

# The Port Flooding Resiliency Project

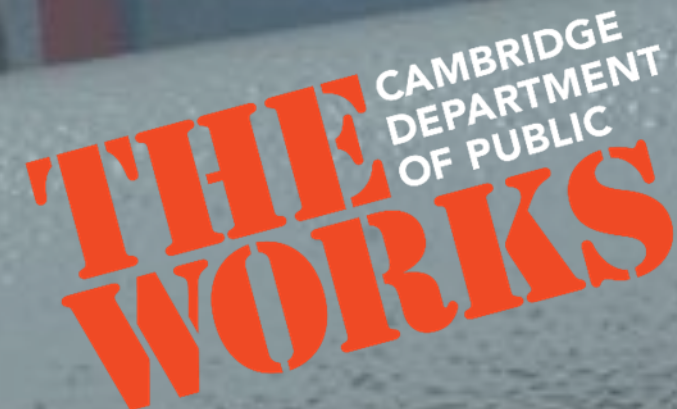
Safeguarding At-Risk Populations from the Effects of Climate Change



JERRY FRIEDMAN, CAMBRIDGE DPW  
KATE GOYETTE, KLEINFELDER  
DAVID VAN HOVEN, STANTEC



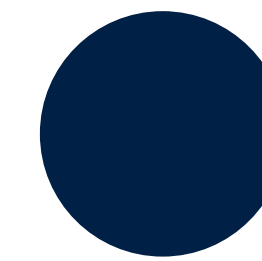
JANUARY 23, 2023



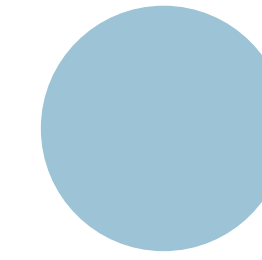
# Agenda



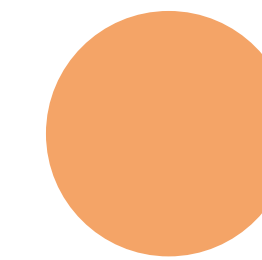
*Parking Lot No. 6 Stormwater Tank*



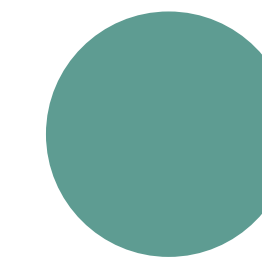
BACKGROUND



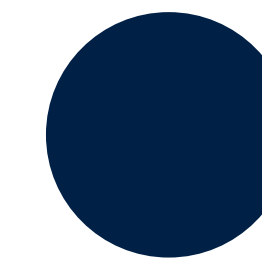
GOALS



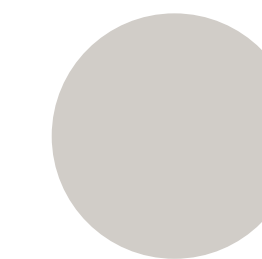
PL6 STORMWATER TANK  
CONSTRUCTION



PL6 SUCCESS



ENHANCING PORT  
RESILIENCY



NEXT STEPS

# Background

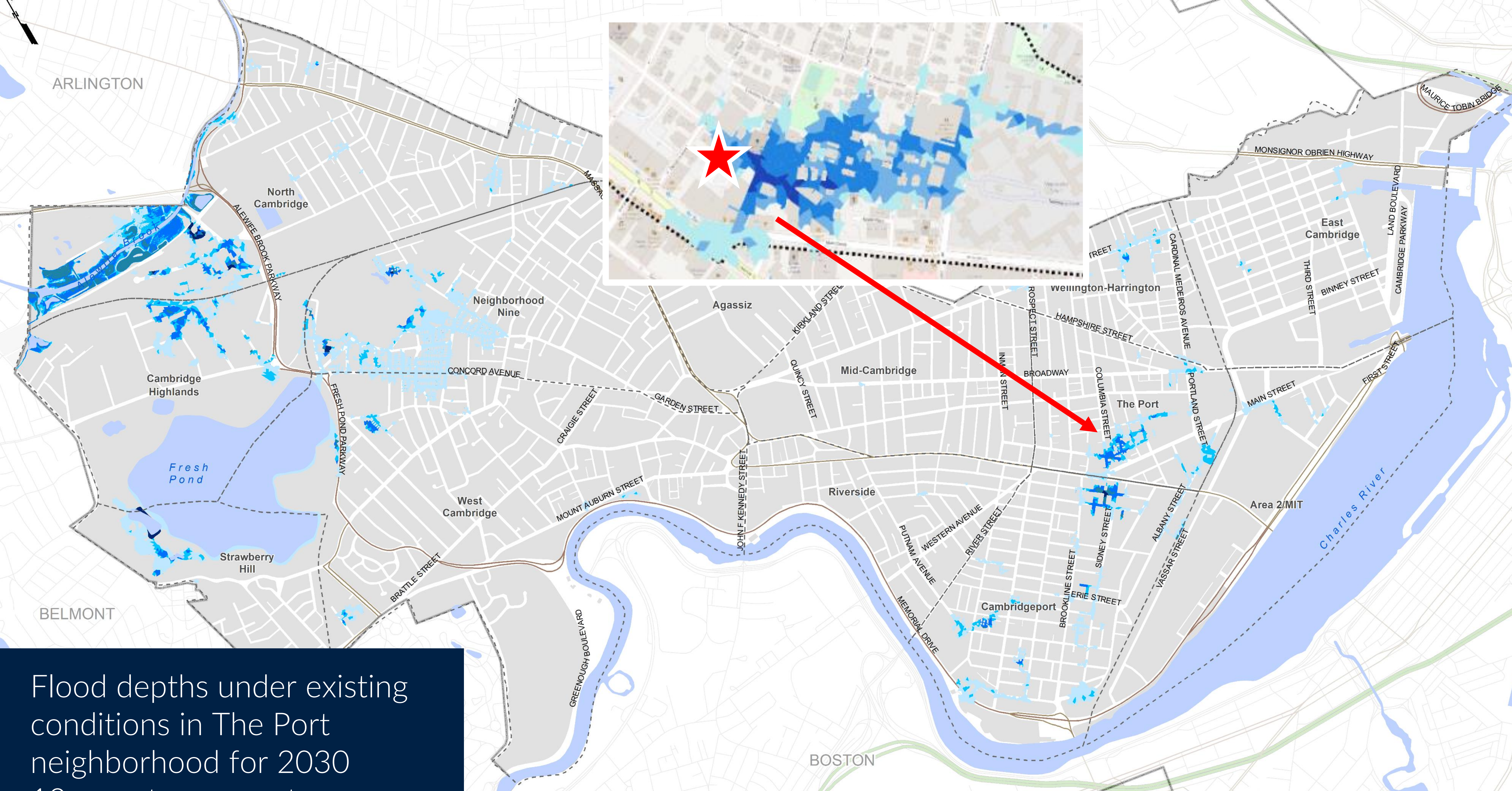


*Flooding in The Port, July 2010*

## The Port Flooding Resiliency Project Background



- The Port has experienced significant surface flooding and sewer backups
- Climate change has exacerbated the frequency and severity of storms
- The Port is especially at risk to the effects of climate change



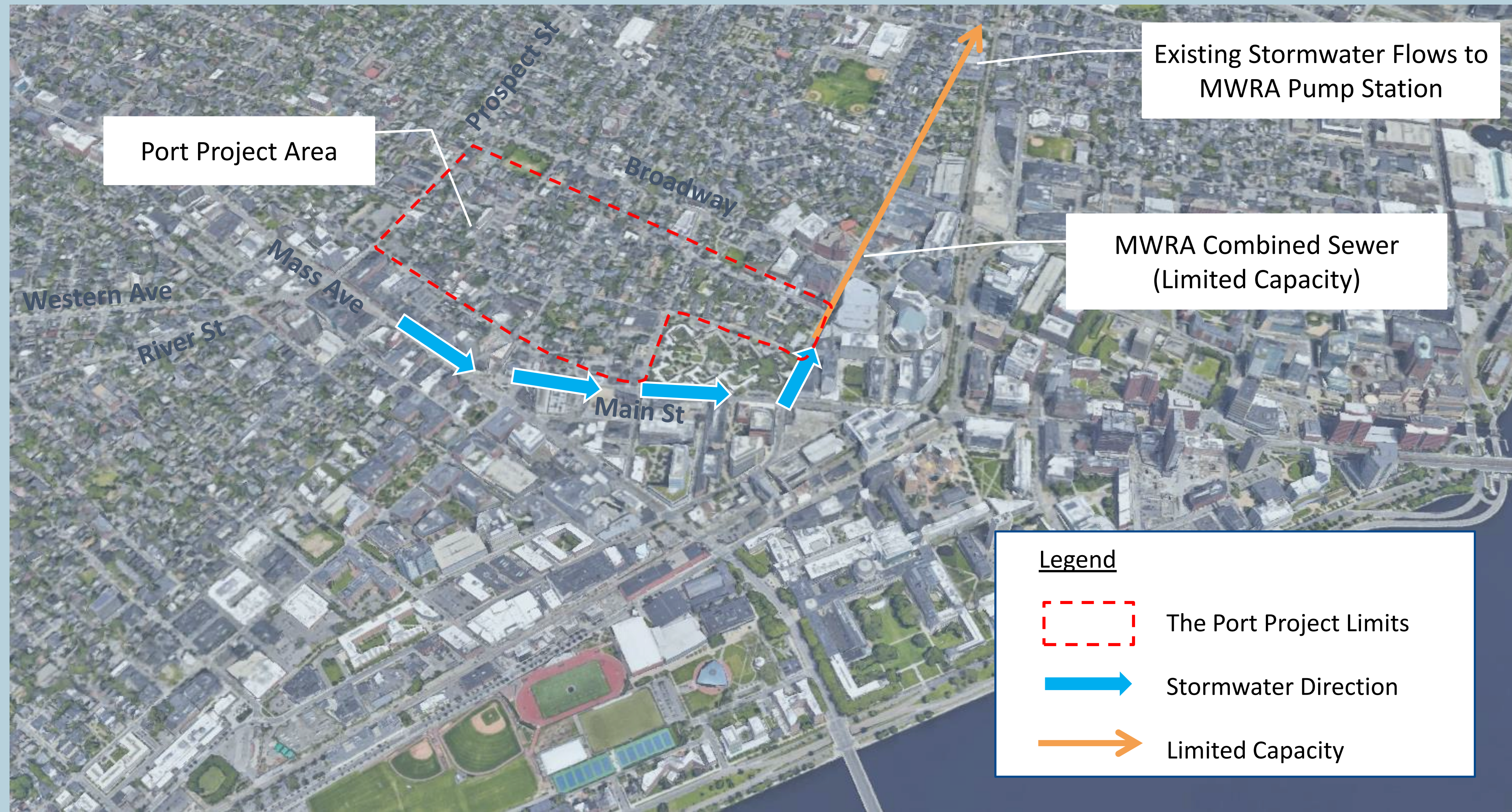
Flood depths under existing conditions in The Port neighborhood for 2030 10year storm event





The Port Project Area

# Why the Port Floods

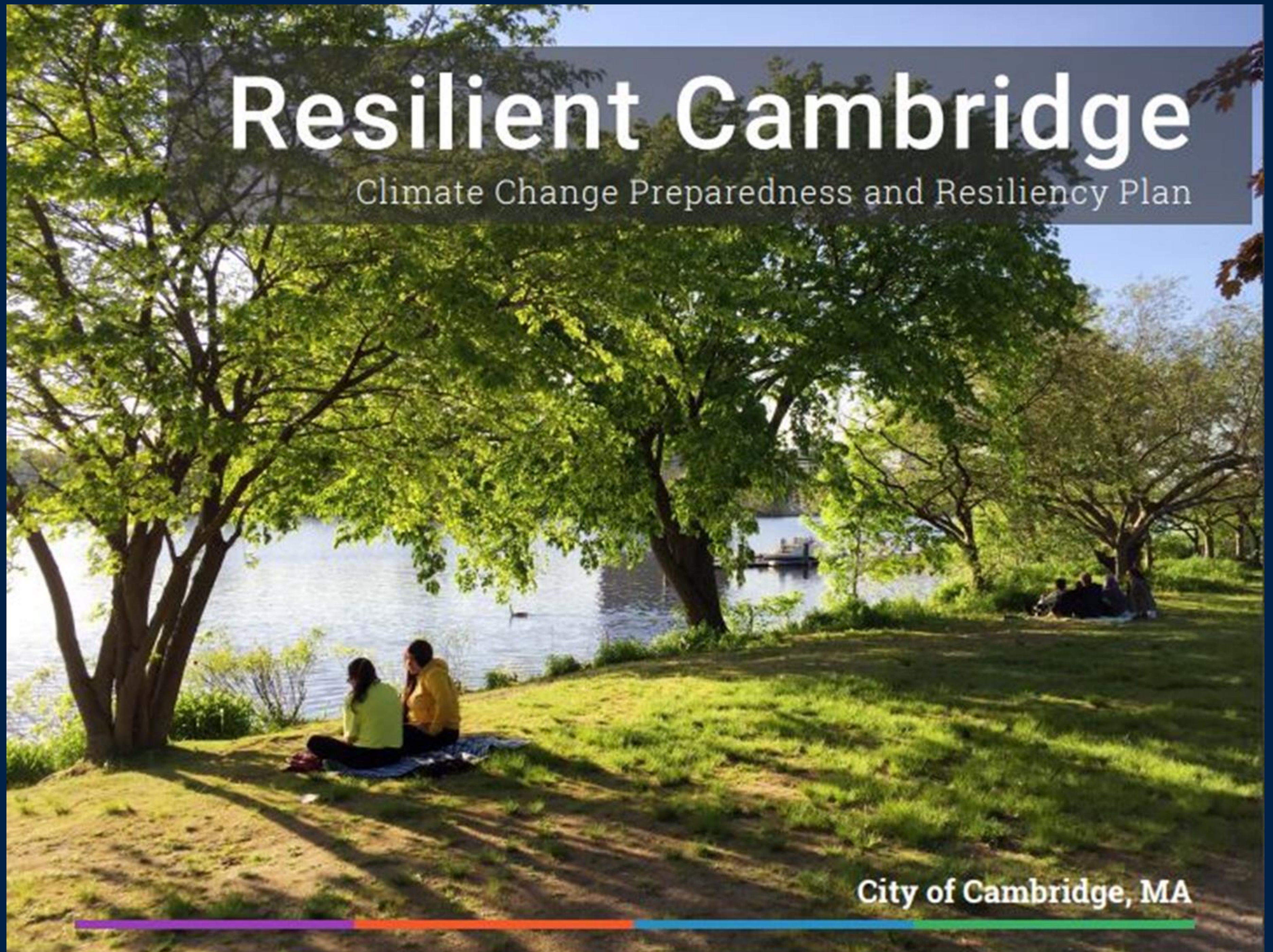


Existing Port Stormwater Flow




# Resilient Cambridge

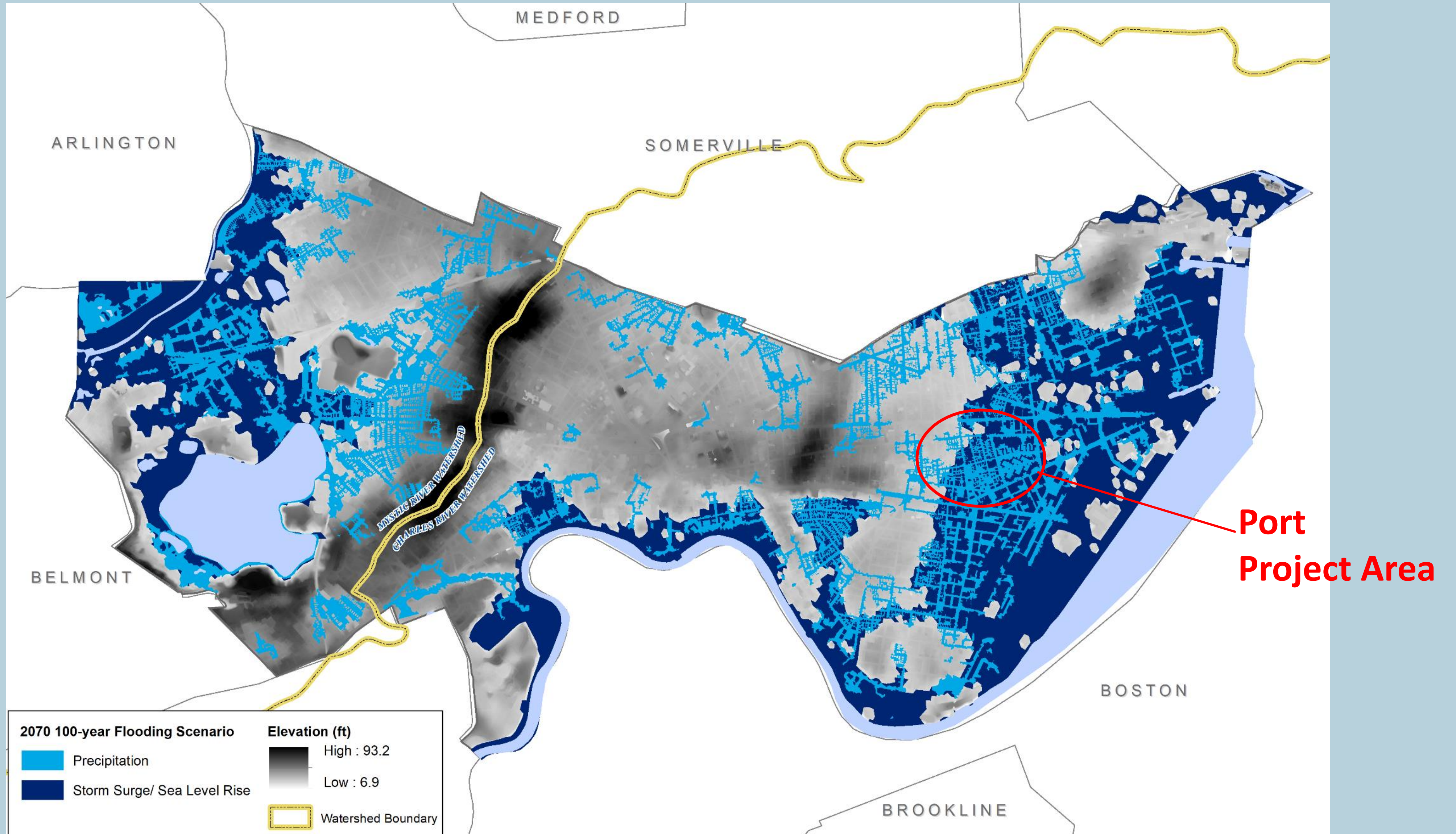
Climate Change Preparedness and Resiliency Plan



City of Cambridge, MA

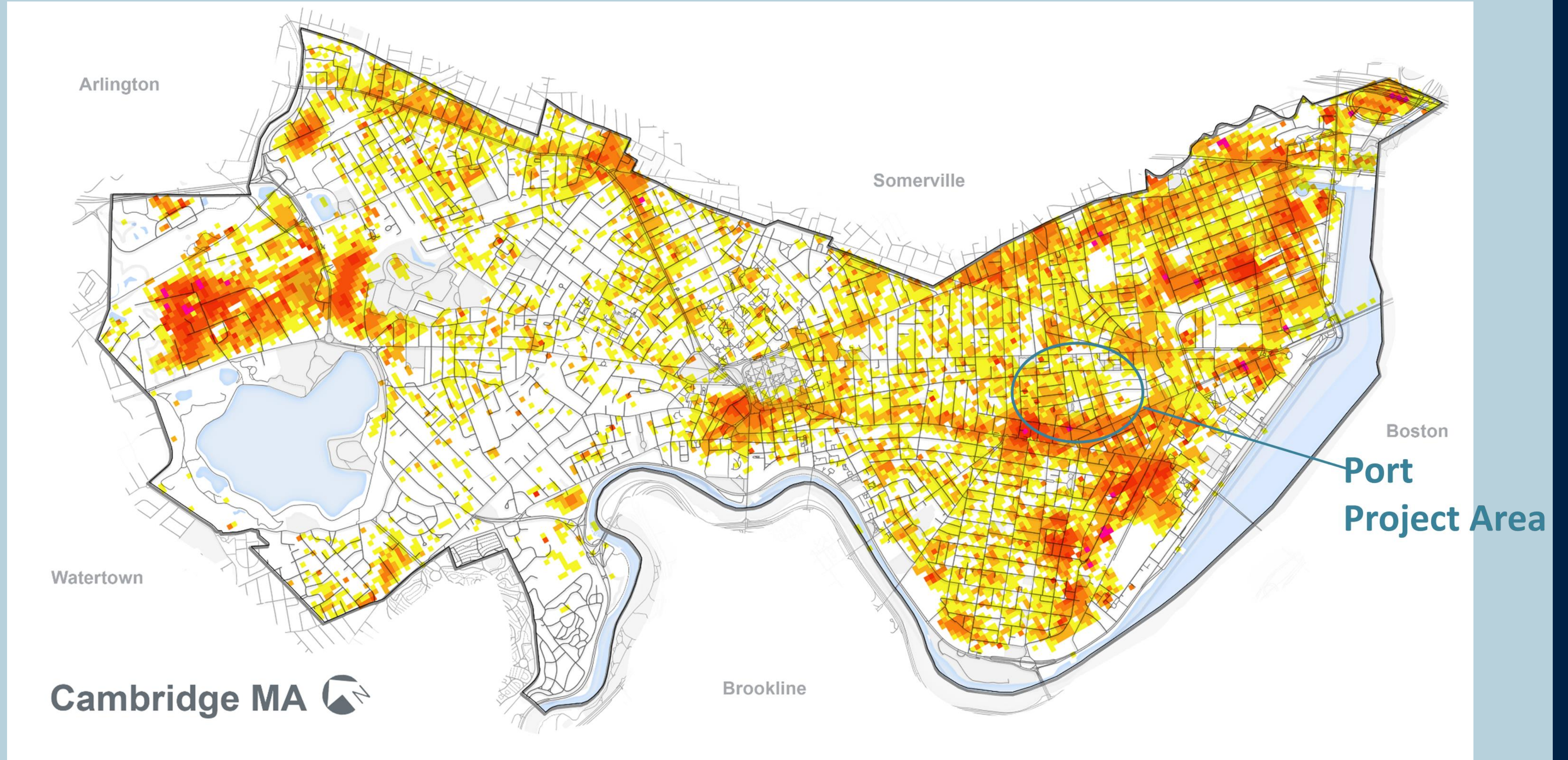


# Resilient Cambridge Projected Flooding





# Resilient Cambridge Projected Heat



# Goals



## The Port Resiliency Goals



- Reduce today's surface flooding and sewer backups in the Port neighborhood
- Mitigate future risks of flooding impacts from more frequent and intense storm events due to climate change
- Consider opportunities to increase neighborhood resiliency against extreme heat

# Goals

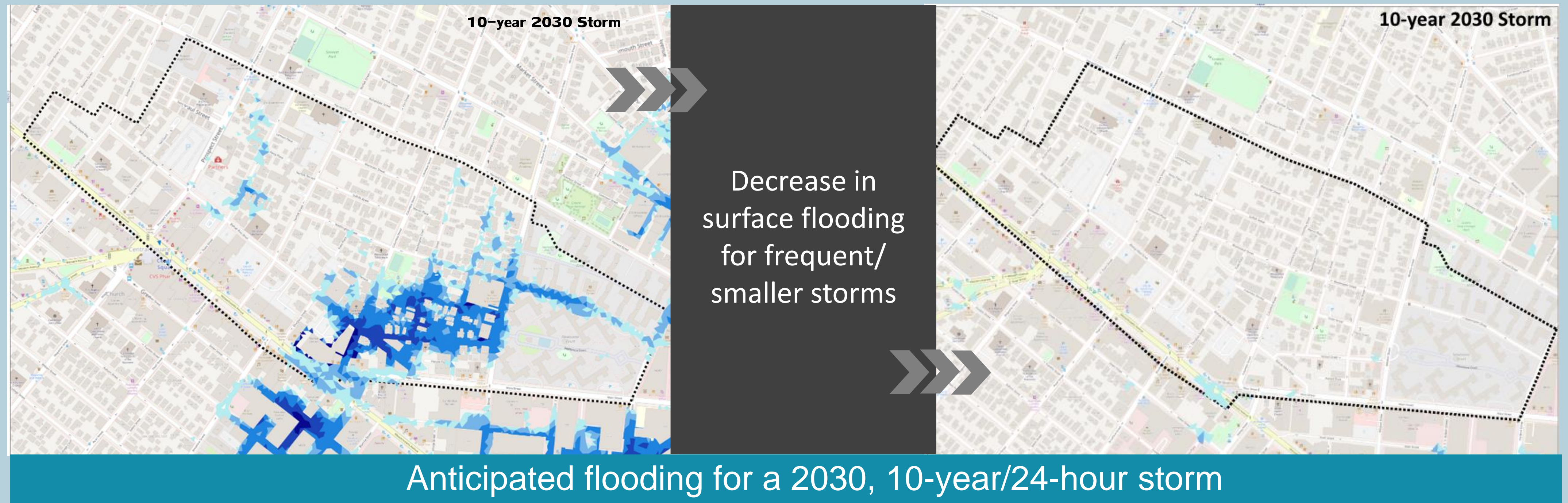


## Stormwater and Sanitary Service Design Criterion



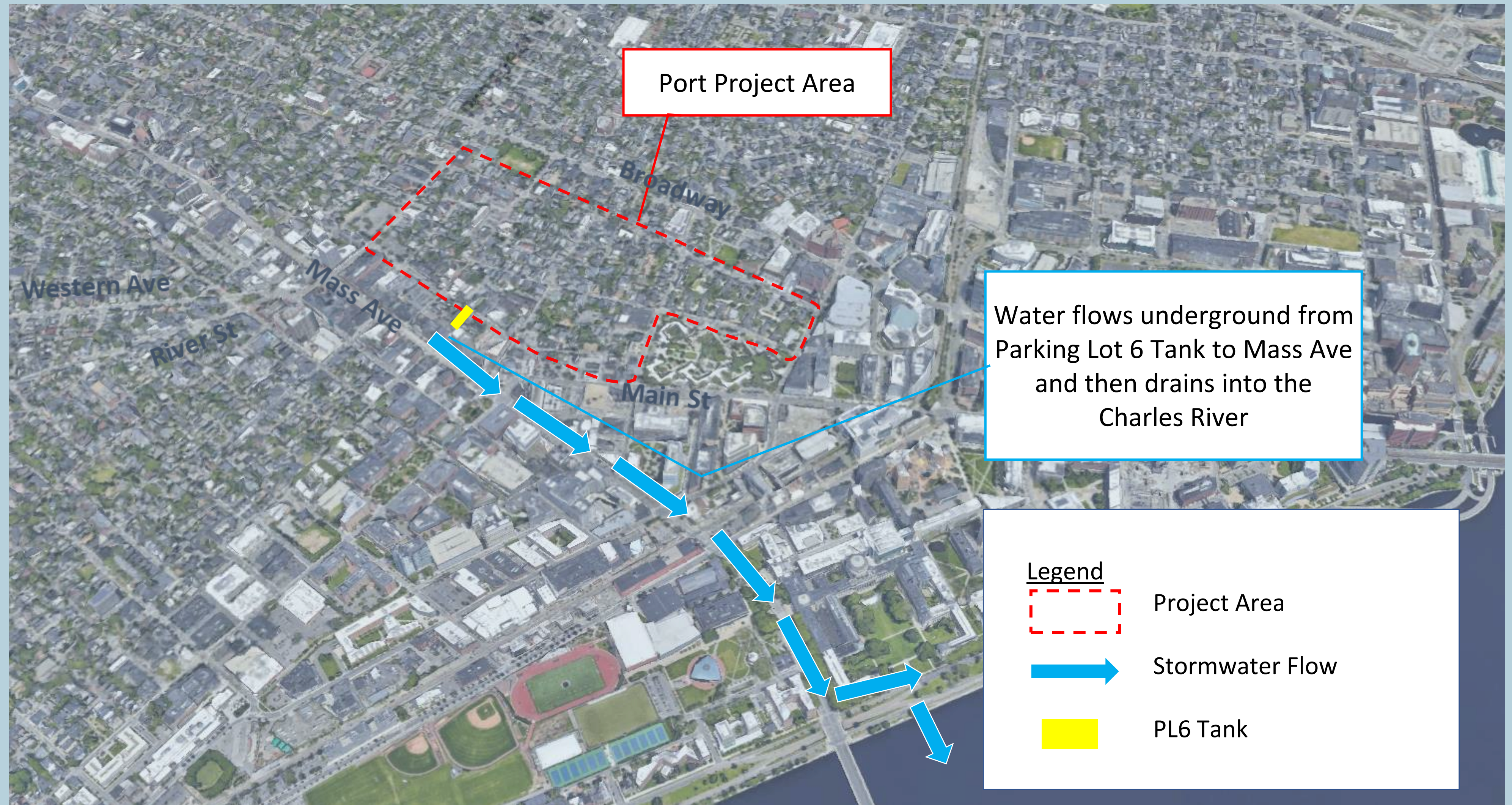
- Flood control up to 10-year, 24-hour 2030 storm event (5.63 in rainfall, 1.81 in/hr intensity)
- Sanitary level of service at least 4.5 ft freeboard

# Stormwater and Wastewater Infrastructure to Meet City's Goals

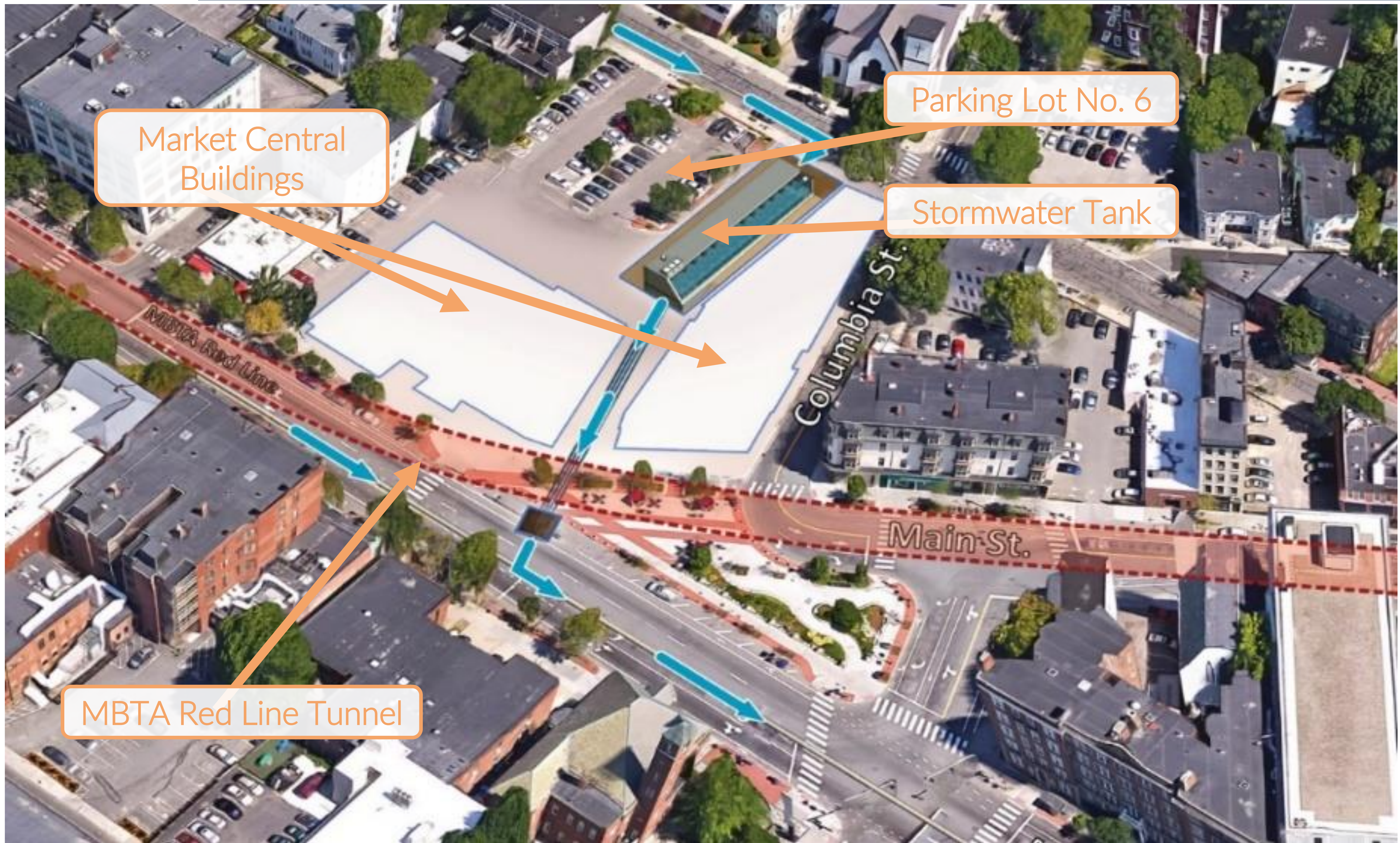


- 0.39 MG PL6 Stormwater Tank, 10 MGD Pump Station
- 1.2 MG 2<sup>nd</sup> Stormwater Tank, 15 MGD Pump Station
- 0.65 MG Sanitary Storage Tank, 5 MGD Pump Station
- Additional conveyance improvements and system modifications

# Redirect Stormwater to the Charles River



Stormwater Flow After PL6 Storage Tank Installed



Market Central Buildings

Parking Lot No. 6

Stormwater Tank

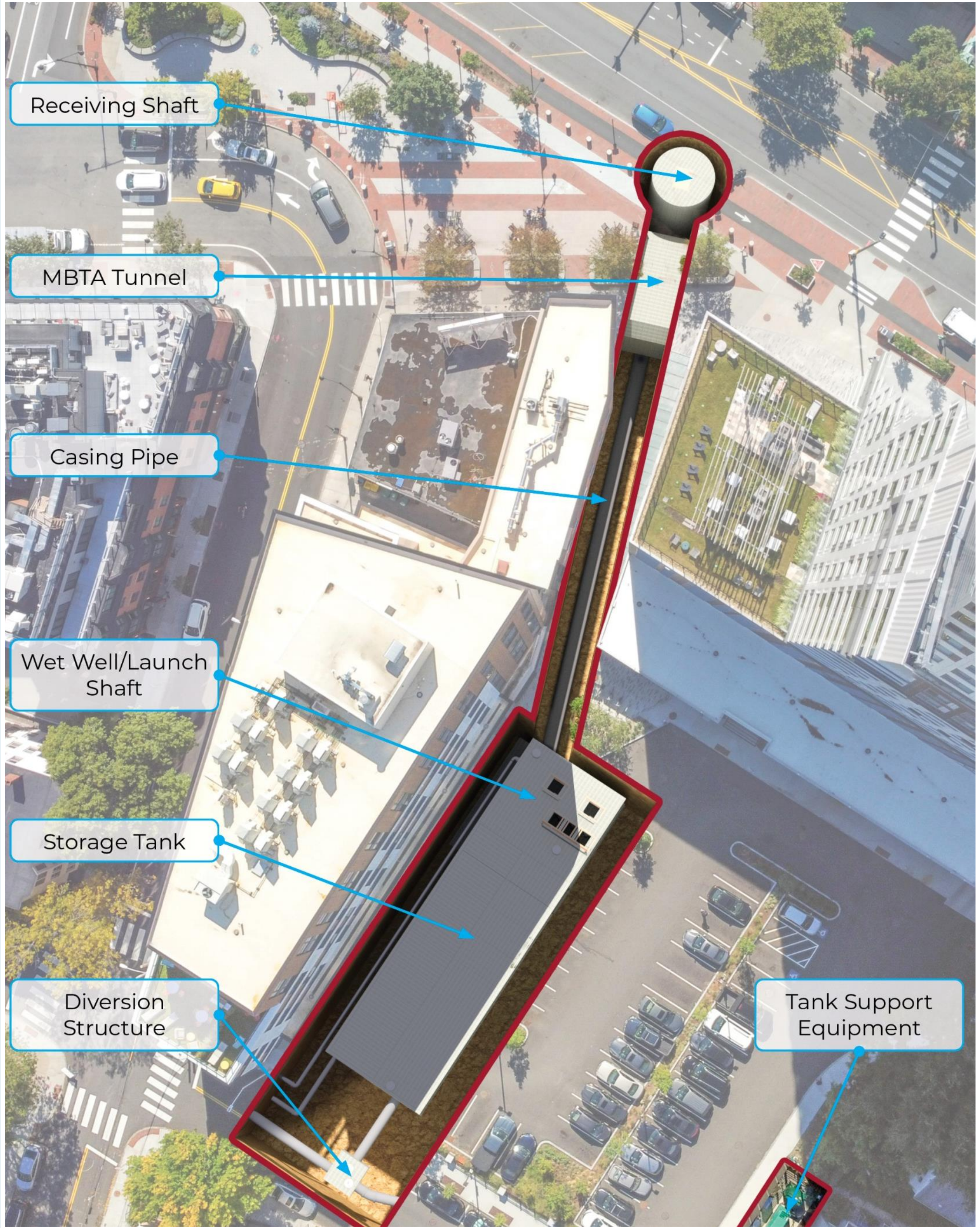
Columbia St.

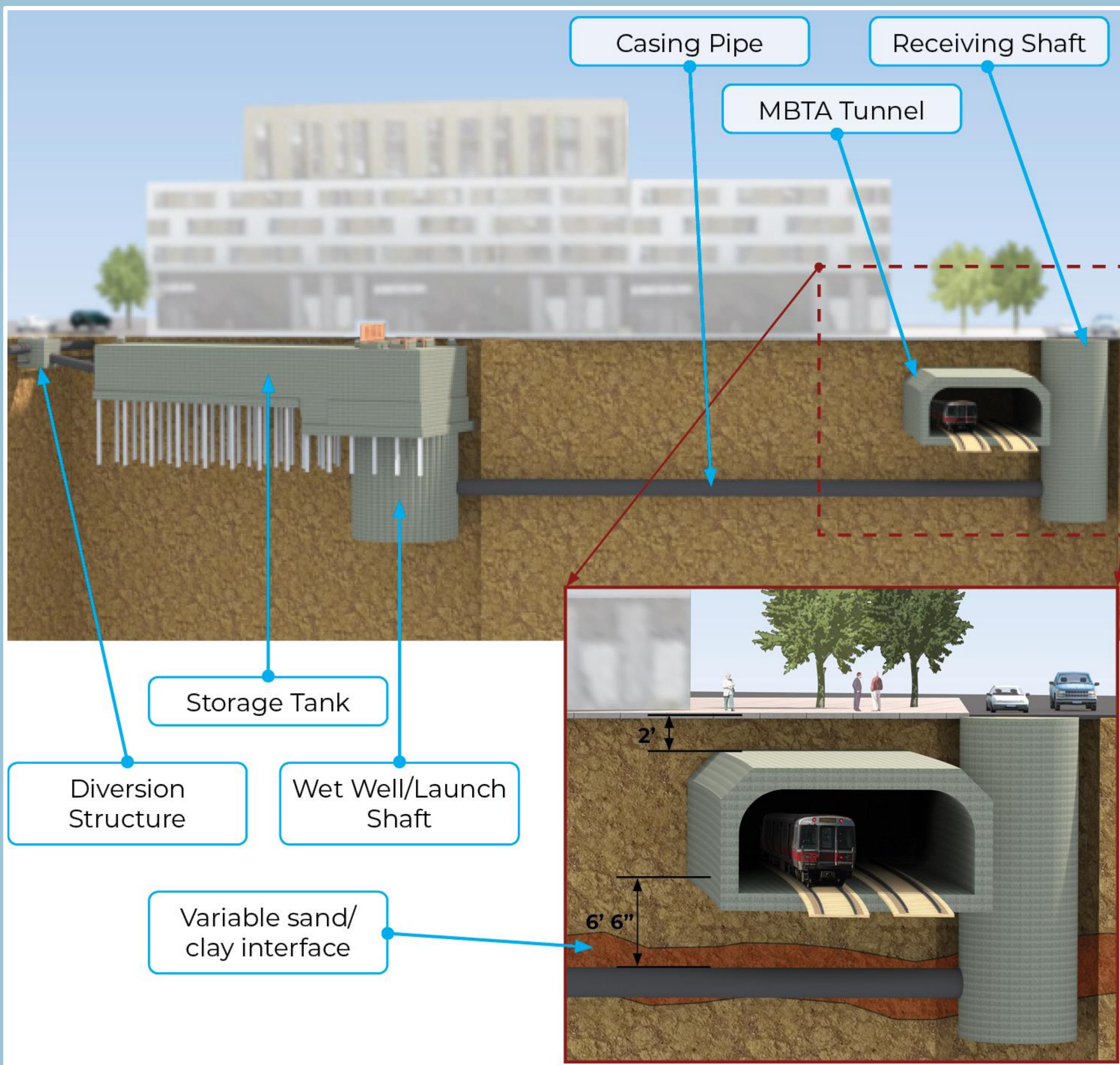
Main St.

MBTA Red Line Tunnel



Aerial view of PL6 project area



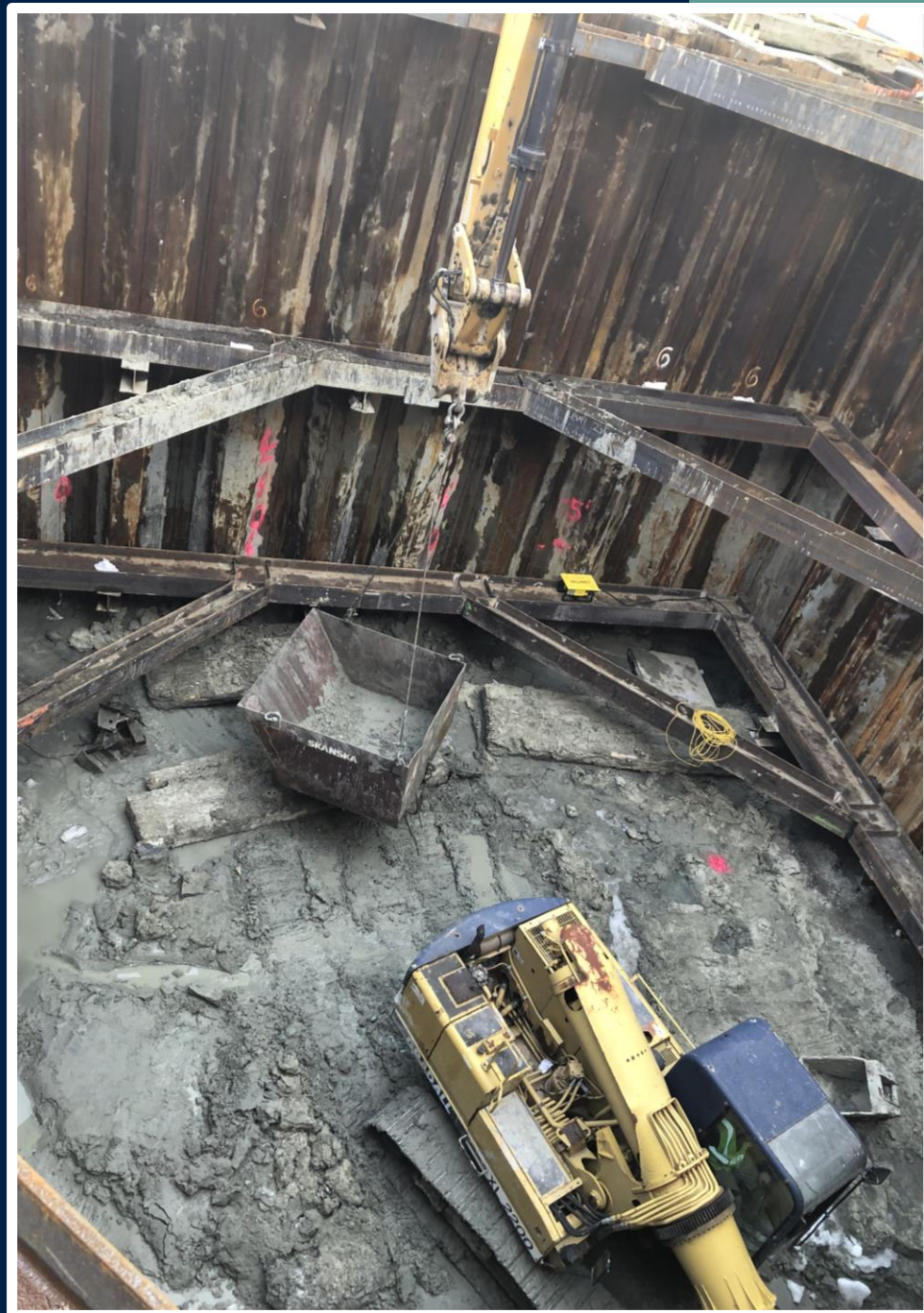
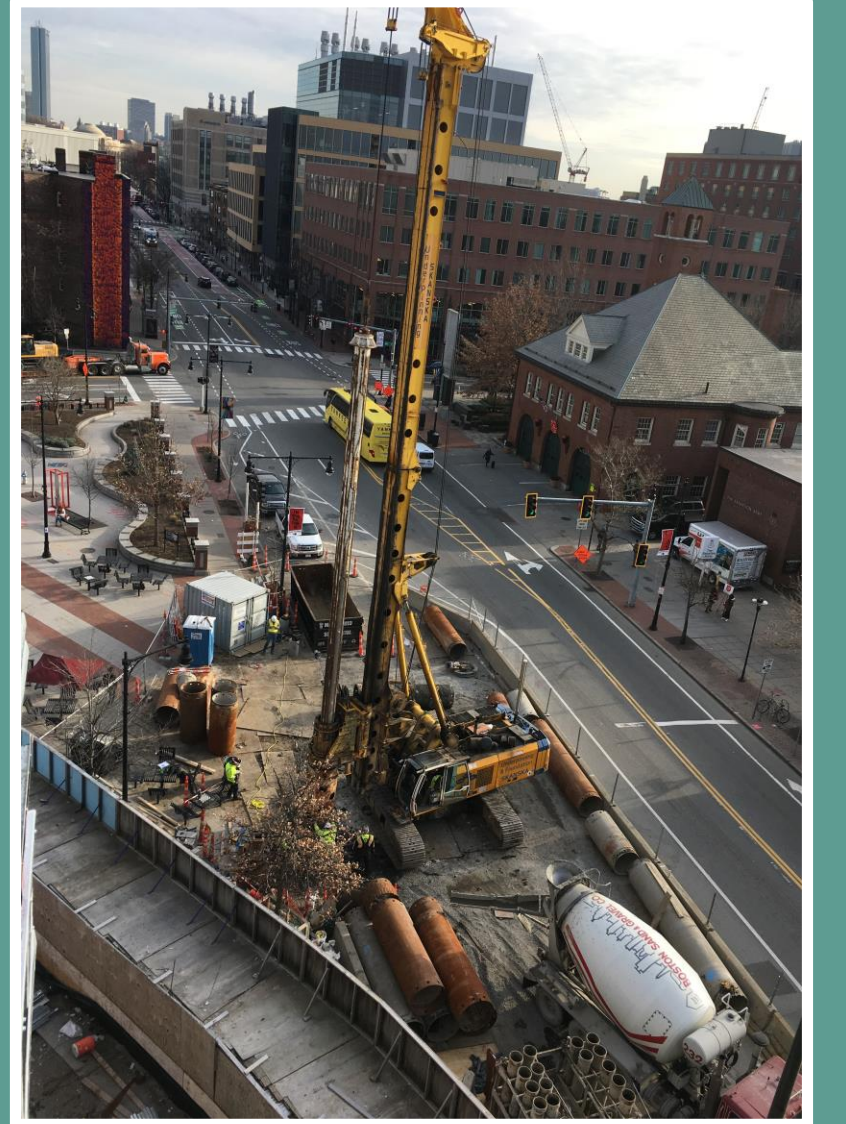


Complexity of microtunneling under MBTA Red Line tunnel

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# PL6 SUCCESS



*Completed Parking Lot No. 6  
Stormwater Tank*

Summer 2021  
(19.6 inches of rain)



- Tank and pump station online May 2021
- 3,480,000 gallons stormwater diverted in Summer 2021
- Performed exactly as engineered
- Record rainfall helped emphasize importance of future resiliency work



**THE WORKS**

**PORT INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECT**

## Did You Know?

### The PL6 Tank Working for You

The Parking Lot 6 (PL6) tank at Bishop Allen Drive went into operation in May 2021 and has captured roughly **3,480,000 gallons** of stormwater this summer.

To put this into perspective, **3,480,000 gallons** of stormwater can fill **5 ¼ Olympic-sized swimming pools**

### What is stormwater?

Stormwater is rain or melted snow. The Port has experienced significant flooding from stormwater in the past. The PL6 tank, however, has already decreased the amount of flooding caused by record-breaking rainfall amounts. In July alone, the City received approximately three times the average amount of rainfall based on historical data.

**Construction of PL6 tank**

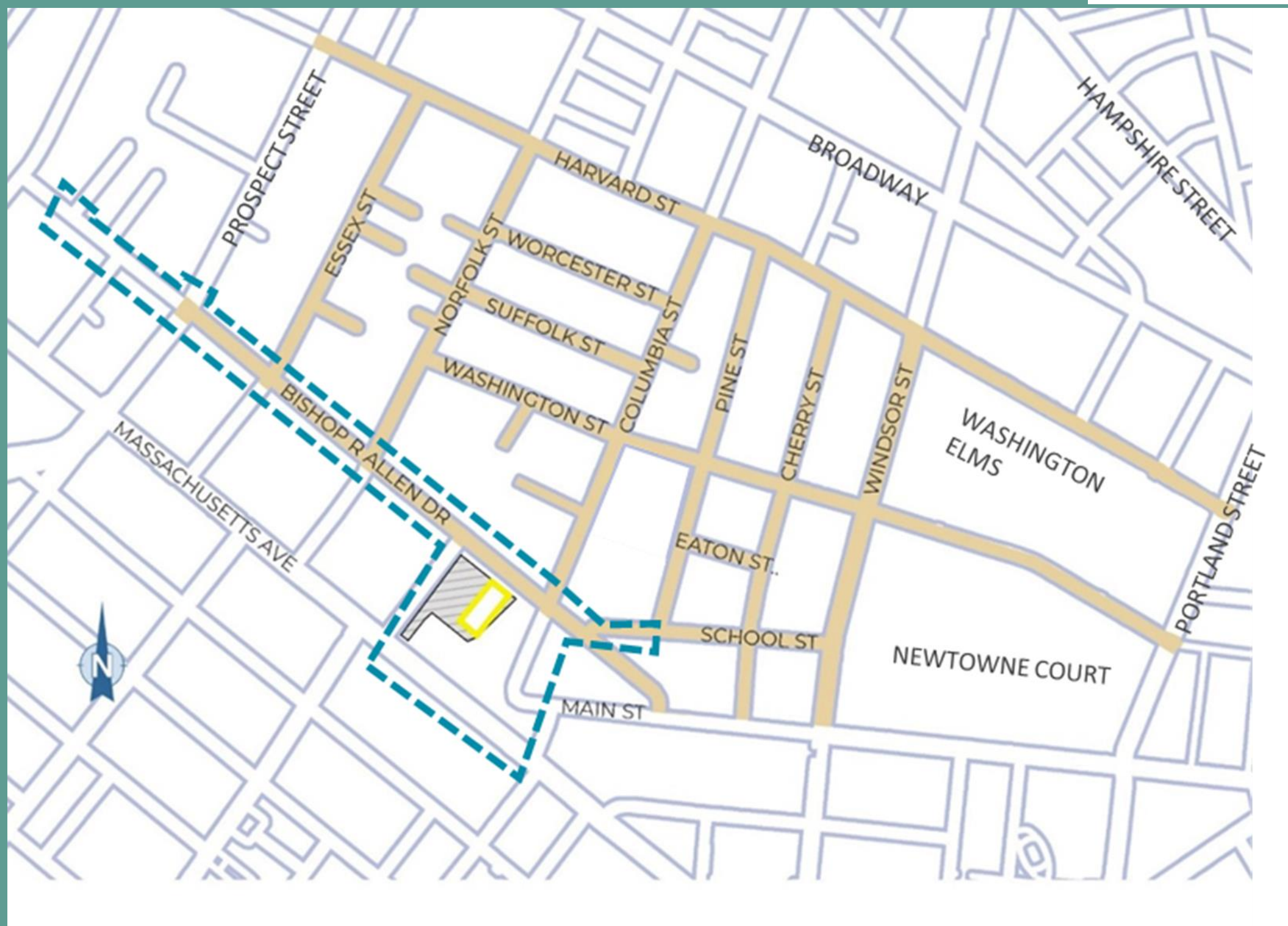
Building enthusiasm and support for next phases of Port Infrastructure work

# PHASE 2

## The Port Infrastructure Improvements Project

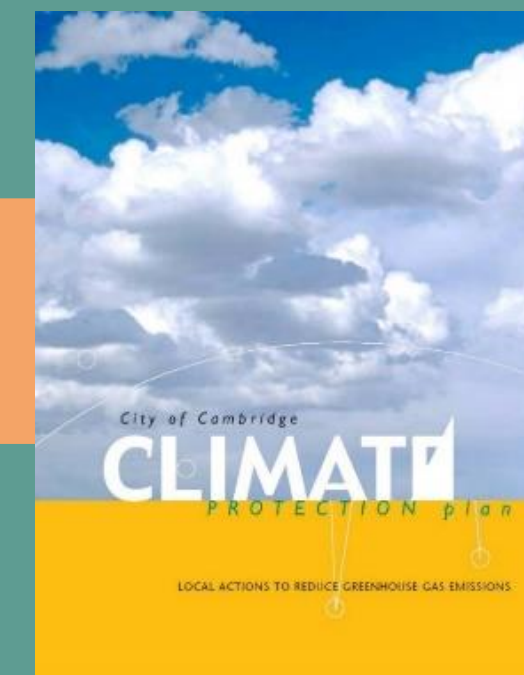
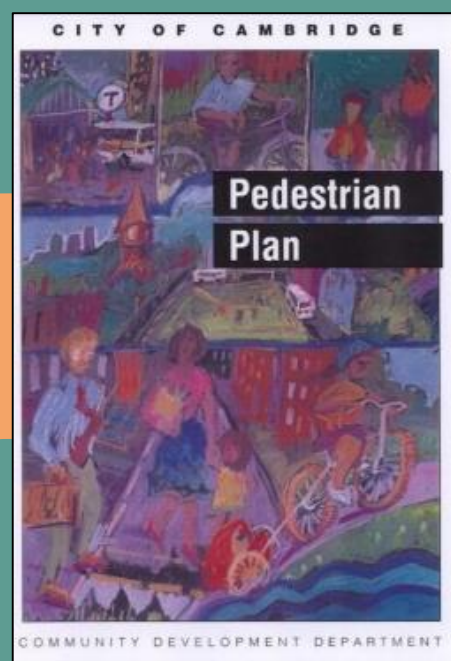


- Replace and upsize neighborhood sewers and storm drains
- Upgrade water, gas, electric utilities
- Roadway and sidewalk improvements
- New tree plantings
- Green infrastructure

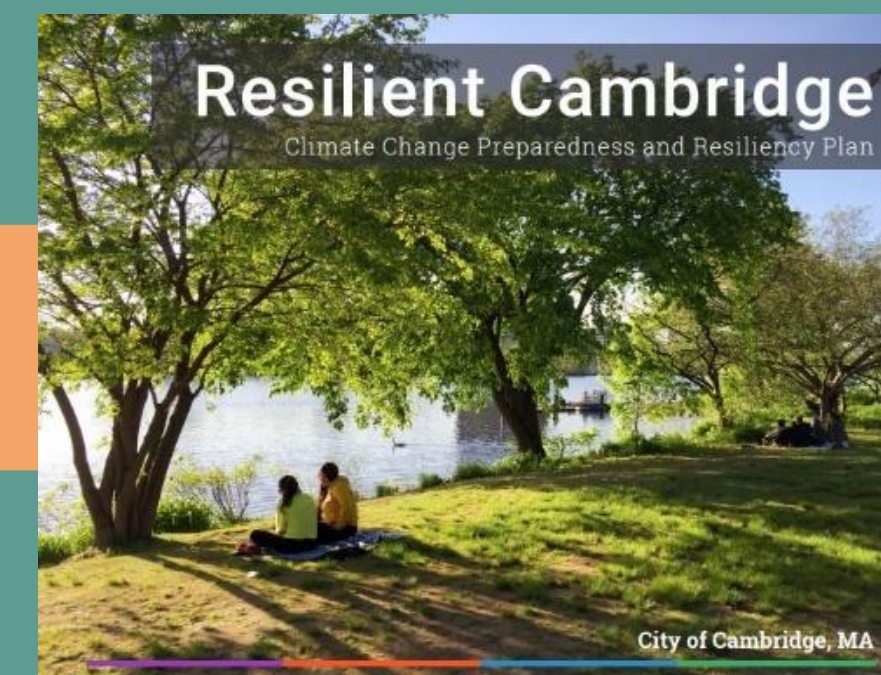


Completed – PL6 Tank

# City's Guiding Plans and Policies Inform Design



**ENVISION  
CAMBRIDGE**



Urban Forest Master Plan goal to increase tree canopy cover by 6% in the Port  
**Over 300 new tree plantings**

# Suffolk Street: Today



**No accessible sidewalk**

**Limited tree canopy**

# Suffolk Street: Shared Street




**Maximizes  
new trees and  
planting  
opportunities**

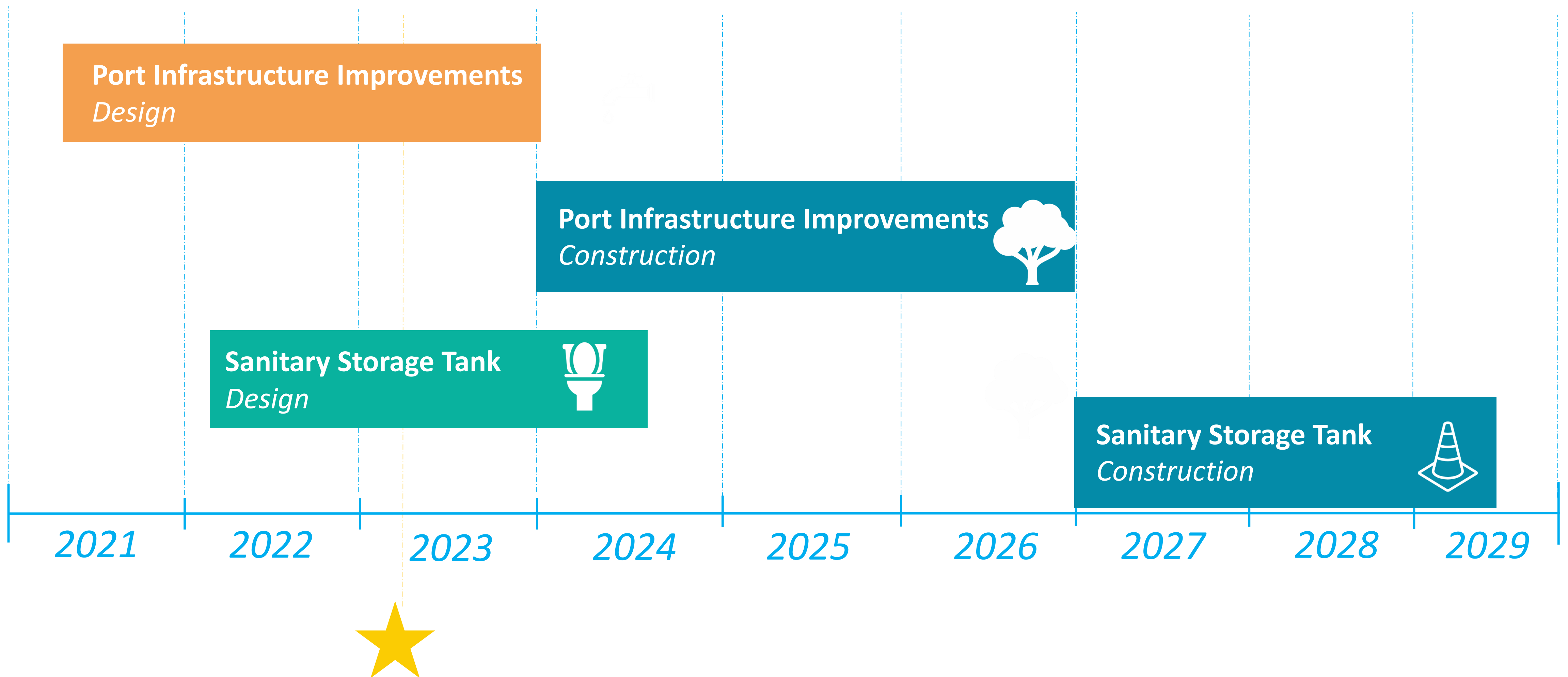
**New planting  
areas replace  
sidewalks**

**Lighter/reflective  
pavement coatings  
to reduce heat**



# Port Resiliency Project Next Steps

 = We are here!



THE PORT FLOODING RESILIENCY PROJECT

# Questions



# Questions?

