

BASCULE BRIDGE

M-13 / M-84 [Lafayette Avenue]

WHAT IS THE **PURPOSE** OF THE PROJECT?

- To study feasible alternatives for the replacement of the Lafayette Avenue bascule bridge over the Saginaw River that meet the needs of the project.

WHAT **NEEDS** WILL THIS PROJECT ADDRESS?

- Age. It was originally constructed in 1938. The superstructure was replaced in 1987.
- Mechanical and electrical problems need frequent repair.
- In 2013, two scour holes were found near the bascule piers. The timber piles that support the bridge are susceptible to scour.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

WHO **OWNS** THE BRIDGE?

- The bridge is owned, operated, and maintained by the Michigan Department of Transportation.
- The main channel at the bridge is under the jurisdiction of the U.S. Coast Guard and the Army Corps of Engineers.

WILL THE BRIDGE BE **COMPLETELY REPLACED**?

- The feasibility study conducted in 2014 recommended replacement of the bridge.
- Rehabilitation was explored as an option, but it would be risky and difficult. Even with rehabilitation, the foundation would still be 78 years old and susceptible to scour. The superstructure would still be 30 years old.

WHAT **SAFETY** AND OPERATIONAL IMPROVEMENTS ARE BEING **CONSIDERED**?

- Wider bridge deck and approach road allowing for future maintenance work and inspections without lane closures.
- Bicycle lanes or shared-use paths.
- Geometric and safety improvements for intersection at each end of the bridge.
- Street lighting.
- New U.S. Coast Guard regulations require greater underclearance than current bridge clearances.

WHAT WILL THE NEW BRIDGE REPLACEMENT **LOOK** LIKE?

- Architecture and aesthetics will be determined later in the design process.
- Several different bascule (drawbridge) configurations will be evaluated, including rolling-lift, trunnion, and vertical-lift spans.
- Both single and double-leaf drawbridges are being considered.

WILL THE BRIDGE BE **CLOSED** DURING CONSTRUCTION?

- Yes, the bridge will remain closed for two years while it is reconstructed.
- Refer to the primary and alternate detour route displays.

