

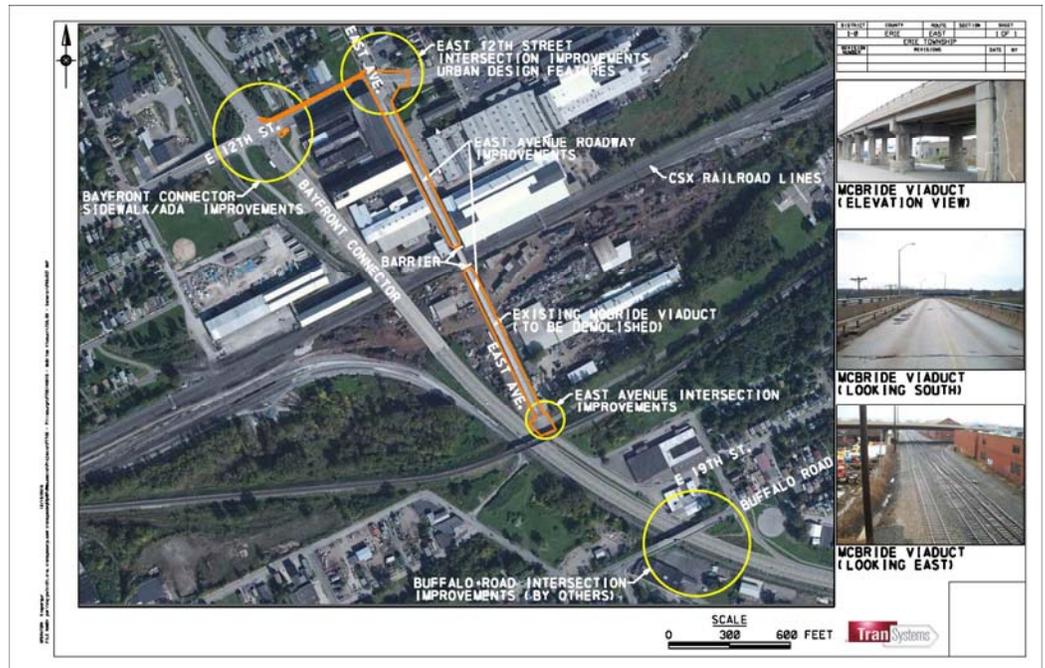


**NEWSLETTER: JANUARY 2017**

## About the Project

The McBride Viaduct is a 1,170-foot 23-span pre-stressed concrete and steel thru-girder bridge spanning multiple CSX railroad tracks. The bridge was originally constructed in 1938 with subsequent major rehabilitations. The bridge was posted and ultimately closed to vehicular traffic for public safety reasons and is considered “structurally deficient” and “functionally obsolete.” Based on a comprehensive feasibility study that was performed in 2013 and approved by the City of Erie, PennDOT and the Federal Highway Administration, the preferred alternative is to demolish the viaduct and provide adjacent intersection, pedestrian and ADA improvements, as well as reconstructing East Avenue with a cul-de-sac and barrier on each end providing protection from the railroad.

With the McBride Viaduct set to be demolished, a new pedestrian connection will utilize the Bayfront Bikeway to the intersection of the Bayfront Connector and East 12th Street, with sidewalk improvements on the northern side of East 12th Street to the intersection of East Avenue. Pedestrian improvements are being designed at East 12th Street and the Bayfront Connector consisting of new ADA ramps, crosswalks, expanded sidewalk areas, and streetscaping features.



The main components of the project’s scope include final design services which detail the viaduct’s demolition plan, improved pedestrian connections, safety and ADA improvements, adjacent intersection improvements, pavement reconstruction and construction services. Tasks include railroad coordination, public involvement and stakeholder meetings, demolition plans and specifications, utility coordination and relocations, traffic signal design, drainage updates, pavement design, access considerations, pedestrian and safety designs, urban design, and right-of-way investigation.

## Public Meeting Information

A meeting for the City of Erie’s McBride Viaduct Project will be held in early 2017. The meeting announcement will be placed on the website - [www.mcbrideviaduct.com](http://www.mcbrideviaduct.com). Please use the “Contact Us” form on the website to request being placed on the project email distribution list in order to receive meeting announcements. During the meeting, members of the public will be able to learn more about final design details and the overall schedule. Anyone interested in the project is encouraged to attend.

## Frequently Asked Questions

### Why is the viaduct closed today?

The bridge was posted and ultimately closed to vehicular traffic for public safety reasons and is considered “structurally deficient” and “functionally obsolete.”

### What is the source of funding for the project?

80% of the funding for final design services is provided by the Federal Highway Administration. The remaining will be provided by PennDOT (15%) and the City of Erie (5%).

### Who is the Project Team?

The Project Team consists of three entities:

1. Project Owner - the City of Erie
2. Project Oversight - PennDOT (on behalf of the Federal Highway Administration)
3. Project Designer (Prime Consultant) - TranSystems

Sub-consultants include Olszak Consulting, Monaloh Basin Engineers, and AD Marble & Company.

### What overall improvements are part of the project?

There will be sidewalk improvements along East 12th Street, East Avenue roadway improvements, and intersection improvements at East Avenue and East 12th Street including new traffic signals, crosswalks, sidewalks, ADA facilities, signs and pavement markings. There will also be pedestrian improvements at East 12th Street and the Bayfront Connector. In addition, a new interchange reconfiguration is being designed at Buffalo Road (as a separate PennDOT Project).

### What We've Done

- ⇒ Property and Right-of-Way Investigation
- ⇒ Utility Coordination and Verification including Subsurface Utility Engineering
- ⇒ Business Owner Meetings
- ⇒ Preliminary Engineering for East Avenue and East 12th Street (design alternatives)
- ⇒ Pedestrian and ADA Design and Evaluation
- ⇒ PUC Coordination
- ⇒ Railroad Coordination with CSX
- ⇒ Environmental Site Assessments
- ⇒ Traffic Data Collection Analysis
- ⇒ Bridge Demolition Plans

## Project Timeline

February 2017

November 2017



### Next Steps

- ⇒ Design Field View Submission
- ⇒ Final Design for Pedestrian and ADA Facilities
- ⇒ Drainage Design and Layout
- ⇒ Traffic Signal Design
- ⇒ Streetscaping and Landscaping Features
- ⇒ Lighting Design and Coordination
- ⇒ Public Meeting to Present Plans

### For more information:

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For information on the Buffalo Road Interchange, please contact Jeanette Uhl, PennDOT District 1-0 at 814-678-7084