

Downtown Tunnel Project

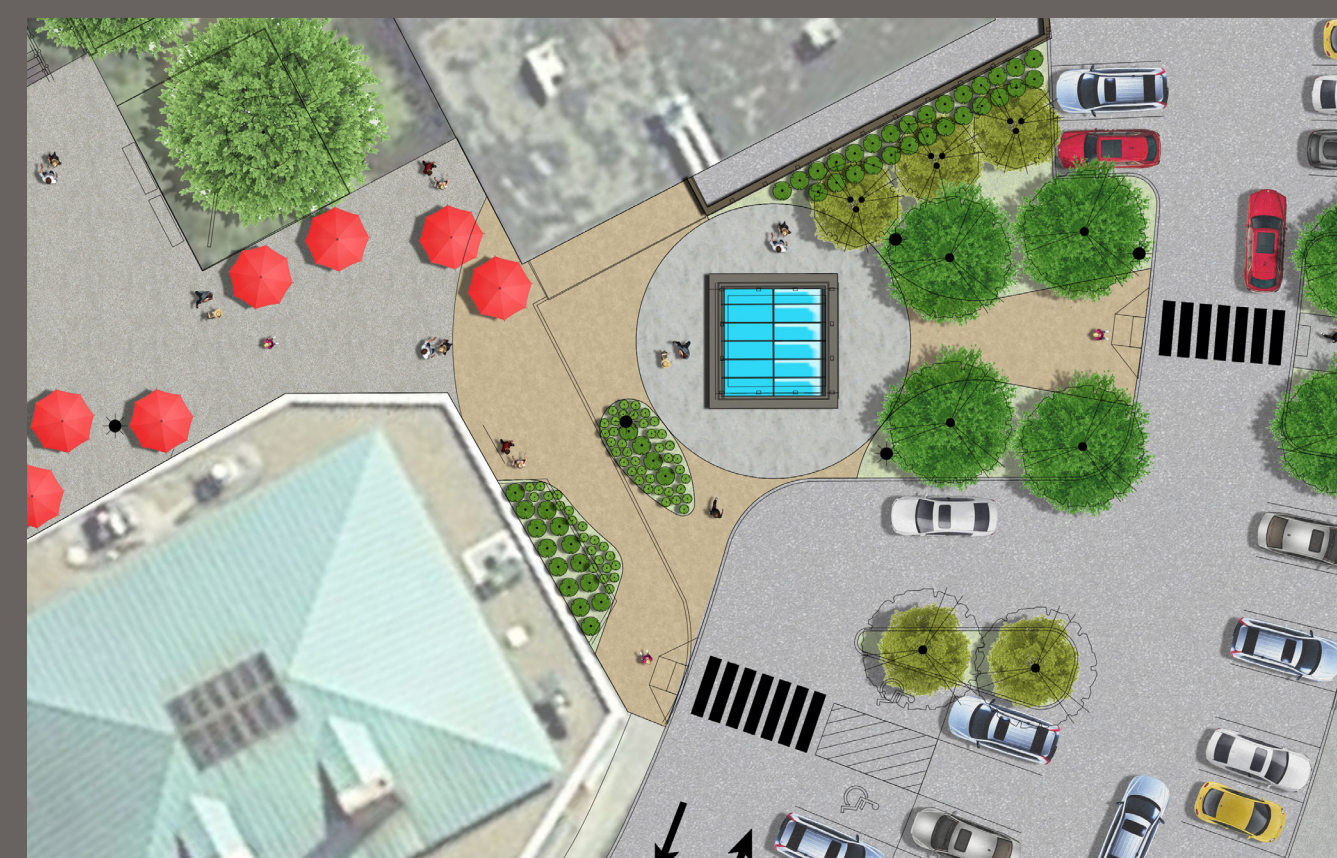
LEBANON, NEW HAMPSHIRE

VHB worked closely with the City to rehabilitate its downtown former railway tunnel. Several alternatives were assessed based on cost, functionality, safety, future maintenance, and compatibility with visioning concepts. Ultimately, consensus was to advance the project using a deck replacement with a weathertight translucent enclosure near the middle of the plaza and tunnel to create a focal point for the concourse and allow for natural lighting inside the tunnel.

The rehabilitated tunnel will also serve as a link connecting the Mascoma River Greenway and Northern Rail Trail and restore vehicular access over the tunnel. This complex project required balancing multiple disciplines and several factors including addressing safety concerns from the tunnel's structural deficiency, reconnecting the two rail trails through

the tunnel and the upper and lower parking lots over the tunnel, enhancing public safety inside the tunnel through lighting and a new CCTV system, all while navigating a tight schedule in order to meet the City's needs in a timely manner.

The project also involved an extensive public outreach using visualizations to help drive consensus. The outcome was a creative design solution that met project goals and aligned with the visioning study. The project is currently in construction and expected to be completed in summer 2021. Once complete, the tunnel and plaza improvements will contribute towards a vibrant and safer downtown area that will benefit the community through enhanced bicycle/pedestrian mobility and increased user experience, as well as support quality of life and economic vitality for the City of Lebanon.



Tunnel Plaza Concept Plan



Phase I Demolition



East Tunnel Entrance Visualization



Visualization Inside Tunnel, Near Enclosure



Perspective View of West Plaza Concourse

CLIENT



City of Lebanon, NH

SUBMITTED BY



Bedford, NH

