

## Final Recommendations and Project Priority

The following recommendations are based on the detailed analysis outlined in this Report and other supporting documents. They are also based on travel-related characteristics in the BHJ region, discussions with various groups and individuals, and public input.

The following issues are relevant to the final decisions made by the BAC, the BHJ Technical Advisory Committee, and the BHJ Transportation Policy Board:

1. It is assumed that the Fort Steuben and Market Street Bridges will not be in service for the planning year 2025.
2. The construction of a new bridge in the 18-mile corridor between the Fort Steuben Bridge and the Ohio County line is BHJ's #1 regional transportation priority. This was established in the Regional Transportation Plan.
3. The formal system Study review and consideration of regional needs has been under consideration since 1999.
4. The thirty-one (31) member Bridge Advisory Committee had oversight for the preparation and completion of this study.
5. The seventy-two (72) member BHJ Transportation Policy Board is the federally-recognized adoption board for this transportation recommendation and priority.
6. Region-wide consensus for the final recommendations and priority is essential. Without BHJ Transportation Policy Board adoption and public consensus, it will be difficult to leverage federal, state and local funds for this high cost transportation system investment.

The BAC thoroughly reviewed the findings and conclusions of the BHJ staff and the Consultant Team. Based on a roll call vote at its final meeting, the BAC forwarded a recommendation for approval of the projects described below. The Transportation Policy Board received the recommendation, and then adopted the proposed improvements.

It should be noted that the first project priority in this Regional Bridge System Study recognizes the critical need to provide specific roadway improvements in the vicinity of the Fort Steuben Bridge. Those improvements are required in order to mitigate the effect of the anticipated closing of the Fort Steuben Bridge.

## First Priority

### Construct roadway and intersection capacity improvements

- Realign and improve Freedom Way/Birch Intersection.
- Improve alignment and widen the intersection of Freedom Way/WV 2 and related West Virginia approaches.
- Improvement of Freedom Way including upgrade and/or widening of the existing three lanes.
- Improve and widen University/SR 7 intersection and related Ohio approaches.
- Provide safety improvements on Veterans Memorial Bridge ramps in Ohio.

## Second Priority

### Construct a new Ohio River Bridge, south of Wellsburg

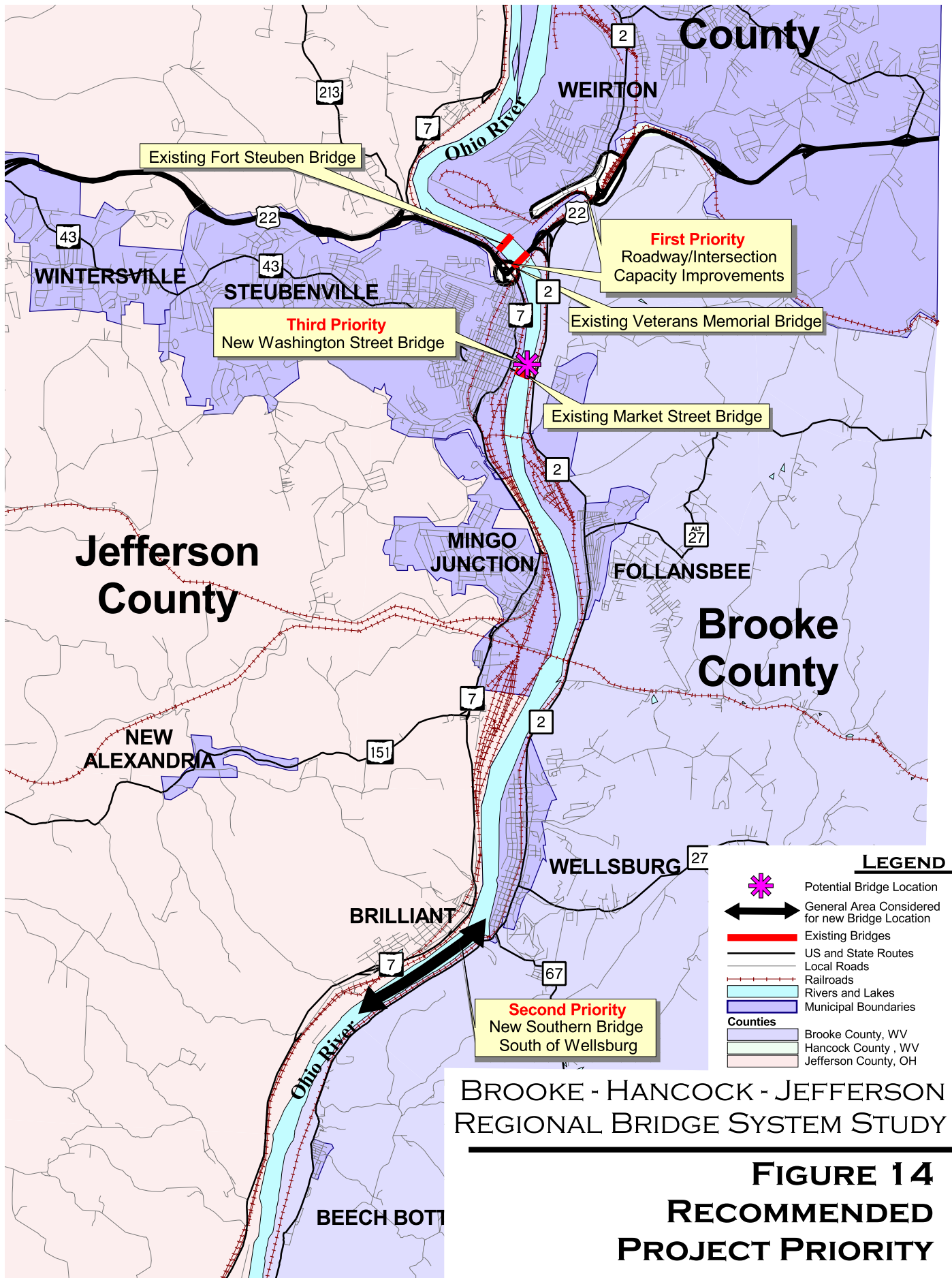
- Prepare engineering and environmental studies to establish a specific location for the new Bridge and configuration of roadway connections to WV 2 and SR 7.

## Third Priority

### Construct a new Ohio River Bridge to connect WV 2 with Steubenville at Washington Street

- Prepare engineering and environmental studies to establish a specific alignment location and impact on WV 2, SR 7, and the existing street system in the Steubenville Central Business District.

The recommended projects are shown in Figure 14.



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REGIONAL BRIDGE SYSTEM STUDY**

**FIGURE 14  
RECOMMENDED  
PROJECT PRIORITY**

