

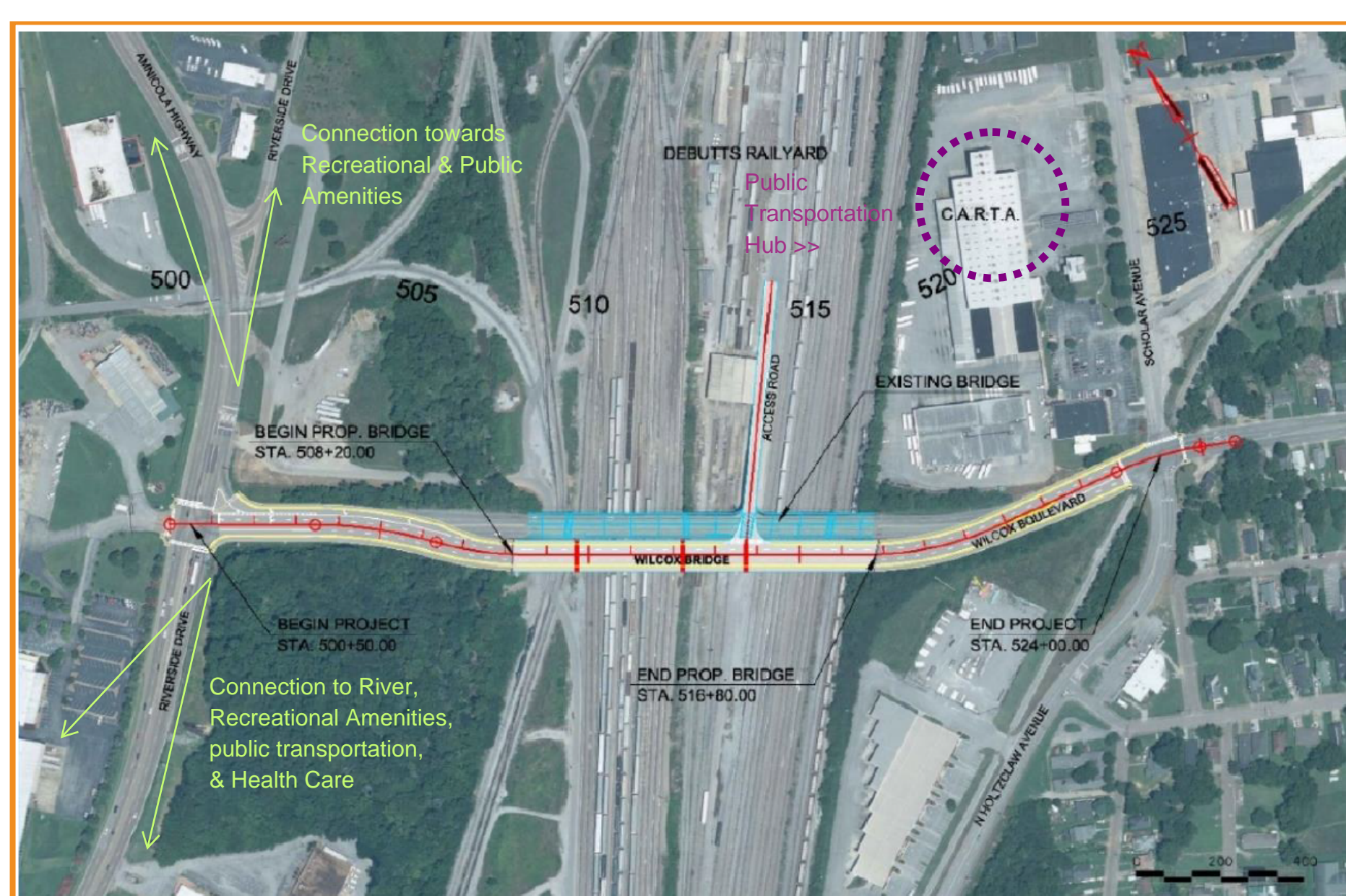
Chattanooga

Wilcox Boulevard Bridge

» The Wilcox Boulevard Bridge - River to Ridge Mobility Project

The multi-modal success story, a bridge to equitable access and community partnerships. The Wilcox Boulevard Bridge project is in the River to Ridge area of East Chattanooga - a historically Black community with a rich history. This area was one of the first incorporated African-American cities in the nation and this access continues that legacy. This project represents the restoration of a vital connection point for the residents of East Chattanooga showcasing a historic & unprecedented series of partnerships between the State of Tennessee, City of Chattanooga, railroad networks and various community entities & labor unions.

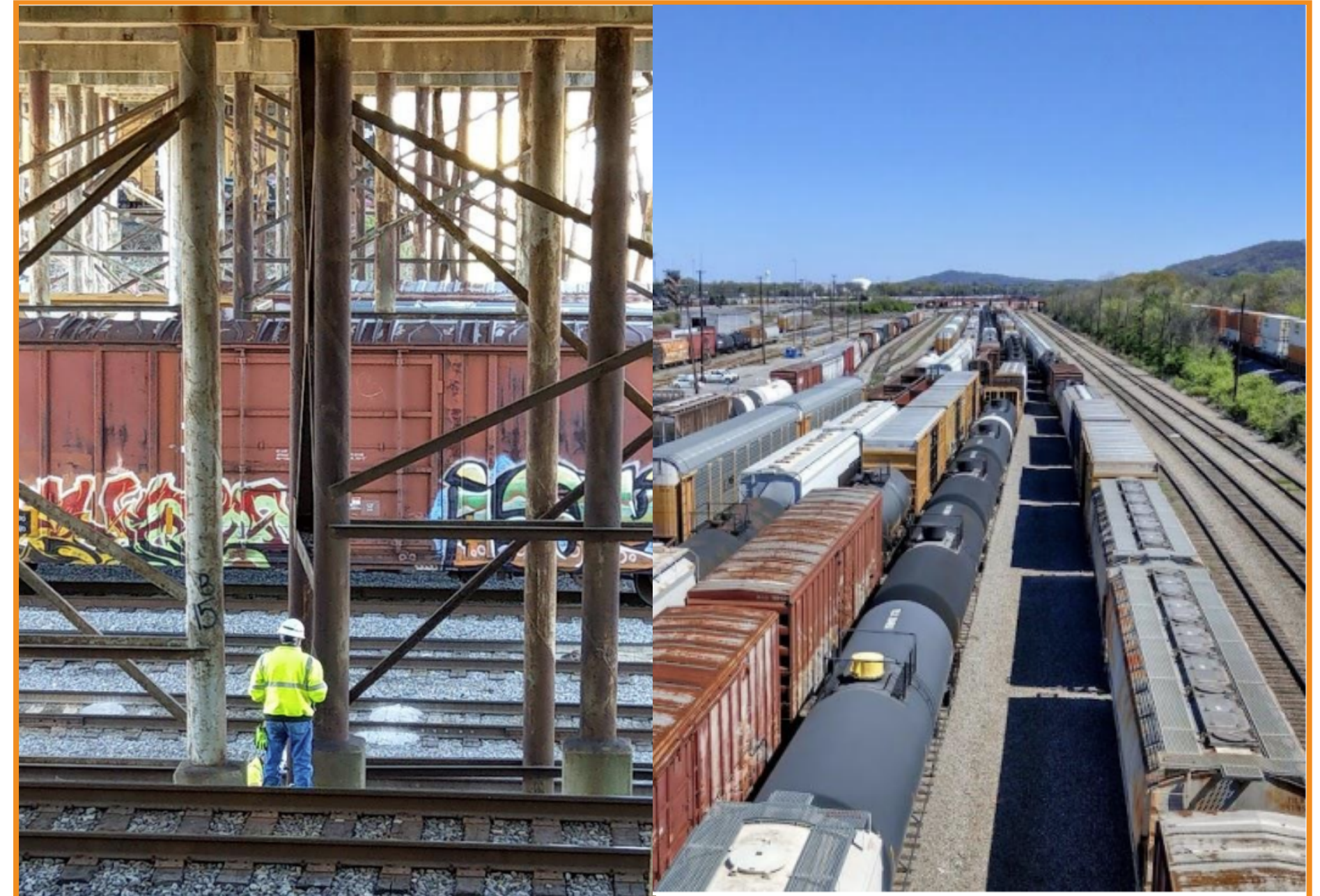
When completed, this project will expand equitable access to jobs, parks and trails, essential services and improve mobility that will help to continue the transformation of under-served communities in the River to Ridge area.



Source : Alfred Benesch & Company

This project is located in the River to Ridge area of Chattanooga. Seven of the eight census tracts in this area are Historically Disadvantaged Communities and are also Areas of Persistent Poverty. In 1954 the construction of the DeButts Rail Yard created a large north-south divide between eastern and western neighborhoods in Chattanooga particularly in the River to Ridge area. There are few direct east-west road connections that cross this divide. These neighborhoods also struggle with man-made and natural barriers surrounding this area that impact their mobility. To the east is Missionary Ridge with its steep topography, north is South Chickamauga Creek, with one bridge crossing east of the DeButts rail yard, the Tennessee River and the Norfolk Southern (NS) Railroad complex constrain travel to the west, and I-24 is the southern boundary of this area. These physical constraints and the lack of connections across the rail yard limit efficient east-west travel for River to Ridge neighborhoods.

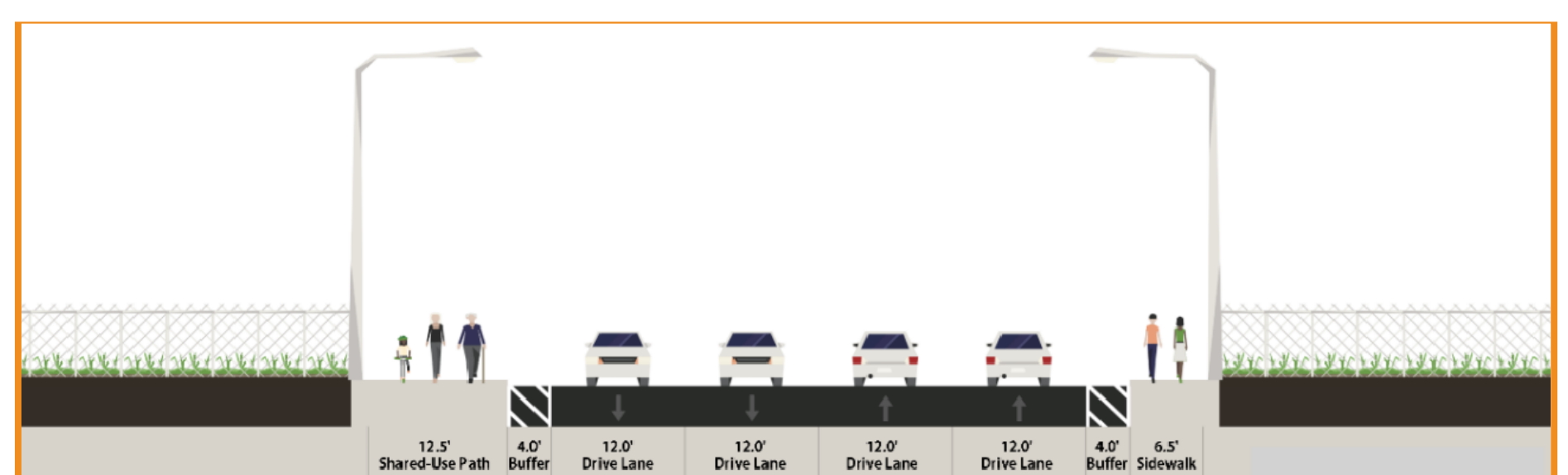
View of Bridge from DeButts Rail yard



Source : Katie Snyder, City of Chattanooga Transportation Engineer



Source : Alfred Benesch & Company



Source : Alfred Benesch & Company



Source : CDOT Public Works

Through the RAISE Grant, the future of the East Chattanooga community and is a neighborhood associated for opportunity. Private & non-profit developers are investing in new mixed-income housing and affordable homeownership opportunities within the city. The Wilcox Boulevard Bridge - River to Ridge Mobility Project will replace the Wilcox Bridge with a new ADA compliant bridge that includes a 6.5' pedestrian walkway, a 12.5' multi-use path, 4-foot buffer between vehicles and walkers/bikers and two 12-foot lanes in each direction. The project will maintain freight movements in the Railyard below and limited vehicular traffic on two-lanes of the existing bridge during construction. The Bridge and Mobility Project will improve transportation connections for the 17 urban neighborhoods in the River to Ridge Area providing multi-modal access to quality jobs, competitive services, and parks and natural areas.