

Chicago River South Branch Amtrak



JUNE 18, 2019

South Branch Chicago River Context

SUBJECT PROPERTY AERIAL



New Amtrak seawall

Related 78 Development site



Amtrak proposed seawall reconstruction

- IDNR Public Notice
- Amtrak proposed seawall reconstruction of half-mile long length of river
- 7ft uniform height steel wall

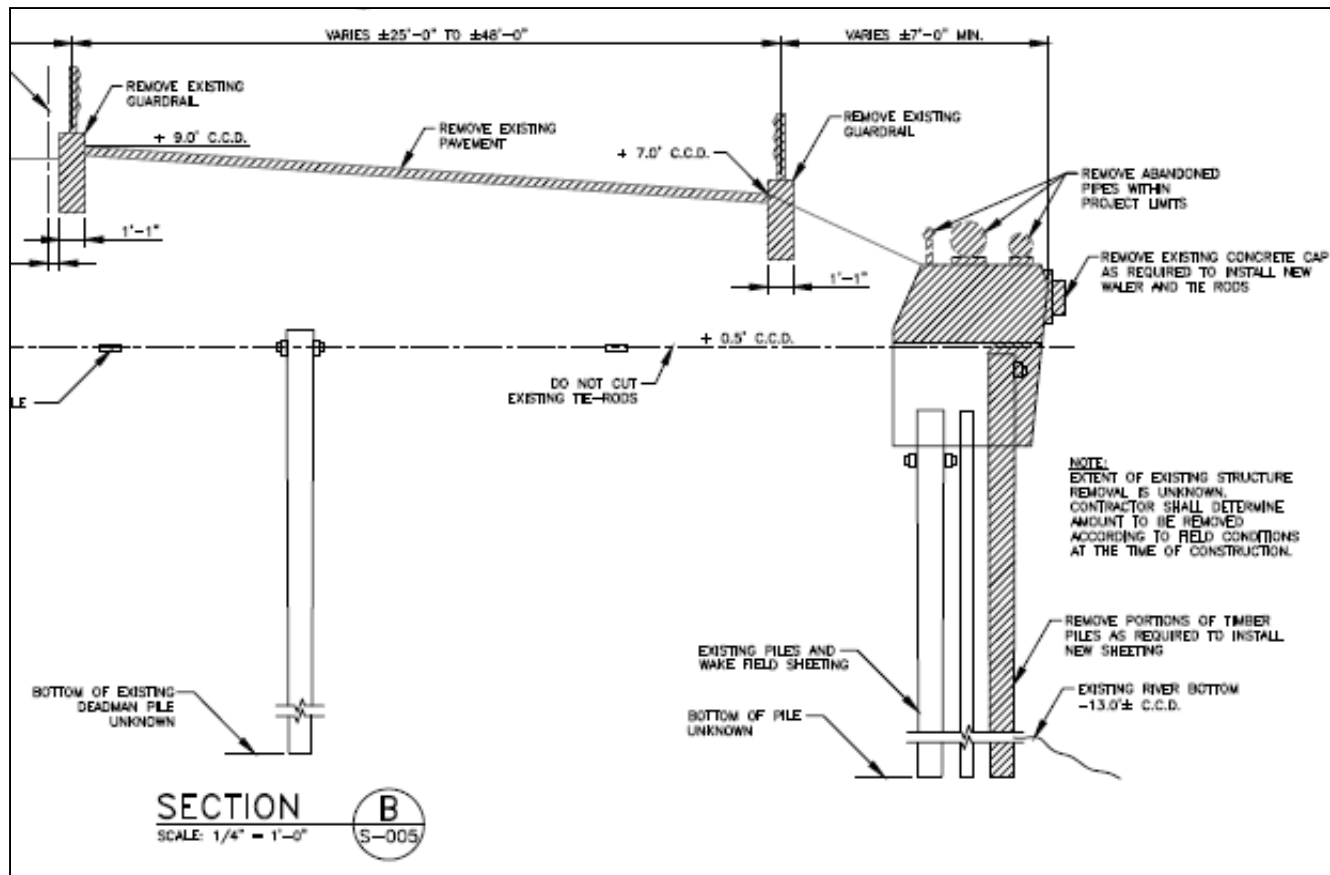
Required approvals:

- Army Corps Regional permit
- IDNR Water Resources permit
- CDOT Harbor permit



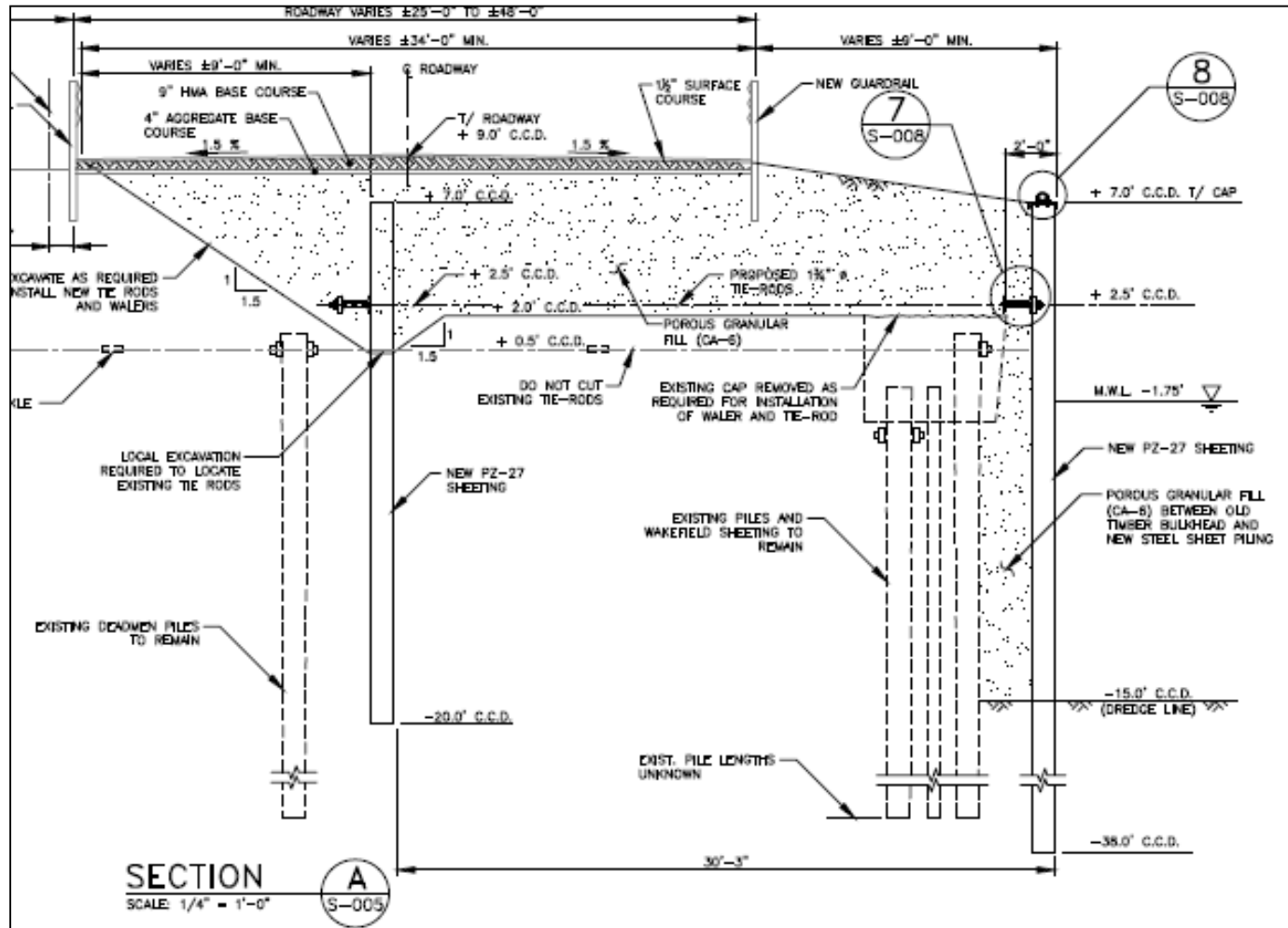
Amtrak permit - existing condition

- Remove existing roadway pavement and abandoned pipes
- Concrete seawall cap on top of timber piles
- 7' setback from seawall to road

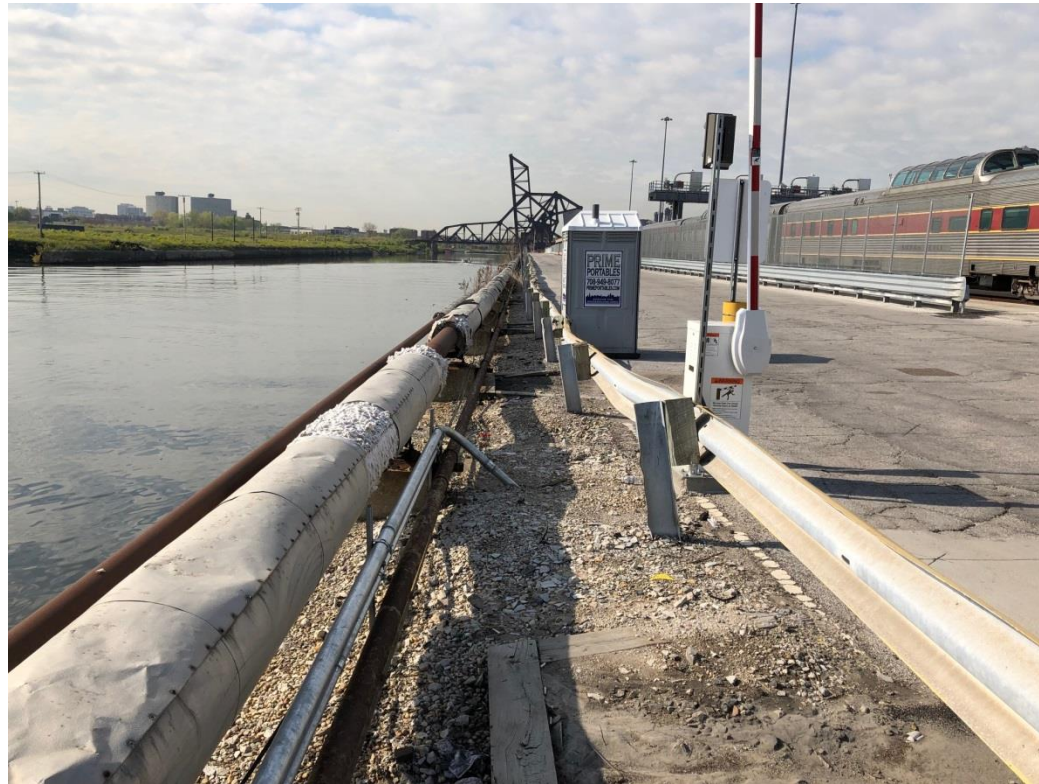


Amtrak permit - proposed improvements

- Regrade roadway at 9' CCD
- 9ft setback from seawall to road (gravel fill)
- Seawall at 7' CCD



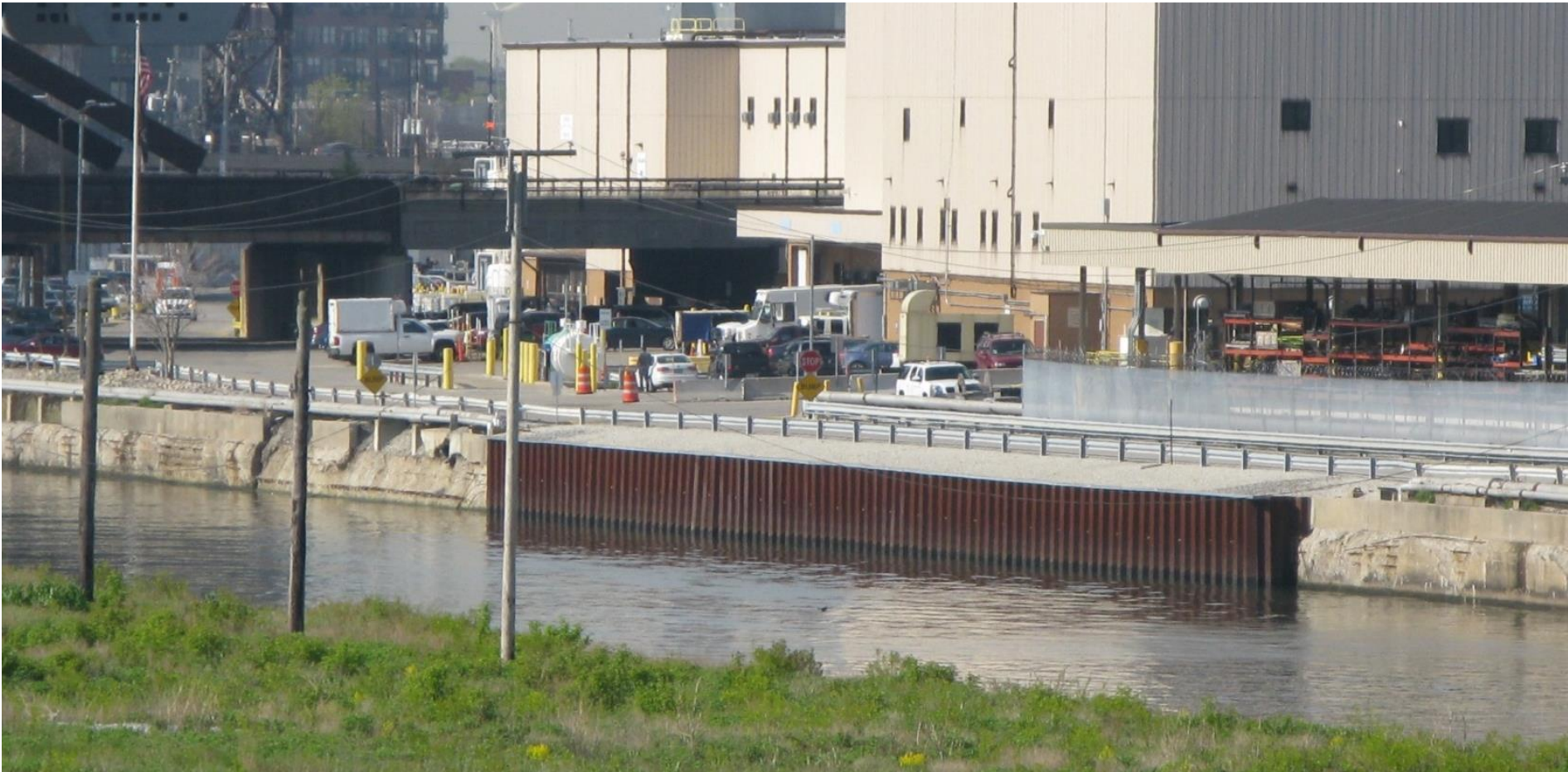
View of existing conditions



View of existing concrete seawall and roadway



View of constructed portion of seawall



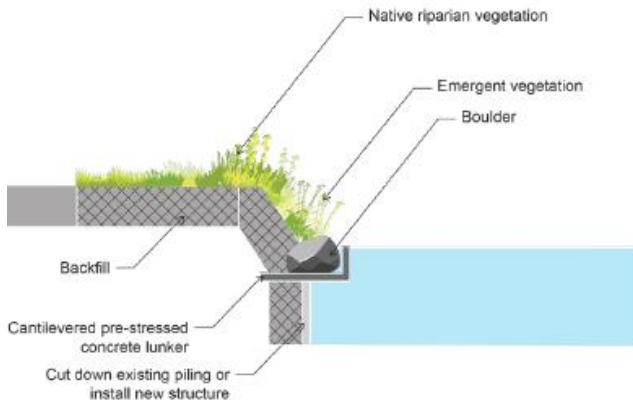
Chicago River Design Guidelines Recommendations

Consider implementing techniques outlined in the recently updated Chicago River Design Guidelines that emphasize improving the ecology and health of the river

Recommendations:

#1: Allow for wetland or habitat shelves to be attached to the seawall

#2: Incorporate green infrastructure within the 9ft setback to improve stormwater management next to the river and provide a landscaped buffer



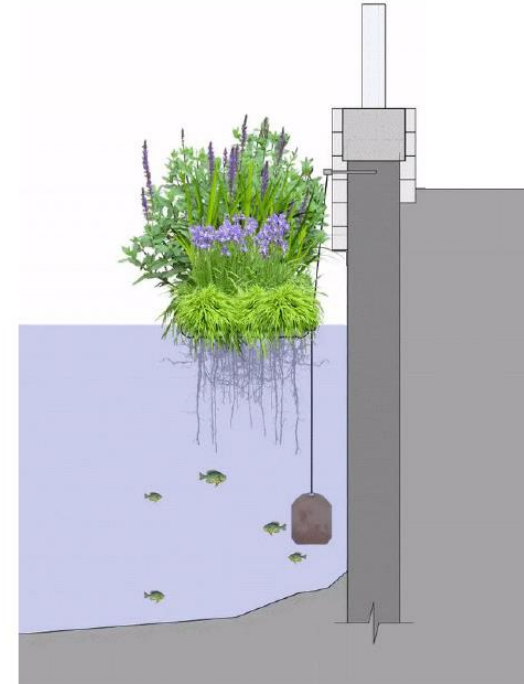
Amtrak Response



Approx 6ft - 9ft space between new seawall and edge of road pavement to incorporate landscaping

- 24" soil depth – can support taller prairie plants and trees
- Less watering – easier maintenance
- Need to consider salt tolerance because next to roadway

Example of Floating habitat in front of Waste Management



Amtrak Chicago Yards

River Bulkhead Wall - Vegetated Edge

vertical wall



**storm water
management edge**



floating habitat



**textured habitat
fixed to wall**



**shallow water
habitat**

eroded shoreline



**rocky habitat
installation**



**terraced
habitat**



**shallow water
habitat**

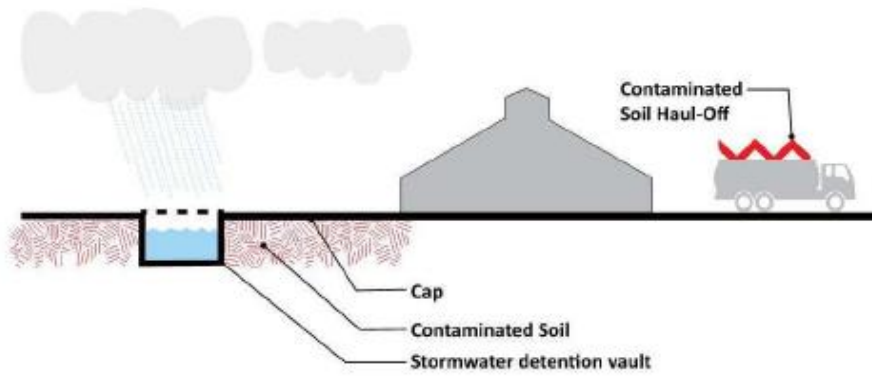


Amtrak Chicago Yards, River Bulkhead Wall – Vegetated Edge
June 18, 2019

MORTON SALT PRECEDENT

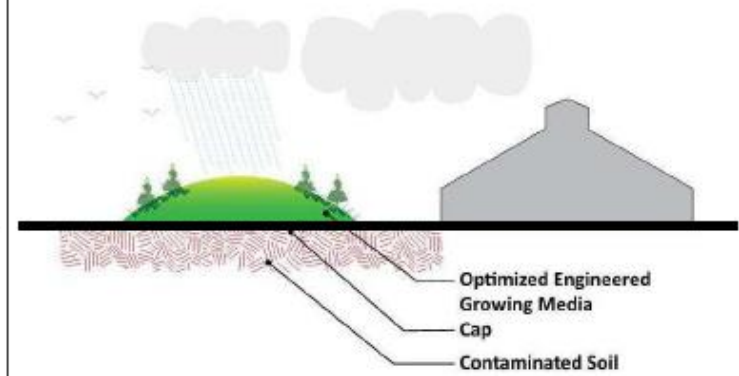
OMNI WORKSHOP

Grey

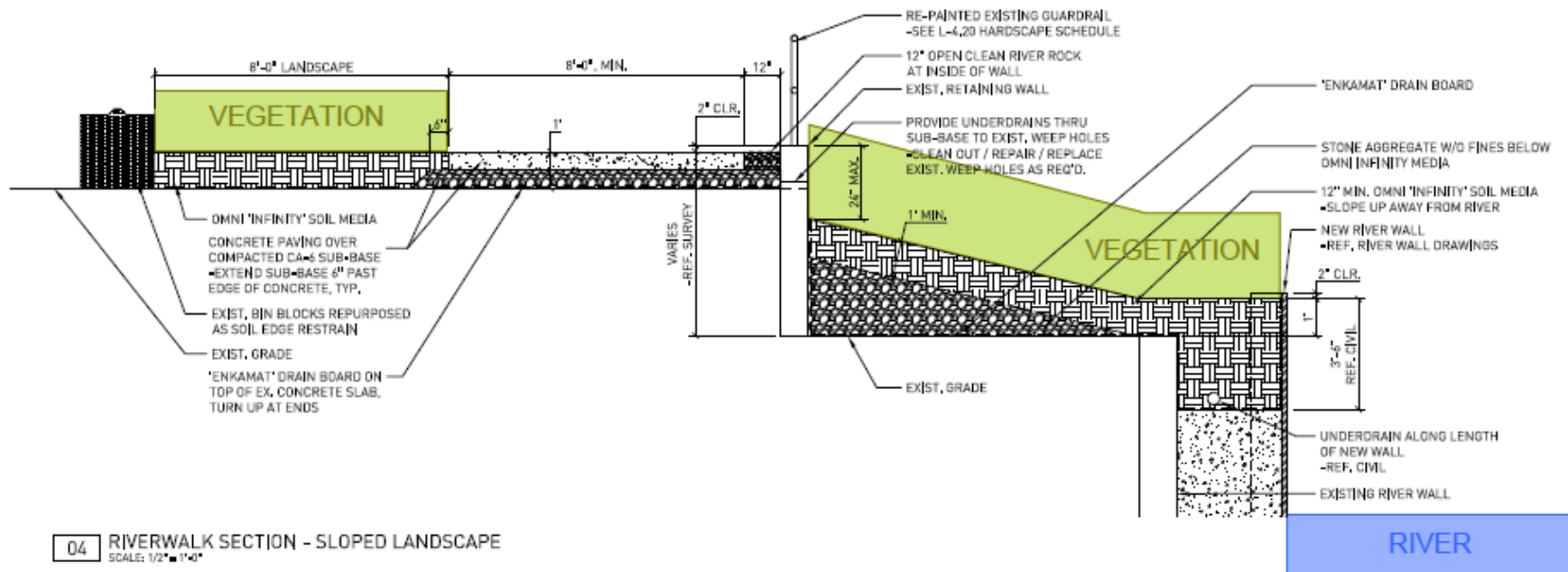


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Green



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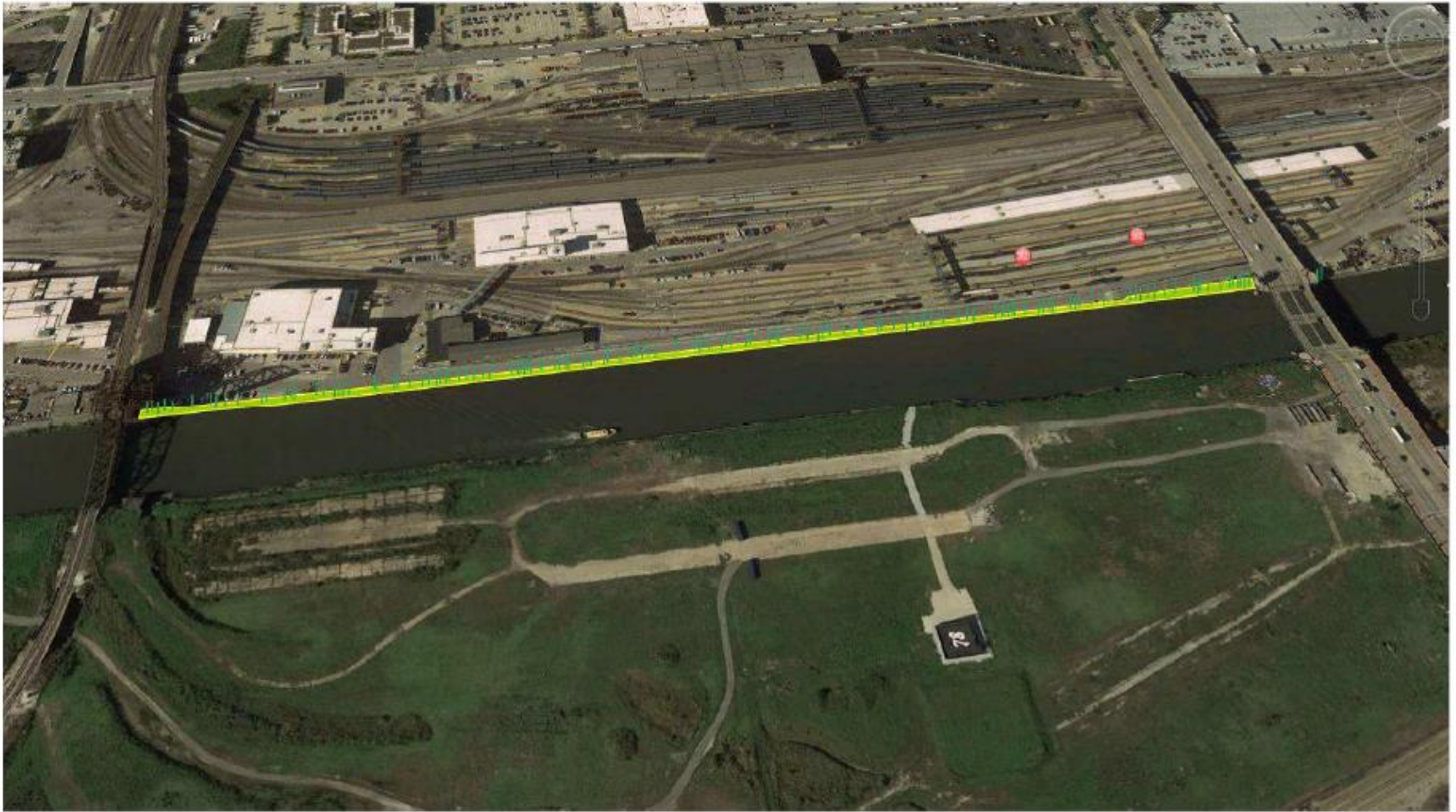




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MORTON SALT PRECEDENT

OMNI WORKSHOP



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EXTENT OF PROPOSED VEGETATED EDGE

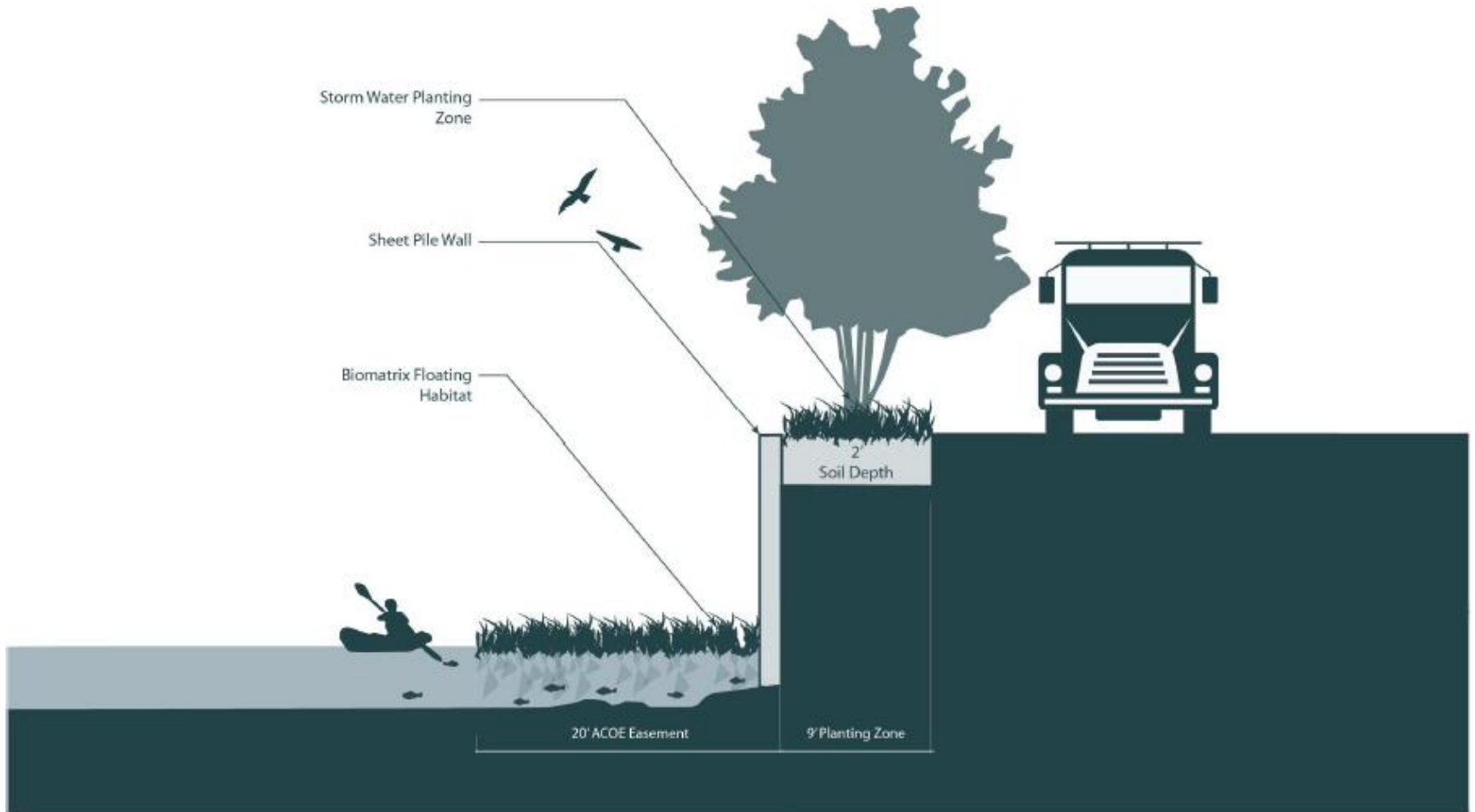
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Amtrak Chicago Yards, River Bulkhead Wall – Vegetated Edge
June 18, 2019

PROPOSED 9' VEGETATED EDGE
AT TOP OF WALL

OMNI WORKSHOP



**River Ecology and Governance
Science & Design Working Group
Public Health Scoping Pathways**



Natural Environments and Public Health

- Conserving and enhancing natural environments can have broad impacts on health and well-being
- Understanding those impacts during the planning stages of a project can guide decision-making to mitigate negative impacts or amplify positive ones
- Other cities around the country have incorporated public health into their waterfront planning (i.e. Minneapolis, MN; Rochester, NY; Seattle, WA)

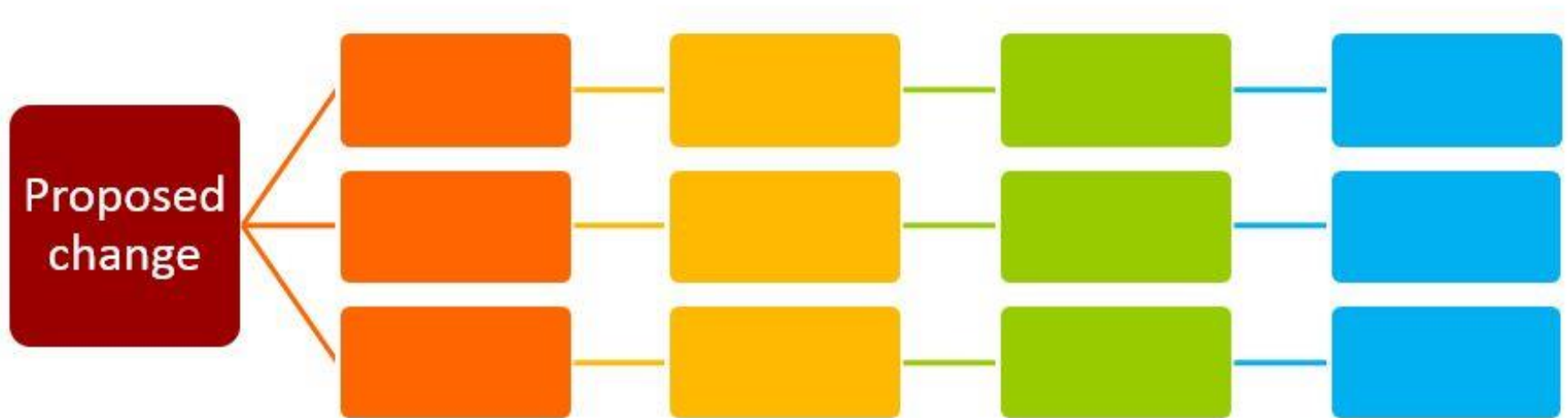
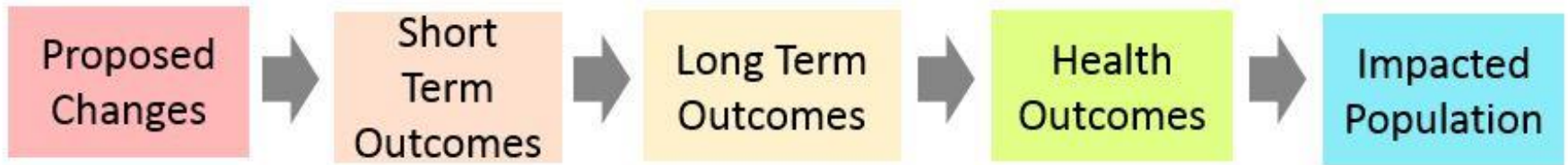
What is a scoping pathway?

- Scoping pathways are a process for considering the impacts of a decision to answer the following questions:
 - What is the proposed change?
 - What are the short/long term outcomes?
 - Are the outcomes direct or indirect?
 - What are the health outcomes?
 - Who is impacted?

Remember:

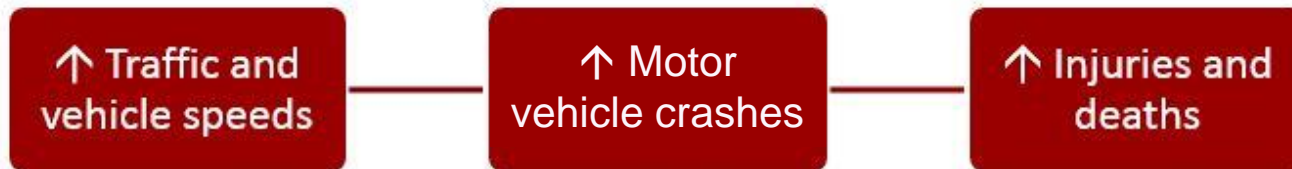
- Impacts can be positive or negative
- We don't need to have all of the answers about direction or magnitude of change

Scoping Pathway Framework



Scoping Pathway Examples

➤ Pathways can be direct:



➤ Or indirect:



➤ and can be fairly complicated...

Scoping Pathways Brainstorming Activity

- Large Group: What are some proposed changes for the riverfront as part of this project? (5 mins)
- Small group: Each group will be assigned a proposed change and will create pathway diagrams using flip chart paper and post-its (10 mins)
 - Short term outcomes
 - Long term outcomes
 - Health Impacts
 - Most impacted populations
- Report back (10 mins)