

# Brattleboro-Hinsdale Bridge

Views From the Air & Interpretive Signage

Draft Presentation by SWRPC & WRC

November 27, 2018

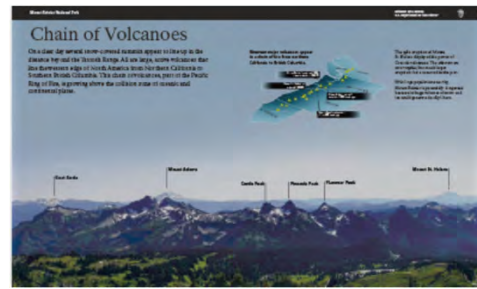
## Potential Outlook Locations



# Interpretive Signage



Geology/Natural History



Landscape Orientation

Great resource from National Park Service called “Wayside Exhibits” – a how to for interpretive signage.

What makes a good interpretive signage opportunity?

- Significant feature – A significant landscape feature with a well-documented story
- Site-specific graphic – Site specific, reproducible-quality graphic that illuminates the story
- Visitor Access and Safety-A safe and accessible space for visitors
- Regular Maintenance- Routine maintenance of the site and sign

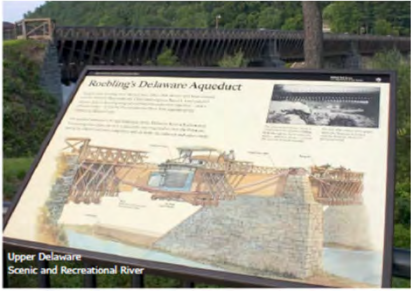
When not to use interpretive signage:

- Intrusion on the landscape – Waysides impact the landscape. In natural areas they are an artificial intrusion. In historic areas they are a modern intrusion.
- Sensitive sites – sensitive natural areas bring attention that may cause more harm than good
- Complex stories – Do not tell complex or dynamic stories well. Multiple geological events, activities that cover vast expanses of terrain well beyond view, and complex human interactions may be addressed better with other media.

Basically what these do is “Caption the landscape”

- 30-45 seconds max for visitors
- Compelling graphics-the main image should tell a story

- Direction of view – the low angle and position should channel visitor’s attention in a specific direction.
- Not too many in one place...if several you may want to make them complementary



Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River

Engineering History



Human History/Historic Events



Flora/Fauna



- Illustrations and diagrams are ok, cross sections
- Quotations are acceptable

## Other Interpretive Signage Examples



### Upright

What sets uprights apart from low-profile waysides is that they do not direct a visitor's attention to a specific landscape feature within view. They introduce a trail or an area suitable for a day-hike. They are placed at a pedestrian's decision point and provide orientation, safety, and site significance. They are part of a wayfinding system that may include signs, brochures, and other media.

Like low-profile waysides, orientation waysides are a graphic medium that must attract the pedestrian en route. They should answer the natural questions related to a safe, comfortable, and meaningful experience. They should help visitors decide whether to invest the time and energy required to reach the destination described. The balance between orientation and interpretation depends on the nature and complexity of the site or trail.

**Upright** exhibits typically inform visitors about an area or a trail (e.g. orients the viewer as to where they are, and where they can go).

### **Opportunity**

- Orienting viewers to Brattleboro (downtown sites, Railroad station, Whetstone Pathway, parking, etc.) and Wantastiquet (trails).
- These could be incorporated into a walking loop.

### **Location Opportunities**

- Ends of the new bridge
- Ends of the old bridges
- Along the old bridges

**Historic Markers** inform visitors significant places, persons, or events. New Hampshire and Vermont both have programs to request signs.

### **Opportunity**

- Views of historic bridges
- Views of historic island

Significant opportunity to identify historic aspects and around the old bridge such as;

- Old toll location
- Covered bridge
- Steel bridge falls into the river
- Historic events and usage

## Context Locations





Pier 6, Location 3, View 1



Pier 6 @ 59' AGL  
~ 42.8502102, -072.5504160

Pier 6, Location 3, View 2



Pier 6 @ 59' AGL  
~ 42.8502102, -072.5504160

Pier 6, Location 3, View 3



Pier 6 @ 59' AGL  
~ 42.8502102, -072.5504160

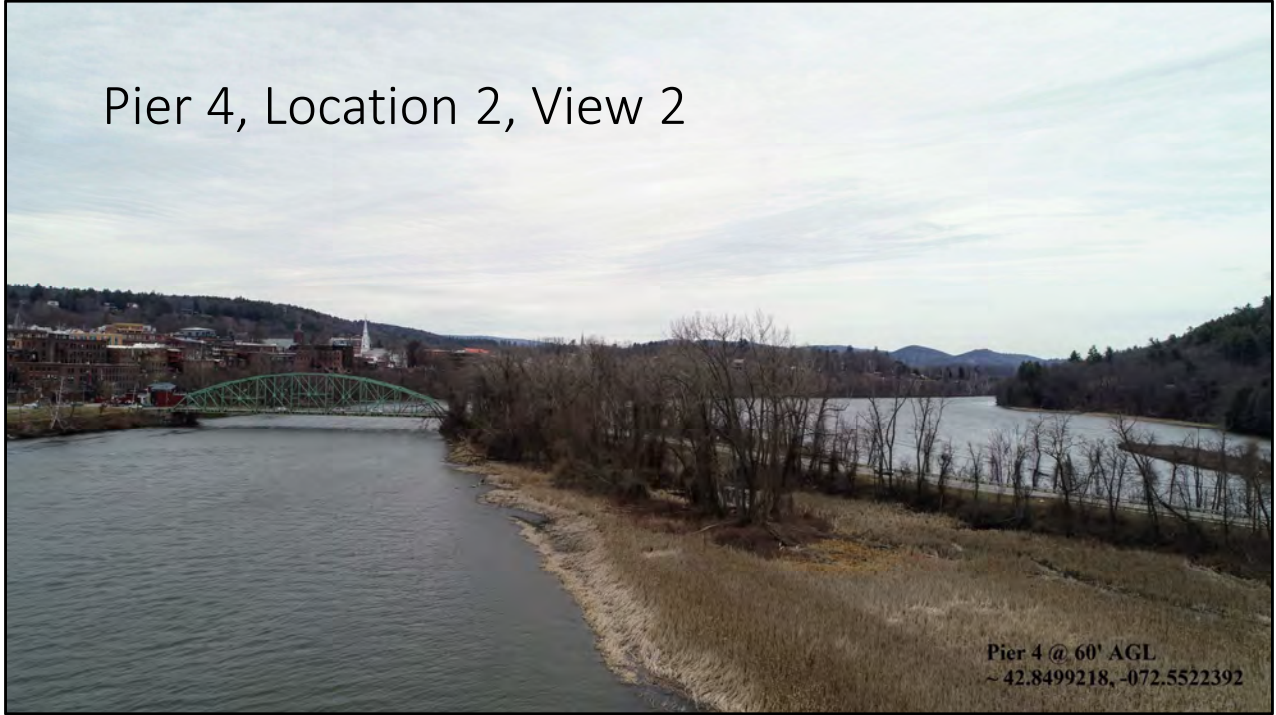
## Context Locations



# Pier 4, Location 2, View 1



# Pier 4, Location 2, View 2



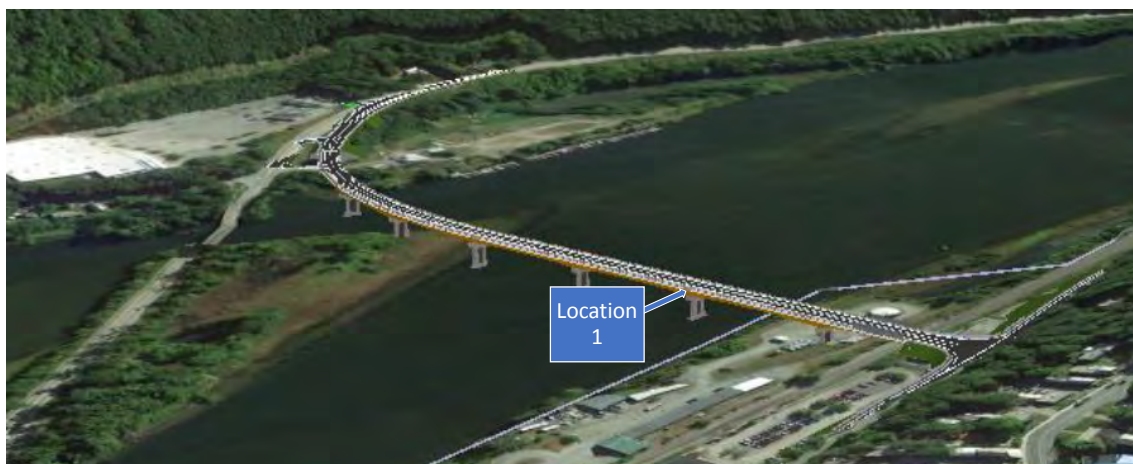
Pier 4 @ 60' AGL  
~ 42.8499218, -072.5522392

Pier 4, Location 2, View 3



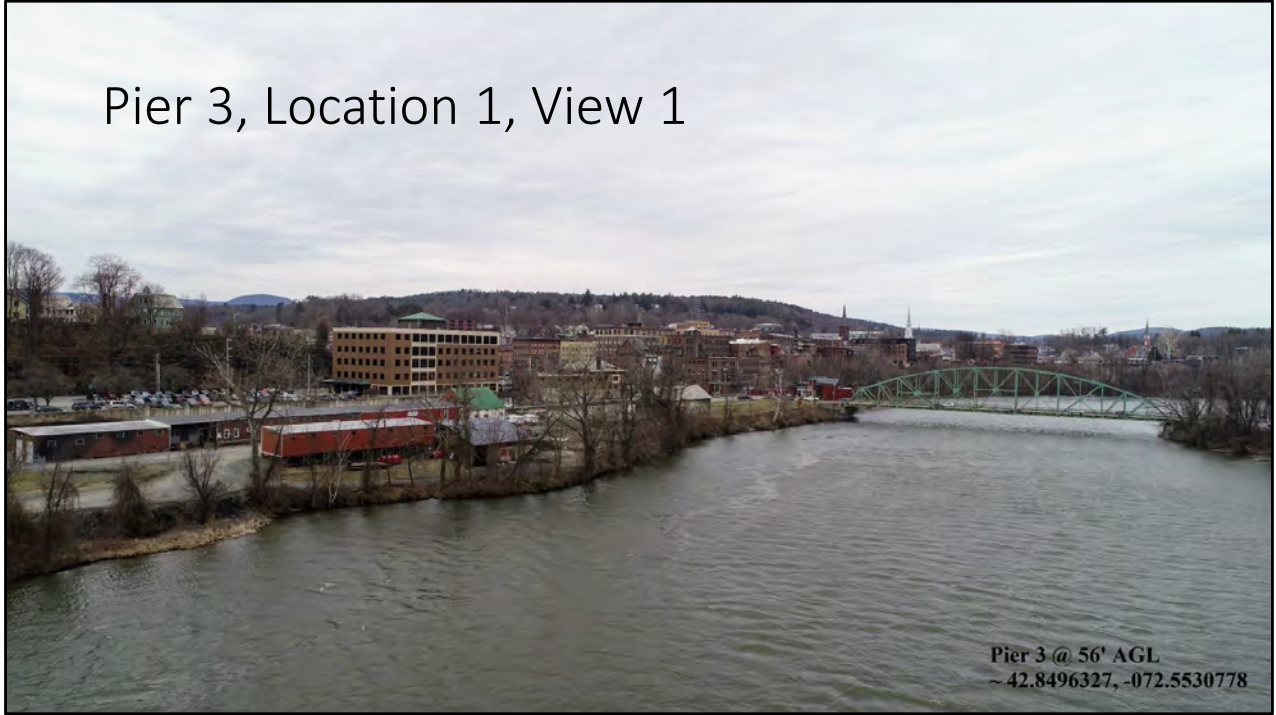
Pier 4 @ 60' AGL  
~ 42.8499218, -072.5522392

## Context Locations



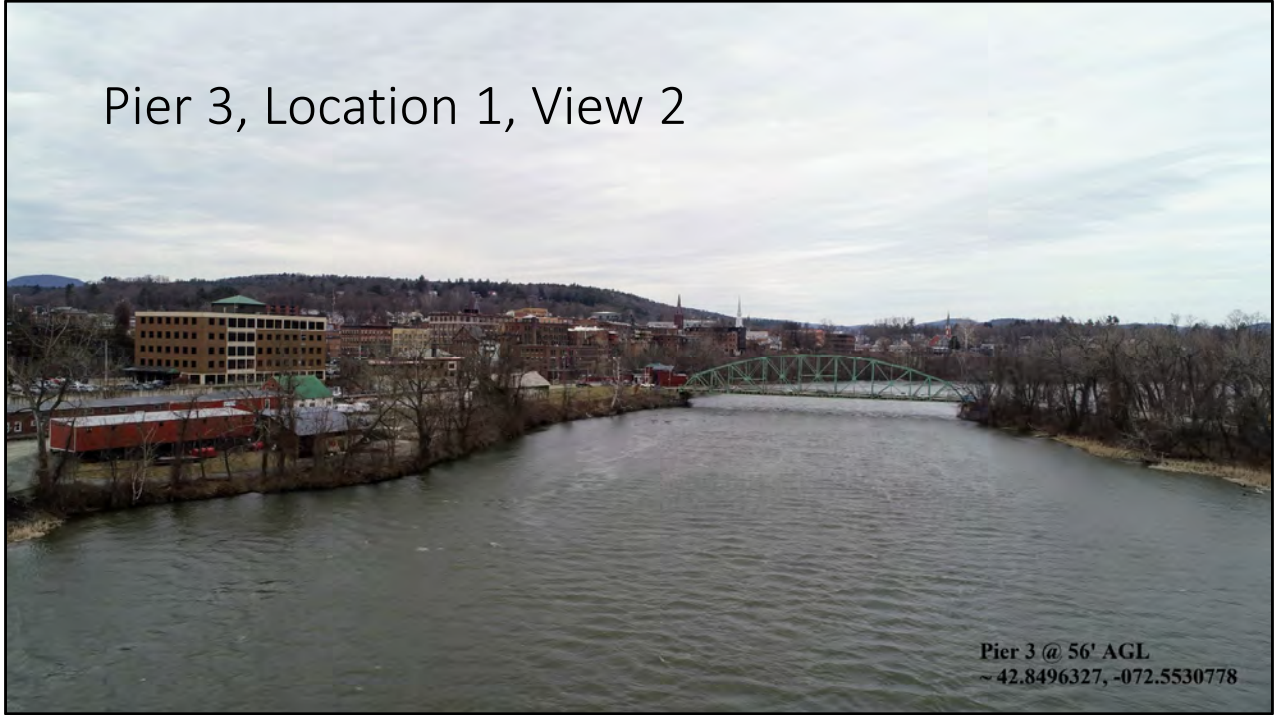


# Pier 3, Location 1, View 1



Pier 3 @ 56' AGL  
~ 42.8496327, -072.5530778

Pier 3, Location 1, View 2



Pier 3 @ 56' AGL  
~ 42.8496327, -072.5530778

Pier 3, Location 1, View 3

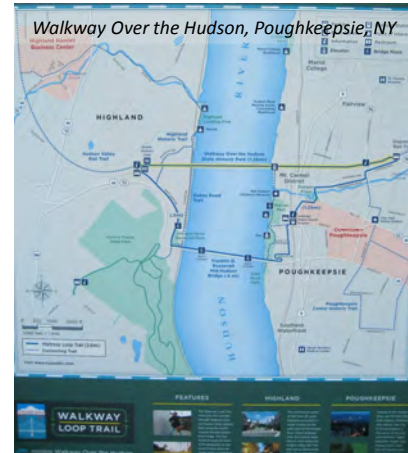
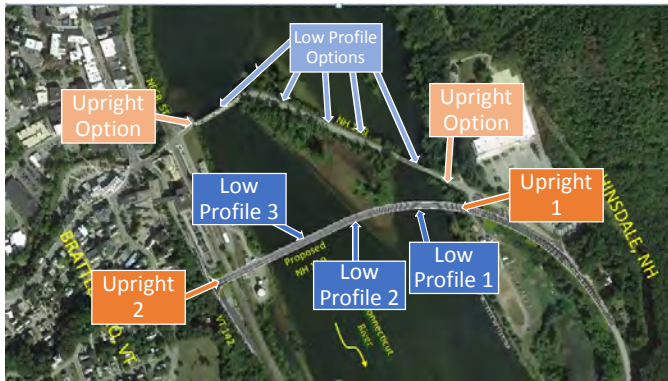


Pier 3 @ 56' AGL  
~ 42.8496327, -072.5530778

## Possible Exhibit Themes

- Historic use of Connecticut River (logging, transportation, fishing)
- Geology/Natural History
- History of Brattleboro settlement (colonial or post colonial period)
- Abenaki living on river or uses of river in the area
- History of Hinsdale Island
- Landscape Orientation
- How the Vernon Dam changed the river
- The great ice floes

# Downtown Loop Trail?



Downtown loop opportunity connects new bridge to area history and old bridges.

