



KC LEVEES

Utilizing Collaboration to Minimize Railroad Impacts During Construction

May 2, 2023, 10:30 am



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KC LEVEES: Utilizing Collaboration to Minimize Railroad Impacts During Construction

Moderator: Lesley Schwalje, Engineering Group Director, HNTB

Speakers:

- Scott Mensing, Program Manager, USACE
- Tom Poer, Project Director, HNTB
- LTC John Chambers, Deputy District Commander, USACE



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- ✓ **Silence Your Mobile Devices**
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San Antonio,
TEXAS



SCOTT MENSING



Facts

Started with USACE in 2009.

- Technical Lead for Military and Civil Works Projects
- Civil Works Project Manager
- Section 408 Program Manager
- Dam Safety Program Manager
- KC Levees Program Manager

BS in Civil Engineering from Iowa State University

Bowyer-in-Training





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TOM POER



Facts

Water resource engineer and PM at HNTB for 30-years.

- BS Civil Engineering / MS Engineering Management at Kansas University.
- Prof. Engineer Project Mgmt. Professional, Envision Sustainable Prof., SAME Fellow!
- Water experience in levees, pump stations, watersheds, hydraulic modeling, and scour.
- We have 3 awesome adult kids.
- Love snow skiing, camping, travel, beaches & live music.



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LTC JOHN CHAMBERS



Facts

Deputy District Commander for the Kansas City District since 2021

- University of Michigan fan married to an Ohio State grad
- Waterfowl Hunter

BS in Civil Engineering from USMA
MS from Missouri S&T

MPP from Harvard Kennedy School
of Government



Agenda

- Program Overview
- Project Communications and Collaboration
- Managing Impacts and Risk
- Discussion



KANSAS CITY TERMINAL
HIGHLINE BRIDGE
(DOUBLE TRACKED, DOUBLED DECKED)



Kansas River Flood History

1903



1951



1993





REMAINING PROJECT SUMMARY

TOTAL MILES OF PROJECT: 17

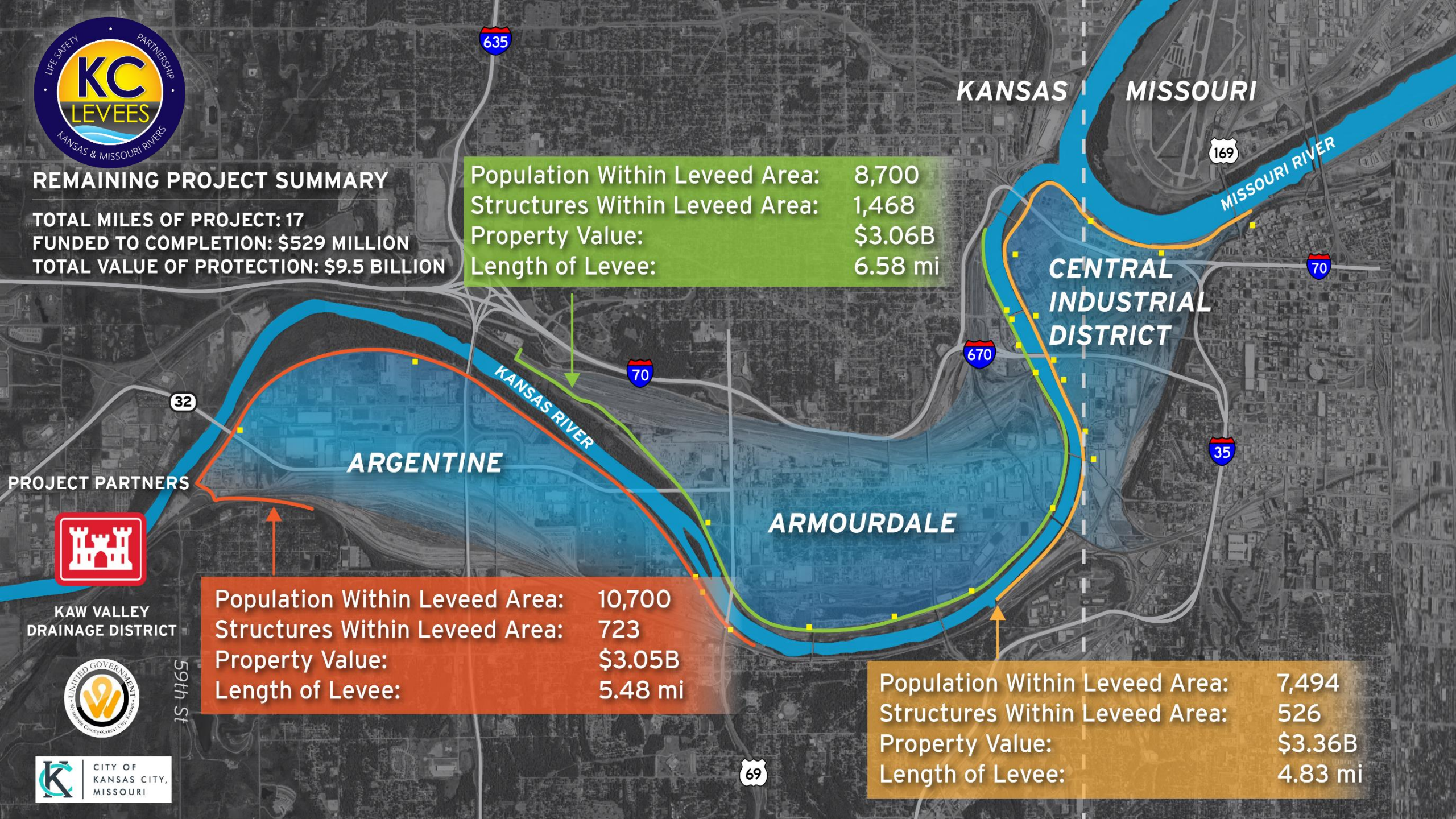
FUNDED TO COMPLETION: \$529 MILLION

TOTAL VALUE OF PROTECTION: \$9.5 BILLION

Population Within Leveed Area:	8,700
Structures Within Leveed Area:	1,468
Property Value:	\$3.06B
Length of Levee:	6.58 mi

Population Within Leveed Area:	10,700
Structures Within Leveed Area:	723
Property Value:	\$3.05B
Length of Levee:	5.48 mi

Population Within Leveed Area:	7,494
Structures Within Leveed Area:	526
Property Value:	\$3.36B
Length of Levee:	4.83 mi



PROJECT PARTNERS



KAW VALLEY DRAINAGE DISTRICT



Our Mission

When complete in 2026, KC Levees will:

- Reduce risk of flooding by 200%;
- Improve the reliability and resiliency of the levee system;
- Improve deteriorating and aging infrastructure;
- Ensure “as-designed” performance during future floods; and
- Enhance levee safety and flood awareness.



Pump Station Replacements and Repairs



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Levee Raises – Earthwork



Levee Raises – Floodwalls



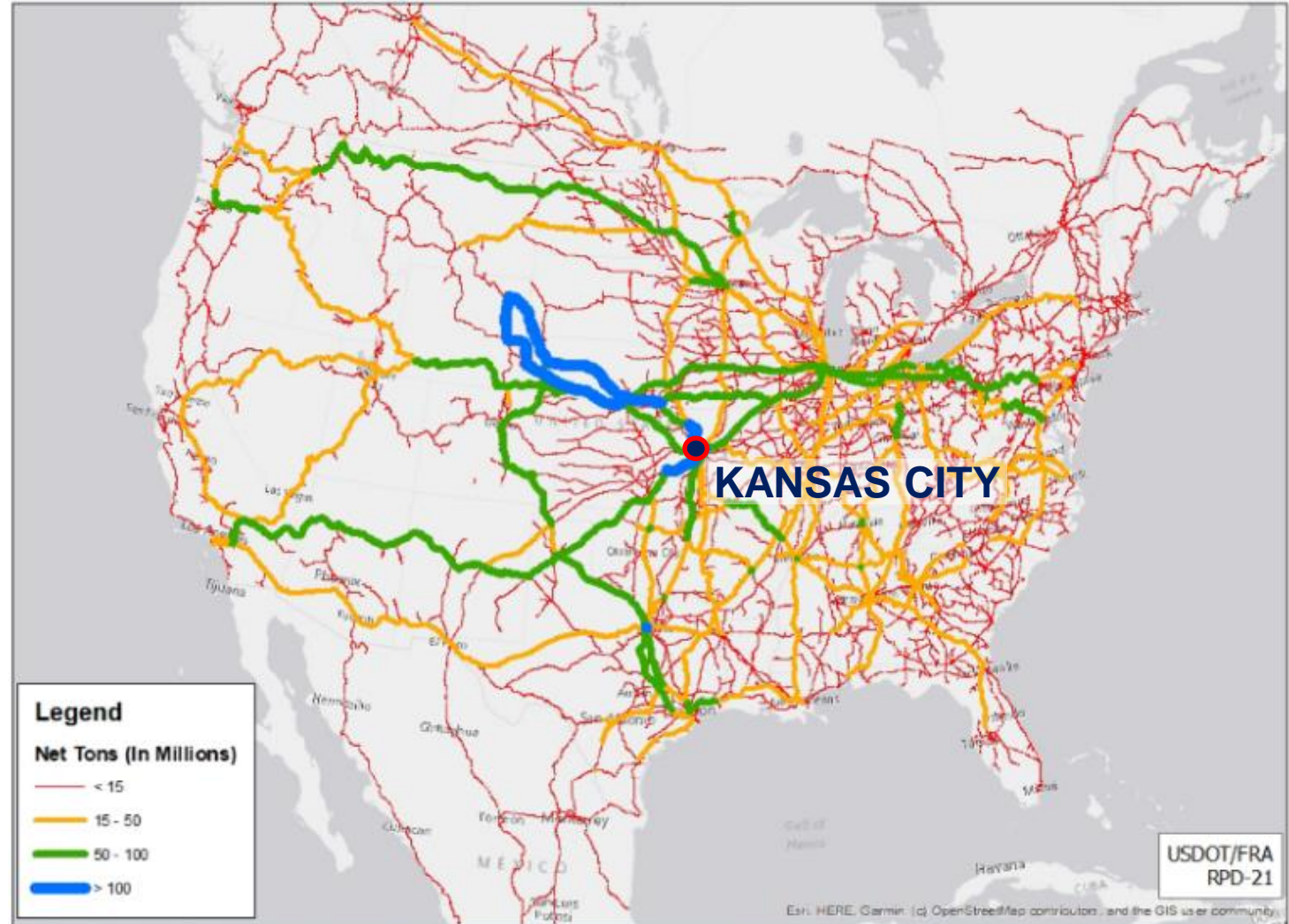
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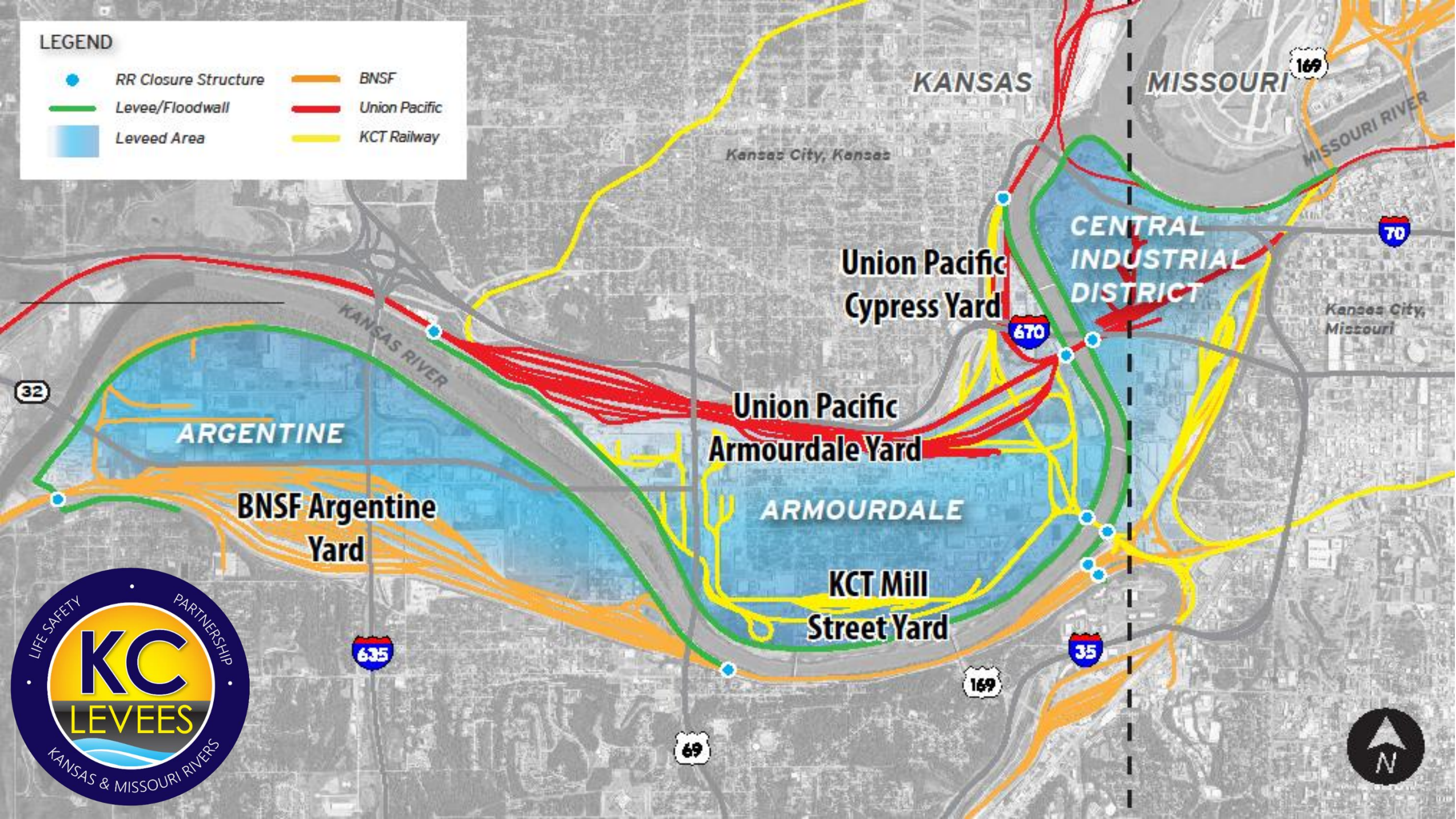
Railroad Engagements

The Kansas City metropolitan area is **one of the largest railroad hubs** in North America and includes the **Nation's second largest classification yard** (BNSF's Argentine yard).



LEGEND

- RR Closure Structure
- Levee/Floodwall
- Leveed Area
- BNSF
- Union Pacific
- KCT Railway



Railroad Engagements

KC Levees will impact **FOUR MAJOR RAILROADS:**

- **BNSF:**
 - 4 closure structures (1 combined with KCT)
- **Union Pacific:**
 - 6 closure structures
 - Modifications to UPRR #3 bridge lifting mechanism
 - Construction of new lifting mechanism on UPRR bridge
- **Kansas City Terminal:**
 - 3 closure structures (1 combined with BNSF)
 - Modifications to KCT Highline Bridge lifting mechanism
- **Kansas City Southern:**
 - Real estate acquisition



KANSAS CITY TERMINAL RAILWAY



Goal: Minimize railroad impacts during construction and operations.



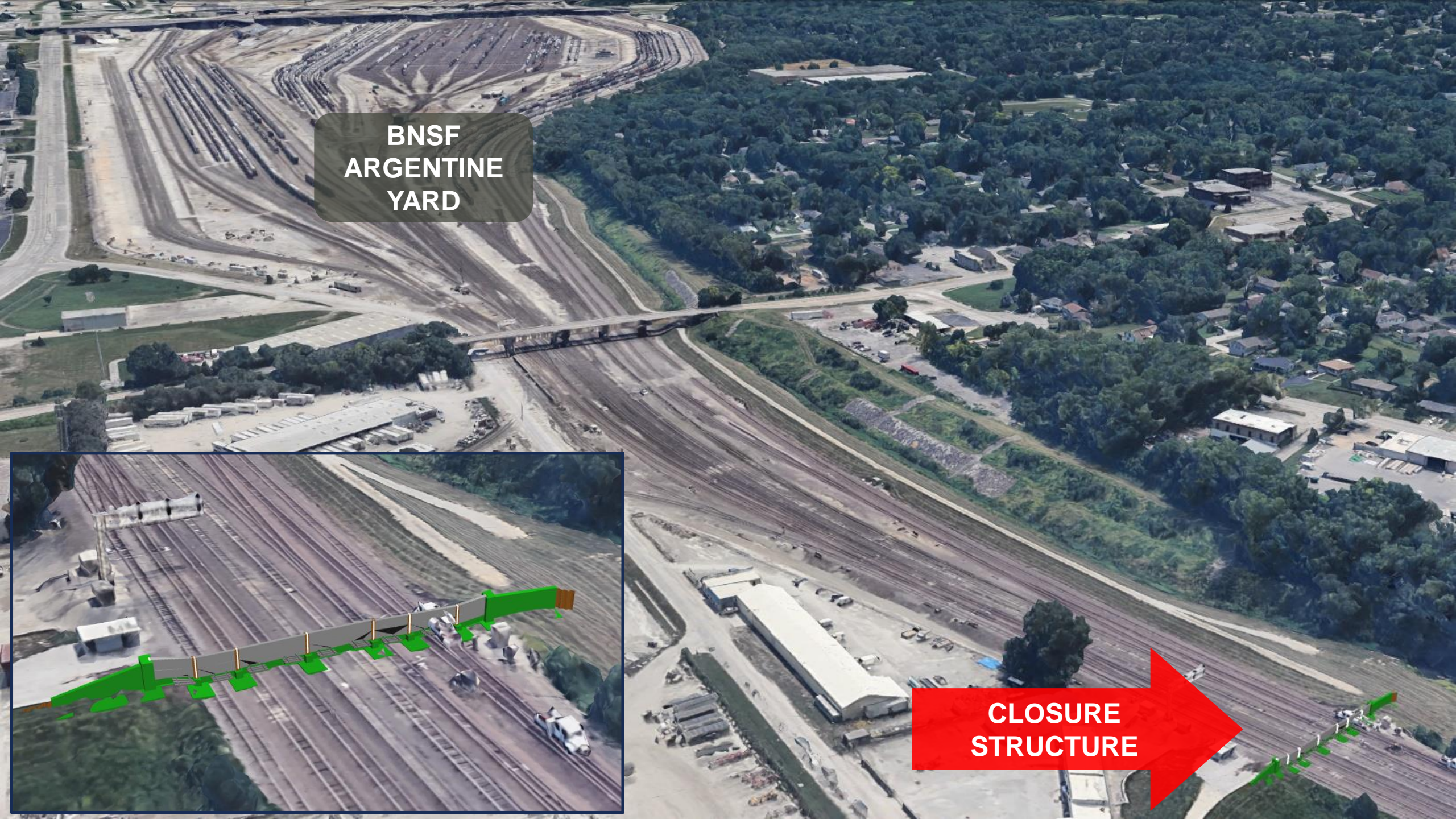
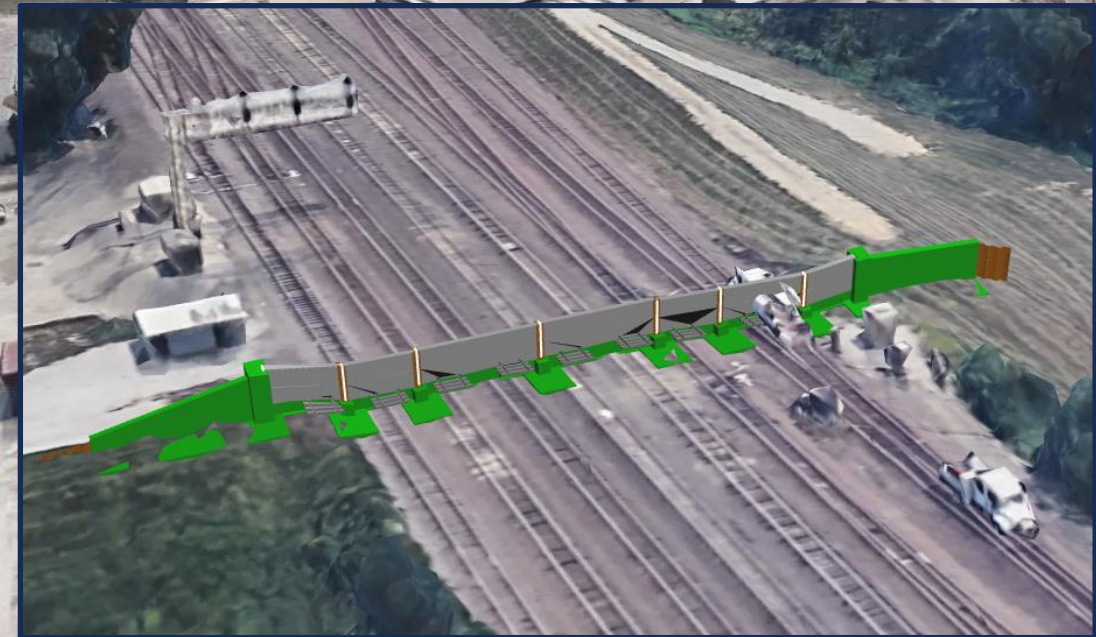
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**BNSF
ARGENTINE
YARD**

**CLOSURE
STRUCTURE**



**BNSF
ARGENTINE
YARD**

**BNSF
LOCOMOTIVE
MAINTENANCE
FACILITY**

**CLOSURE
STRUCTURE**





**UPRR #3
BRIDGE**

**MOPAC BRIDGE
(OWNED BY UPRR)**

**CLOSURE
STRUCTURE**

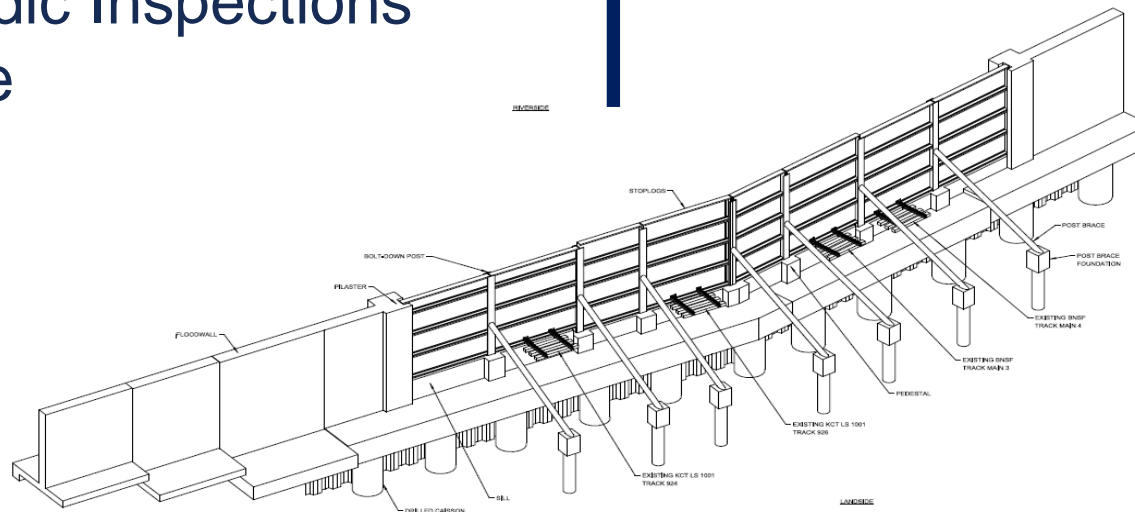
Potential Impacts

USACE

- Cost Increase
- Schedule Delay
- Constructability
- Flood Risk During Construction
- Operations During Flood Event
- Access for Periodic Inspections and Maintenance

RAILROADS

- Reduction in Train Movements
- Track/Utility Relocations
- Efficiency During Construction
- Track Outages During Flood Event
- Reduced Maintenance Abilities





Power of Partnerships



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Power of Partnerships

Railroads are a **MAJOR STAKEHOLDER** to the project.

Objectives include:

- Understand constraints;
- Find least impactful solution;
- Standardization;
- Consistency;
- Timely dispute resolution; and
- Communications:
 - Open
 - Transparent
 - Early and Recurring



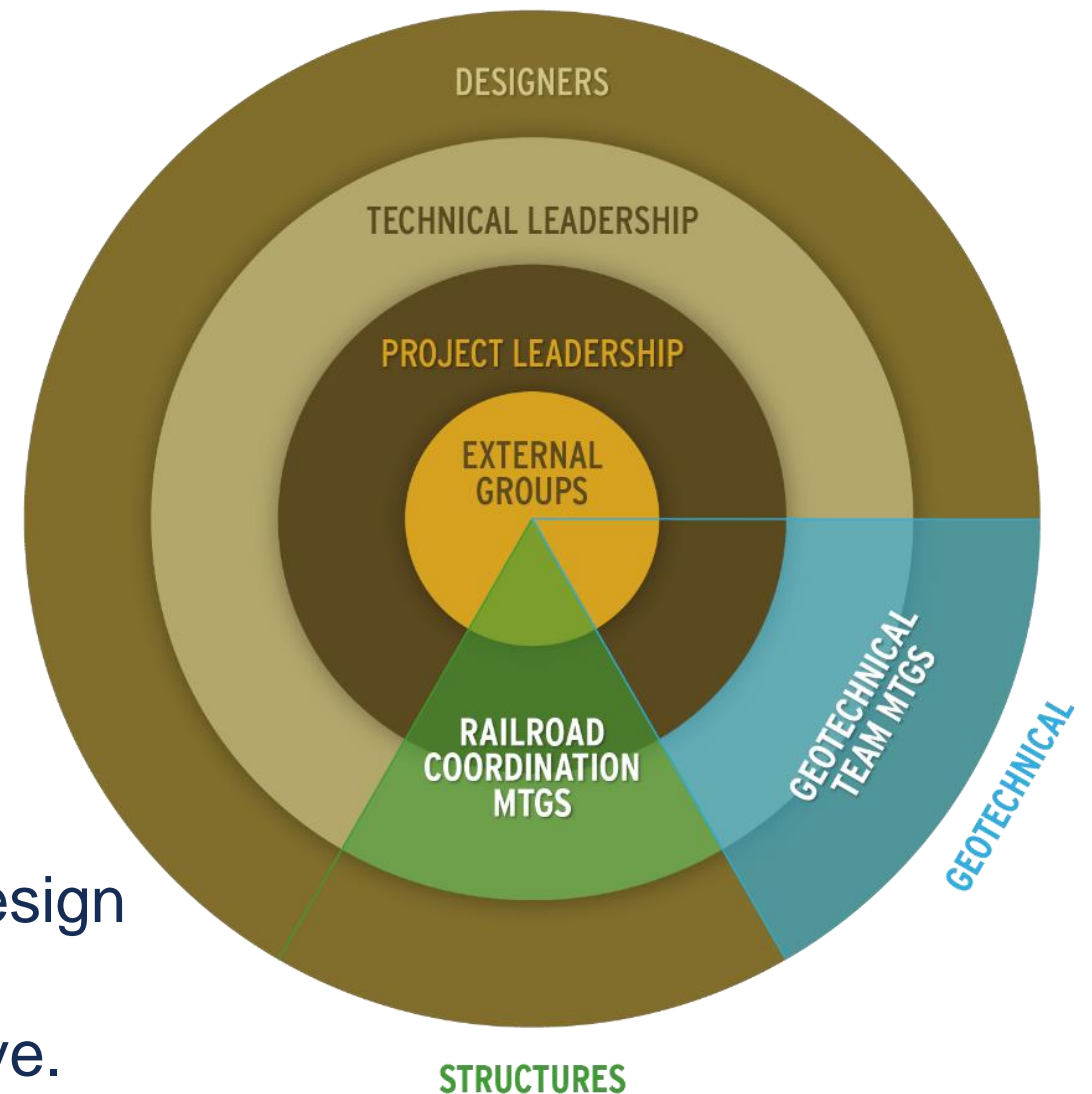
Communication | Collaboration

Communications:

- Leadership engagements
- Federal Railroad Administration
- Early and frequent discussions
- Site visits
- Open and transparent dialogue
- **Build trust!!**

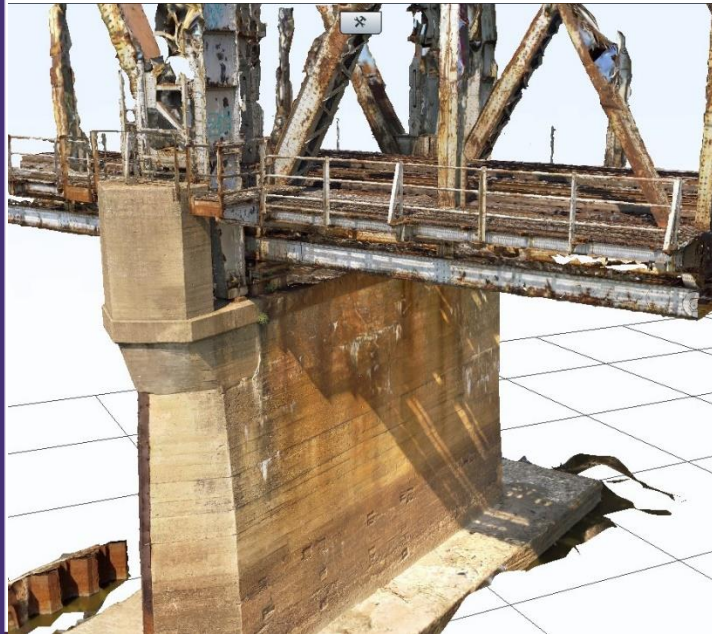
Collaboration:

- Joint management of impacts and risks.
- Collaboration during design reviews.
- Full group looking for the least impactful design alternative.
- Obtain consensus on final design alternative.



Data Collection in RR ROW

- Remote Inspection via Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS)
 - Ground Survey
- Logistics
- Flagging
 - On Track Safety



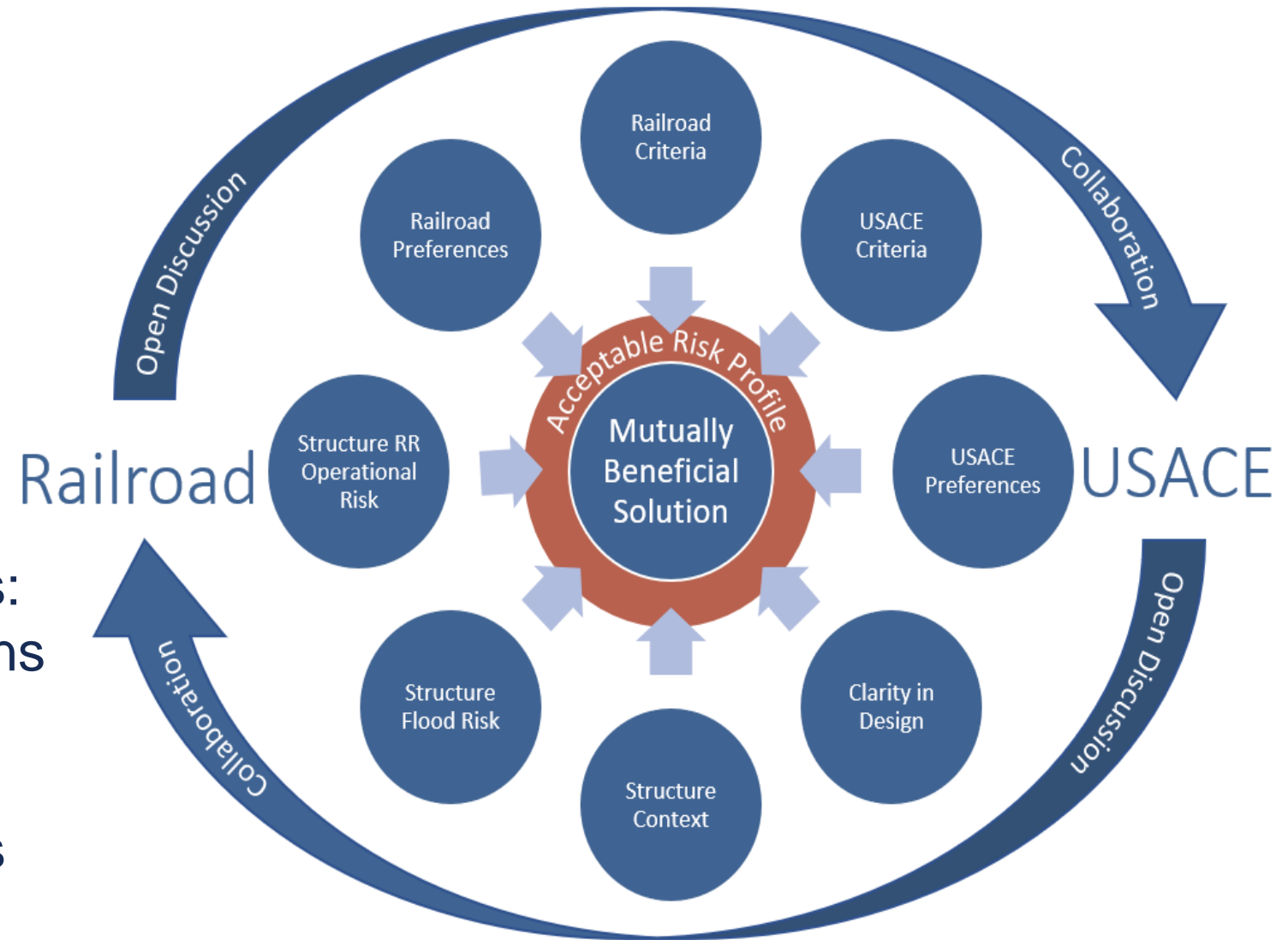
Joint Risk Management

Mutually Beneficial Solution:

- Minimize cost to taxpayer
- Limit railroad operational impacts
- Meeting flood risk needs
- Reduce impacts from future flood fighting operations

USACE & Railroad Partnerships:

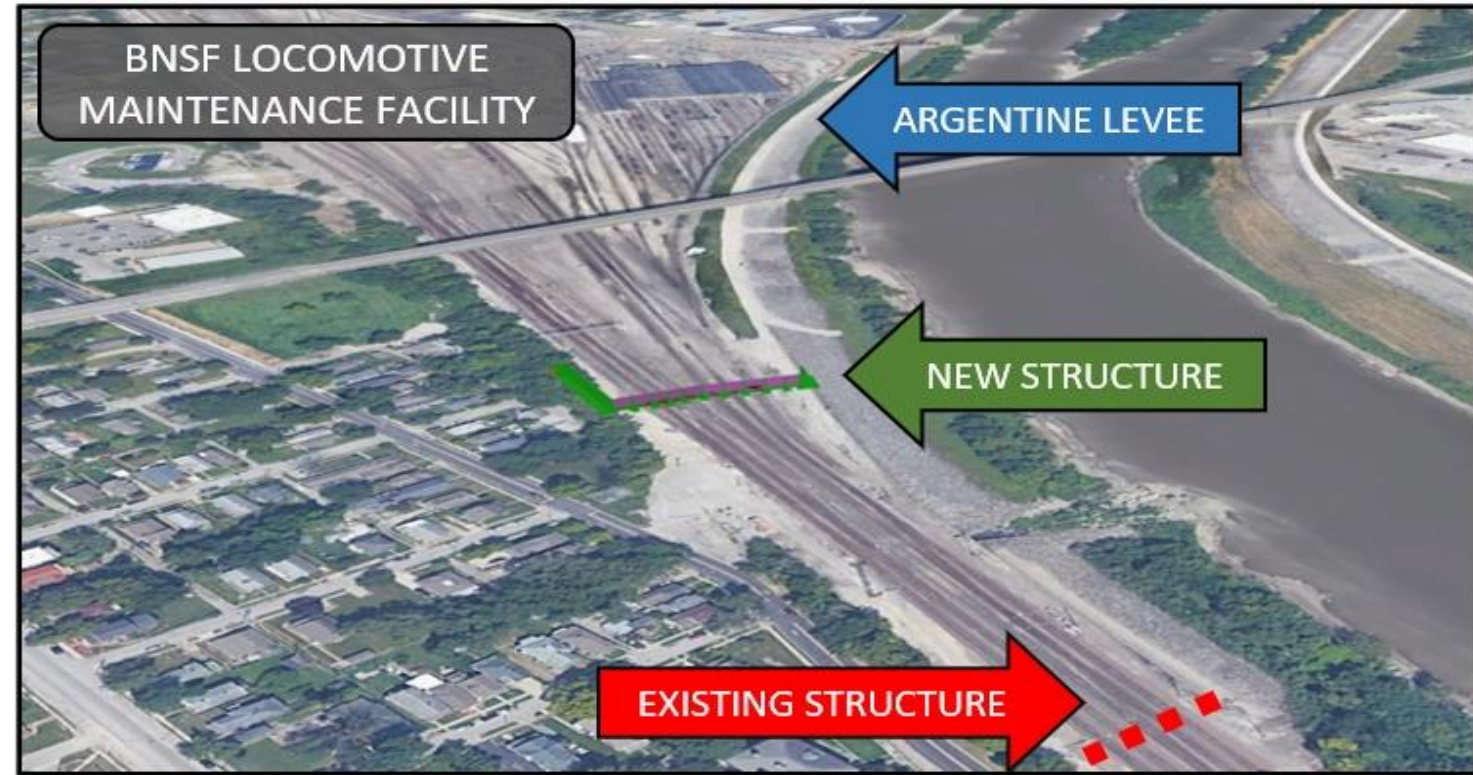
- Early and frequent discussions
- Honesty
- Trust
- Transparent communications



Collaboration – Examples

Alignments:

- Numerous alternatives
- Site-specific analysis
- Locate/Avoid infrastructure
- Understand train movements
- Opportunities to mitigate operational impacts
- Risk-informed design
- Temporary flood protection

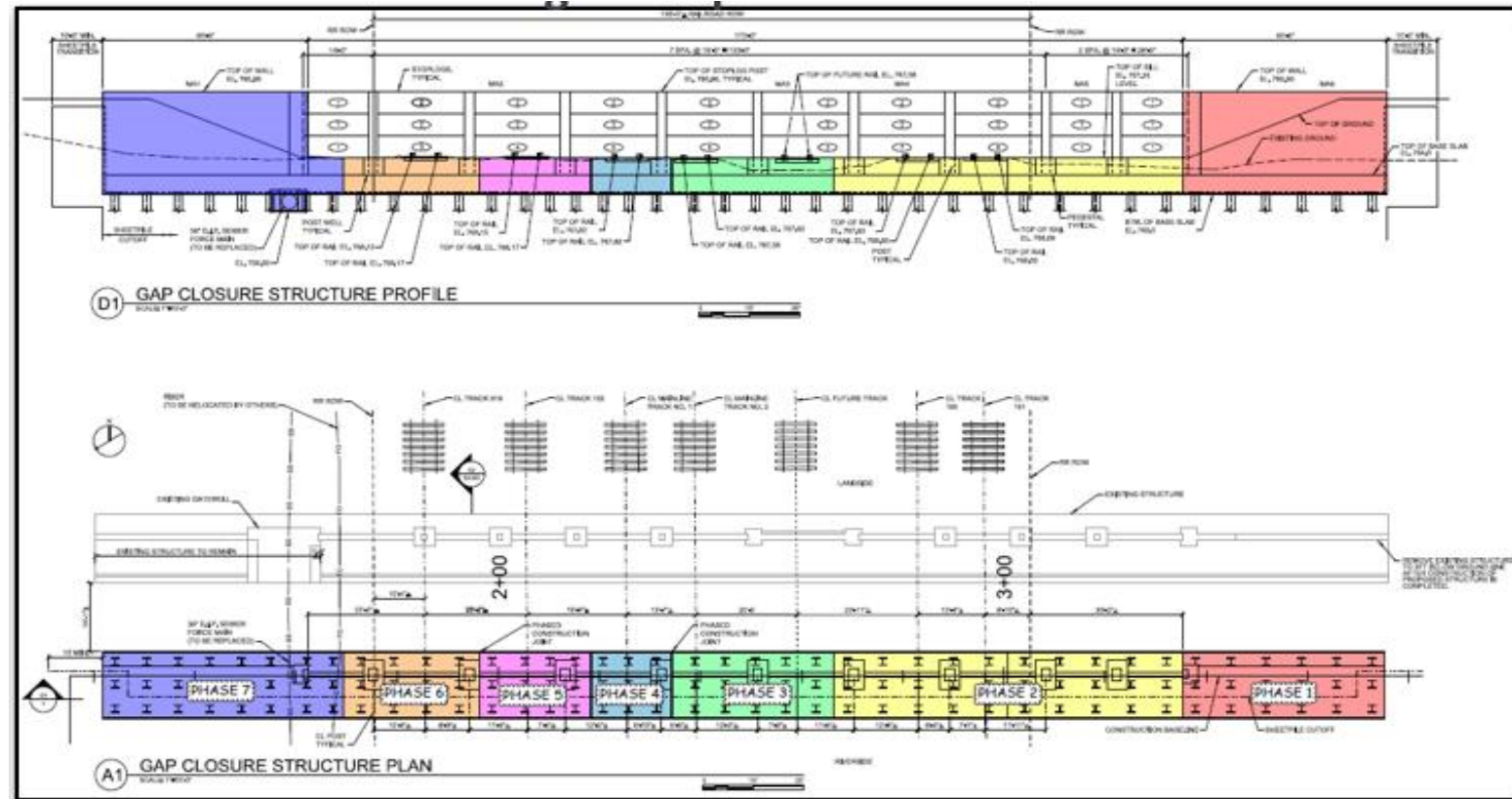


Argentine Levee Unit – Downstream Closure Structure

Collaboration – Examples

Construction Phasing:

- Site-specific construction sequencing
- Detailed Gantt Charts
- Hour-by-hour estimates
- Subject Matter Experts
 - Railroads
 - USACE
 - HNTB
- Revisions (dozens...)
- Over-the-Shoulder Reviews



Armourdale Levee Unit – Upstream Closure Structure



Future of Partnerships



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USACE/Railroad Partnerships

- Relationships and processes established with KC Levees
- Senior Leader Engagements
 - USACE Division Command
 - Railroad VPs/Directors
 - Strategic Engagements
- Working Level Engagements
 - USACE District Command
 - Railroad Managers
 - Lessons Learned
 - Consistency



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USACE Railroad Collaboration Team

- Following KC Levees framework
- Transportation Systems Center (Omaha District)
- Goals:
 - Improved and focused partnering
 - Optimize coordination and communications
 - Encourage consistency and uniformity
 - Repository for:
 - Processes
 - Approved designs
 - Lessons learned
 - Reduce cost and schedule risks to USACE



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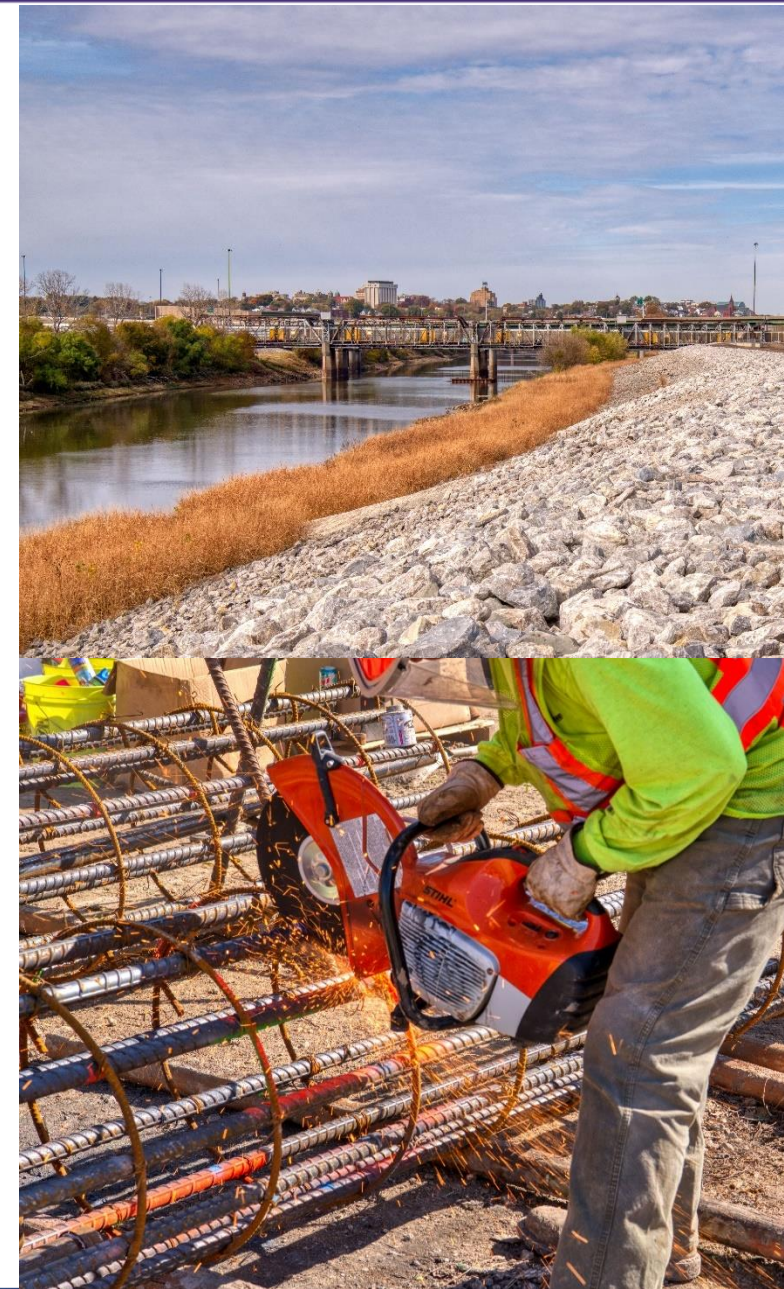
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Realized Benefits

- Scope:
 - Improved coordination and reviews
 - Found the least impactful alternative
- Cost:
 - Innovative approaches in closure structure design and temporary flood protection saved project ~\$50M.
- Schedule:
 - Historical Review/Approval Timeframe = 5-7 years
 - KC Levees Average = 3 years
- Railroad Operations:
 - Reduced outages during construction
 - Reduced outages during flood event
 - Maximized train operations
- Partnering and Communications:
 - Establishment of USACE-Leading Partnerships





Q&A

- Scott Mensing | scott.p.mensing@usace.army.mil
- Tom Poer | tpoer@hntb.com
- LTC John Chambers | john.r.chambers@usace.army.mil





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