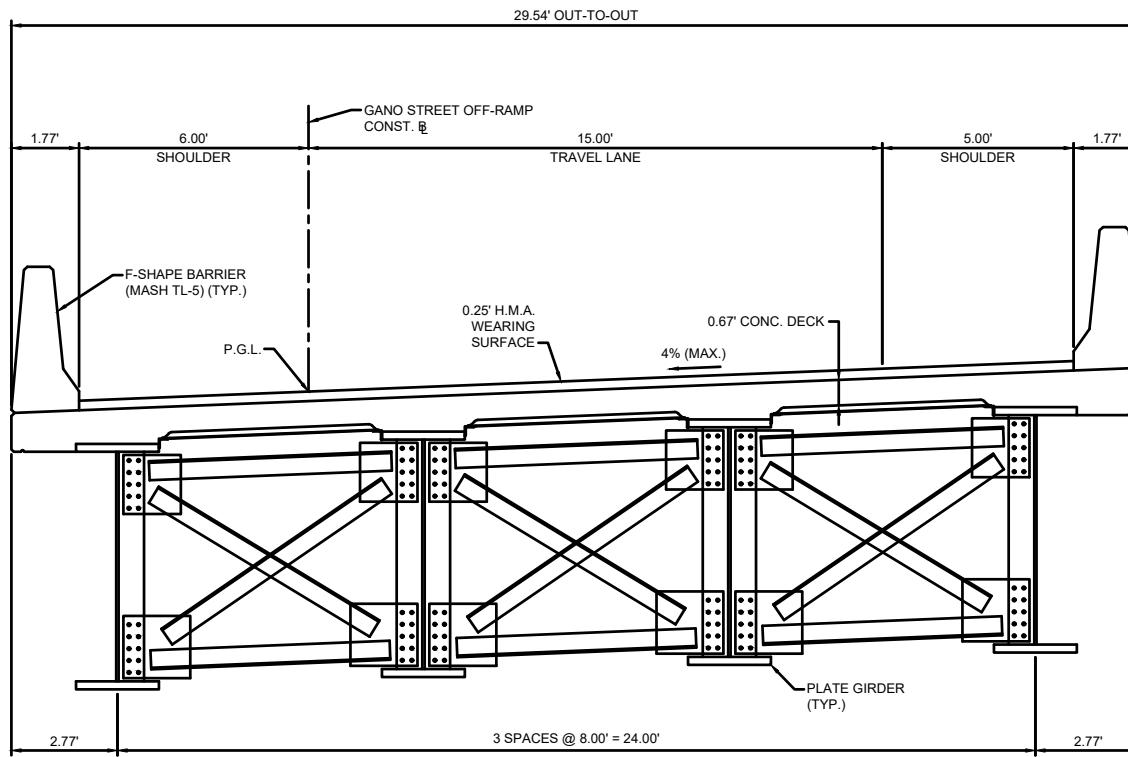


I-195 BRIDGE TYPICAL SECTION - SPANS 2 TO 7

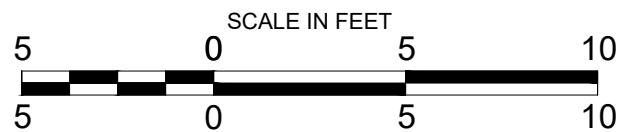


RHODE ISLAND DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION WASHINGTON (I-195 WB) ACROSS SEEKONK RIVER PROPOSED BRIDGE REPLACEMENT PROJECT PROVIDENCE & EAST PROVIDENCE, RI PROVIDENCE COUNTY CONSULTANT: WSP USA, INC.	
BRIDGE NO. 700 M.P. 0.84	
TYPICAL SECTIONS - 1	SCALE: 1" = 10'
DECEMBER 12, 2025	SHEET 05 OF 10

Conceptual plans utilized to obtain Coast Guard bridge permit.



GANO OFF-RAMP BRIDGE TYPICAL SECTION



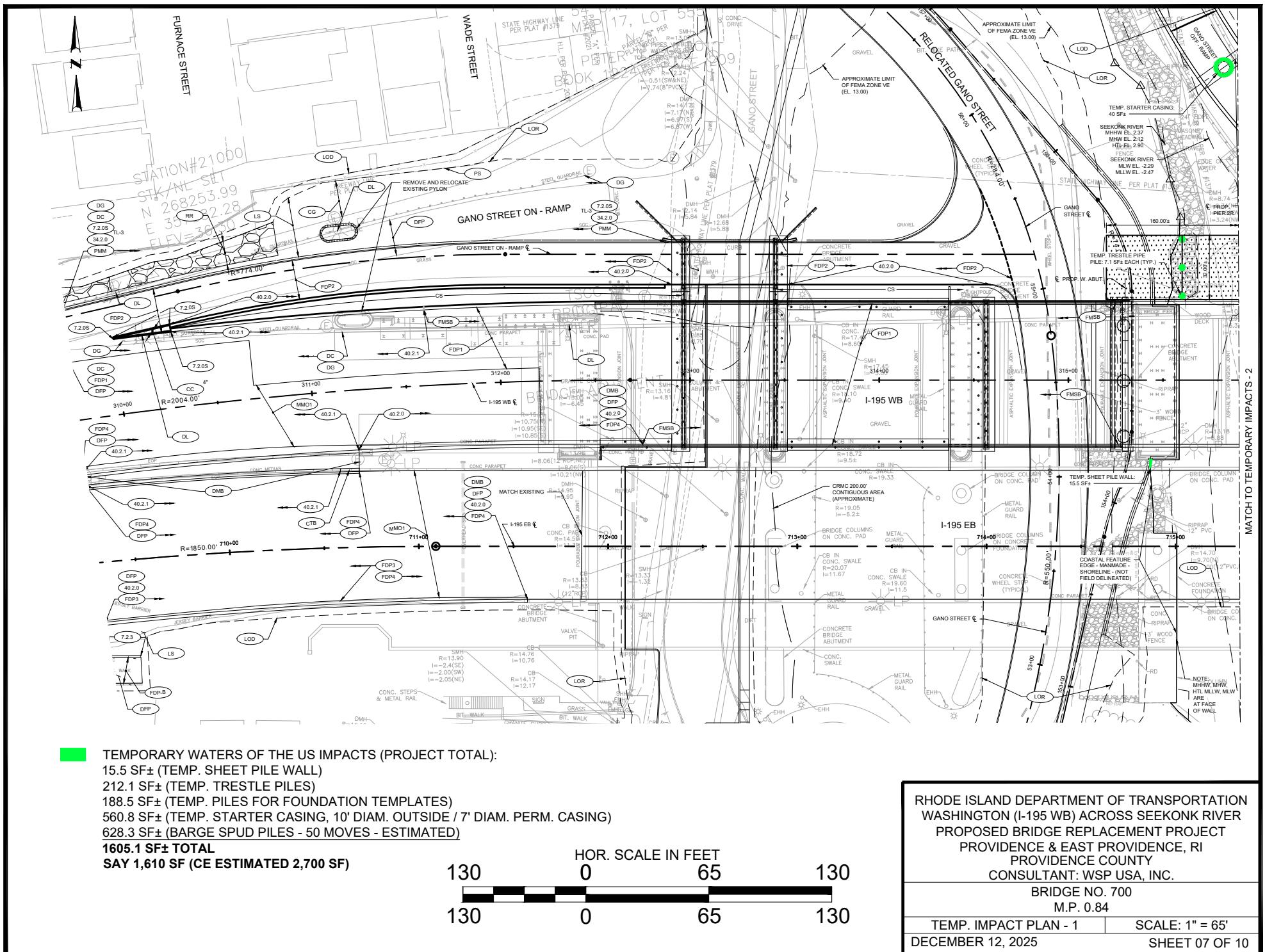
SCALE IN FEET

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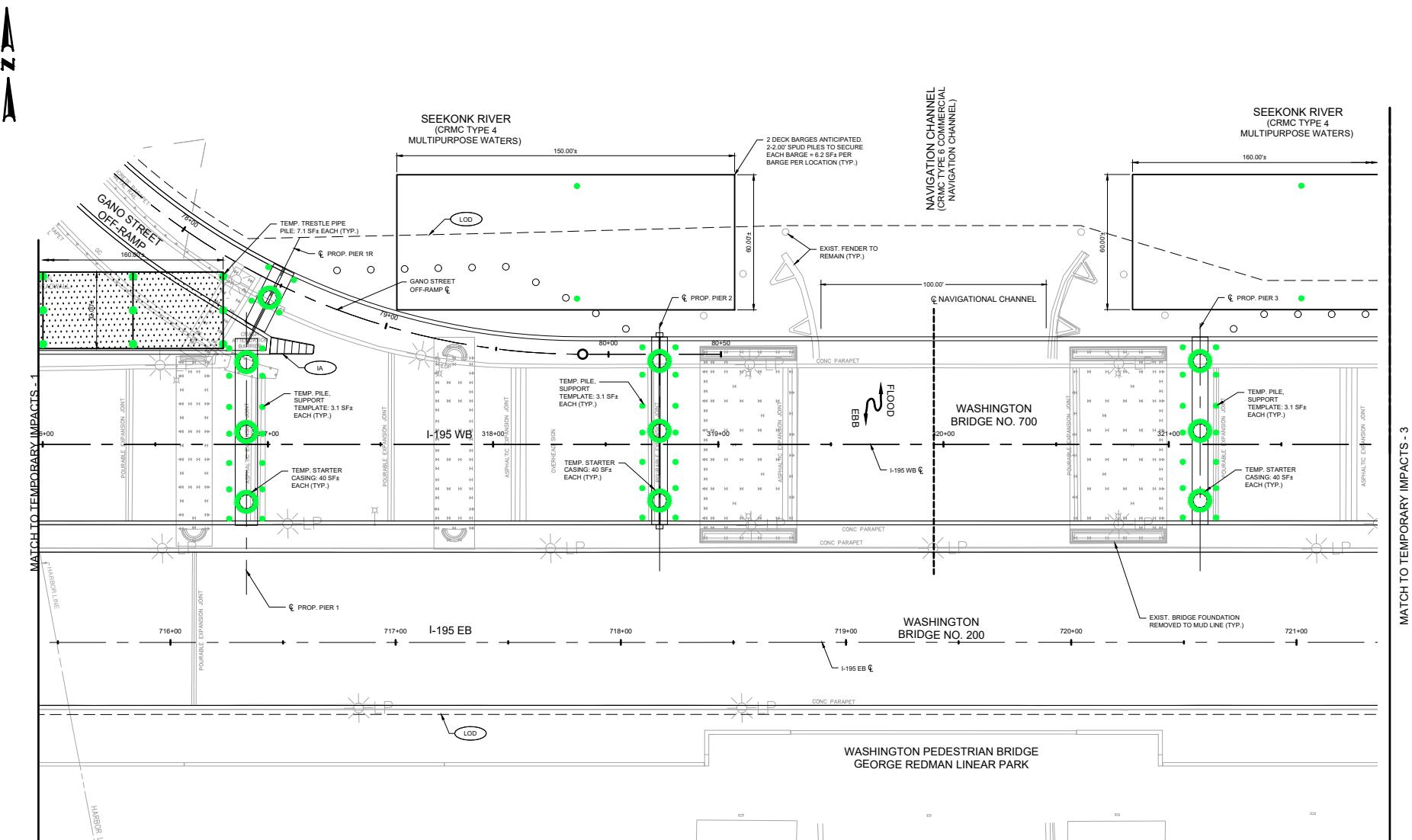
BRIDGE NO. 700  
M.P. 0.84

TYPICAL SECTIONS - 2 | SCALE: 1" = 10'  
DECEMBER 12, 2025 | SHEET 06 OF 10

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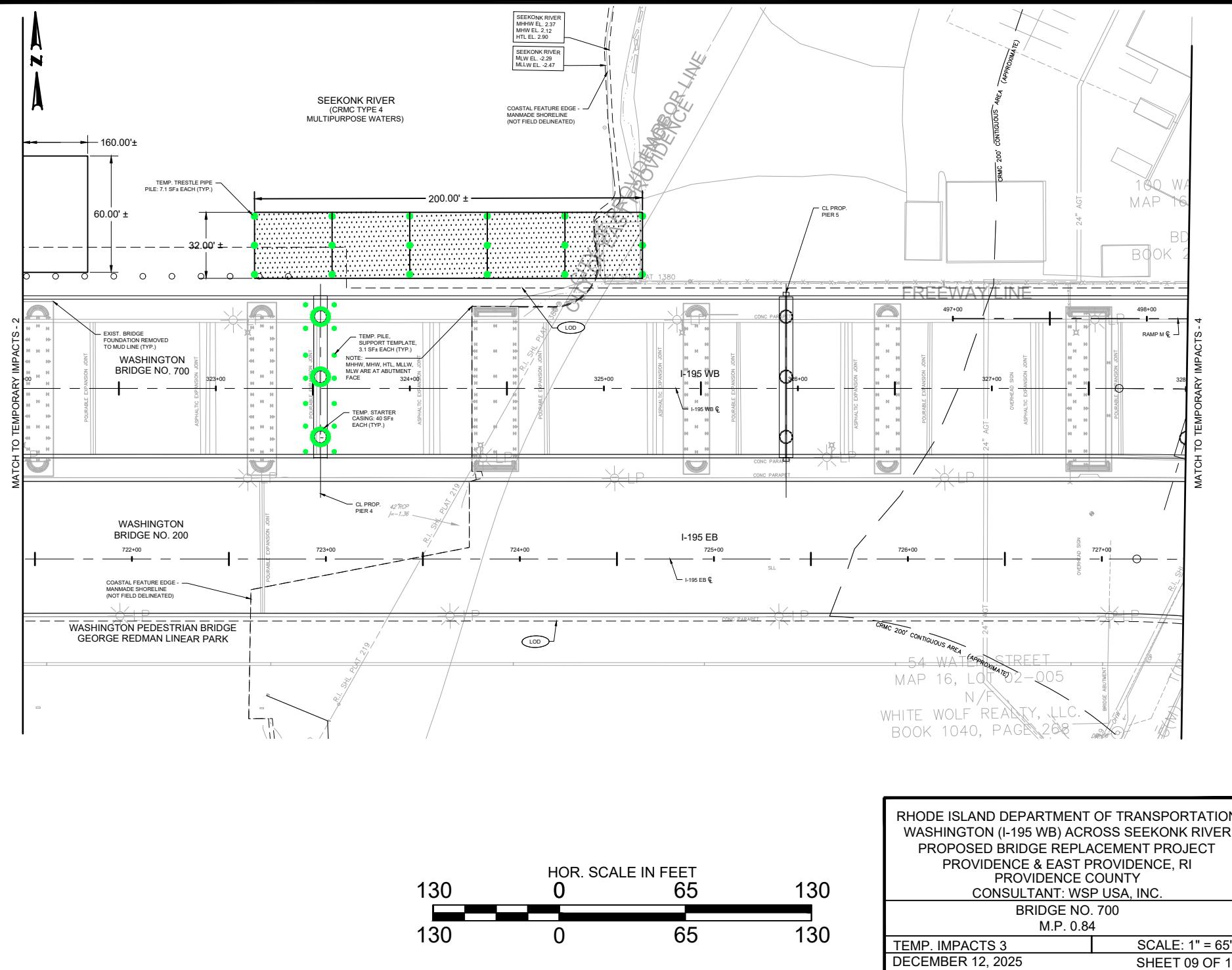


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BRIDGE NO. 700  
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TEMP. IMPACT PLAN - 2 | SCALE: 1" = 65'  
DECEMBER 12, 2025 | SHEET 08 OF 10

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