# Upper River Des Peres & River Des Peres Tributaries Storage Tunnel (MSD 12441)

## Richmond Heights Council District 1 Meeting
## November 7, 2026

# Team Introduction

| Name | Role |
|---|---|
| Patricia Pride | MSD: Design Project Manager |
| Bess McCoy | MSD: Manager of Public Affairs |
| Nicholle Spencer | MSD:  Public Affairs Specialist |
| Jeff Kokal | Jacobs: Design Project Manager |
| Beth Quindry | Shockey: Design Public Affairs Specialist |

# Agenda

**11/07/2026**

- **Where We Are Today**
- **Tunnel Program Overview**
- **Bennett Avenue Plans**
- **Addressing Your Questions**

**Thank you for the questions you sent after reading our Bennett Avenue Q&A.**
They shaped today's agenda, and we're here to listen.




*Hampton Park overflow (L-137), addressed by work at Bennett*

# Where We Are Today

WE ARE HERE ▼

| Pre-Design | 30% Design | 60% Design | 95% Design | Final Design | Construction |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Dec 2024 | Sept 2025 | June 2026 | Summer 2027* | Winter 2027-28* | Begins 2030* |

**Anticipated; schedule subject to refinement*

**Property Acquisition: 2025–2030** (underway now at Bennett)

## Earlier than usual

MSD usually meets with neighbors after 90% design, when construction details are known. At 60% design, we're meeting with you earlier than we typically would.

## Why now?

Property acquisition is underway. A needed property on Bennett Avenue came up for sale earlier this year. We wanted you to hear about the project directly from us.

## What we don't know yet

Details such as exact construction dates, truck routes, and work hours will be set later in design and by the construction contractor. We'll share them as they're decided.

TUNNEL PROGRAM (ALL SITES)

# How Bennett Fits Into Tunnel Work

## THE TUNNEL PROGRAM

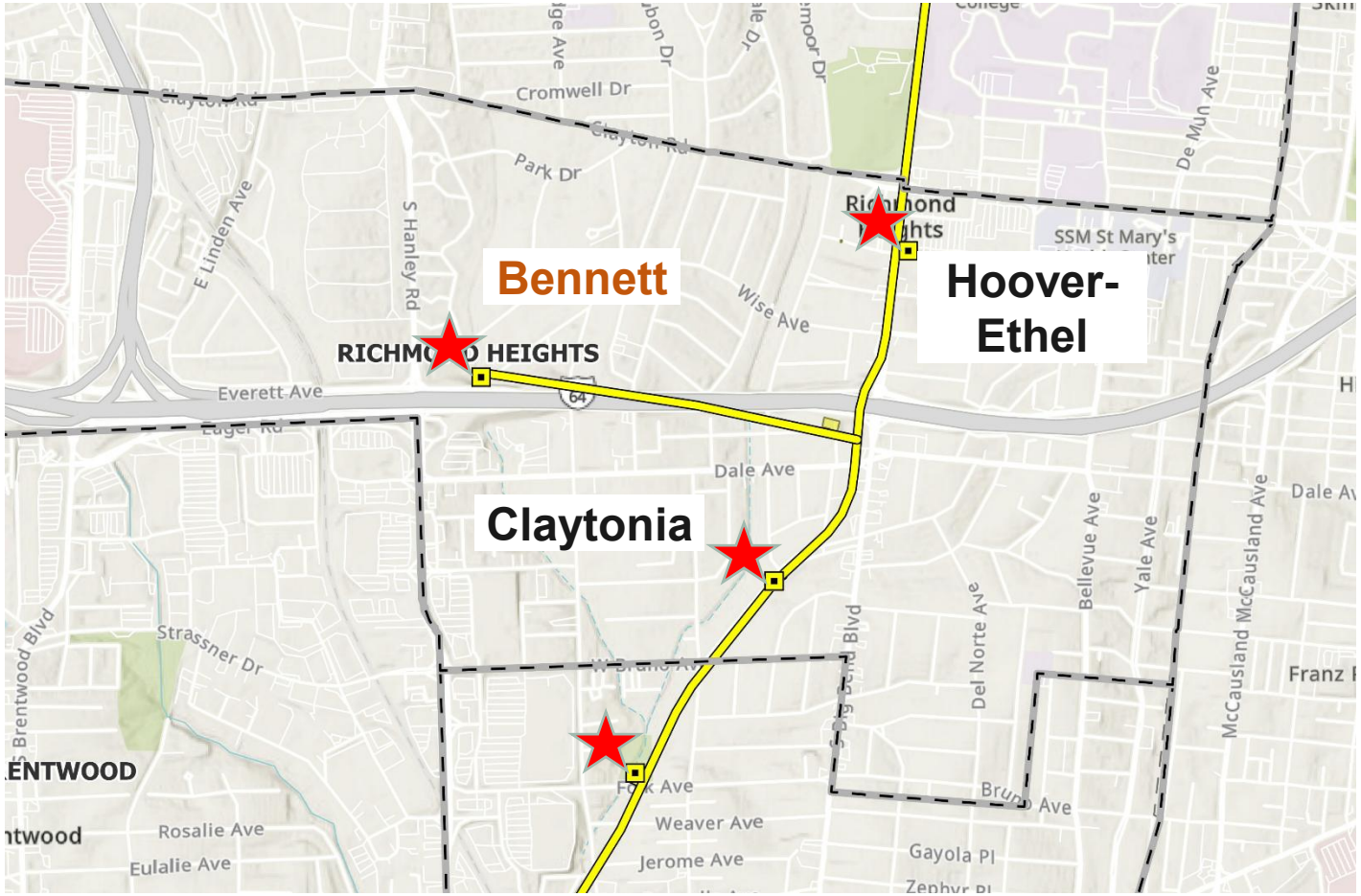
A 6-mile storage tunnel deep underground, with 16 intake sites across multiple communities

## RICHMOND HEIGHTS

3 tunnel intake sites: Claytonia Terrace (2 CSOs), **Bennett (6 CSOs),** and Hoover-Ethel (1 CSO)

## BENNETT AVENUE

Captures 6 existing sewer overflows (CSOs) along Hampton Branch, the most of any intake site in Richmond Heights.




*CSO = combined sewer overflow, a permitted location where sewage and stormwater overflow to a creek in heavy rain*

# Program Goals

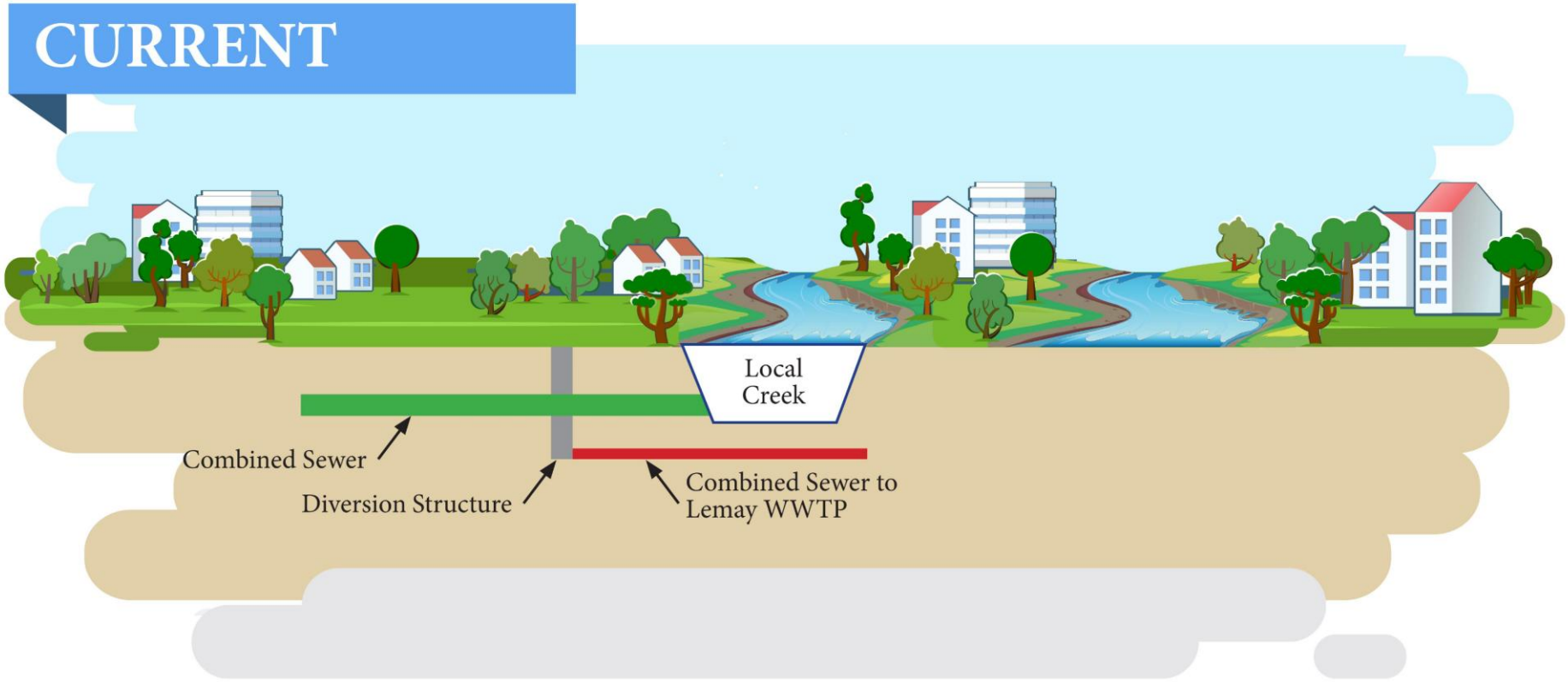
- Improve water quality in local rivers and streams by reducing sewer overflows during heavy rain
- Meet the requirements of the federal Clean Water Act and MSD's consent decree (a legal agreement) with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
  - Eliminate sanitary sewer overflows (SSOs) and control combined sewer overflows (CSOs)
- Richmond Heights has 15 CSOs being improved through this program

*Note: This is a water quality project. Flood control is not part of the project scope.*



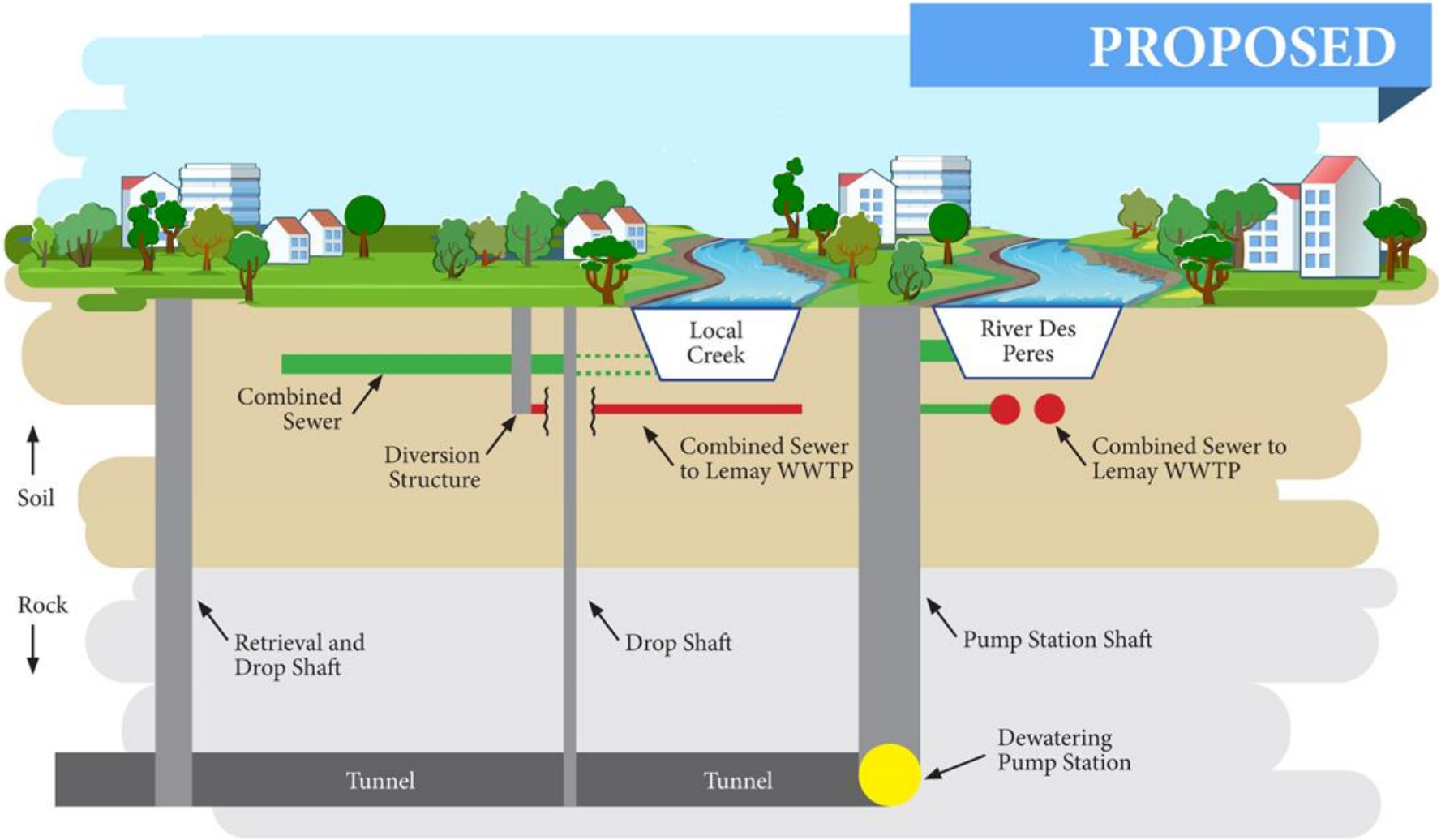
# How the System Works Today

- **Dry weather:** Wastewater flows to the Lemay Wastewater Treatment Plant
- **Light rain:** Wastewater mixes with stormwater and still flows to the treatment plant
- **Heavy rain:** The pipe fills up, and the mixed water overflows to local creeks



# How the Tunnel Will Work

- Capture overflow before it reaches local creeks
- Store it safely deep underground
- Send it to the Lemay Wastewater Treatment Plant when there is room to treat it



TUNNEL PROGRAM (ALL SITES)

# The Tunnel at a Glance

**6 miles**
long

**18 feet**
inside diameter

**90–240 feet**
deep below the surface

**16**
drop shafts (tunnel intakes)

**3**
connecting tunnels (12-foot diameter)

**58 million**
gallons of storage, at least

- Major parts: a deep storage tunnel, a pump station, and near-surface sewers that bring flow to the tunnel
- Directly benefits water quality in Upper River Des Peres and River Des Peres tributaries (Deer, Black, Hampton, and Claytonia creeks)
- Multiple municipalities involved

TUNNEL PROGRAM (ALL SITES)

# Tentative Schedule (Entire Tunnel Program)

**2007**

**Planning**

Project planning began

**Final Design**

Final design ongoing through 2027

**2027**

**2030**

**Begin Construction**

Begin tunnel construction

**End Construction**

Complete tunnel construction

**2039**

**Property Acquisition | 2025–2030**
***Underway now on Bennett***

ALL MSD PROJECTS IN RICHMOND HEIGHTS

# MSD Work Planned in Richmond Heights

project clear wastewater

| Project | MSD # | General location | Construction (anticipated) |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Storage Tunnel and Intake Sites** | 12441 | Deep tunnel along Big Bend Blvd and I-64; intakes at Bennett, Claytonia Terrace, and Hoover-Ethel; one construction shaft | 2030–2039, phased by site |
| **Hampton Park Combined Sewer Relief and Creek Channelization** | 14283 | Hampton Branch, north of I-64 to Clayton Road | 2033–2035 |
| **Claytonia Creek Sanitary Relief** | 12124 | Claytonia Terrace, Ridgemoor Drive, Dale Avenue, and Bredell Avenue | 2028–2031 |
| **Clayton Road Sanitary Tunnel** | 14189 | Clayton Road and Westwood Drive | 2030–2032 |
| **Lake Forest Drive Combined Sewer Relief** | 12323 | Lake Forest Drive area, near Hanley Road and I-64 | *To be determined* |
| **Laclede Station Road and Ranken Avenue Sewer Separation** | 12431 | Laclede Station Road and Ranken Avenue | *To be determined* |
| **Bruno Avenue and Lindbergh Drive Sewer Separation** | 14296 | Bruno Avenue and Lindbergh Drive | *To be determined* |

Connected to the Bennett site

PRELIMINARY

**Several MSD projects will overlap in Richmond Heights over the next decade.** Each will have its own outreach before construction. We'd rather you hear about them from us now.

BENNETT AVENUE

# Bennett Avenue Site Purpose

**The Bennett site will support construction for two related projects:**

### Upper River Des Peres and River Des Peres Tributaries Storage Tunnel (MSD 12441)

Builds part of the deep underground storage tunnel, including an intake structure, called a drop shaft, that will carry combined wastewater from the surface down to the tunnel.

### Hampton Park Combined Sewer Relief and Creek Channelization (MSD 14283)

Builds sewer and creek improvements in the Hampton Park area that collect existing combined sewer overflows and carry them to the tunnel.

- **Why Bennett?** It is close to existing sewer overflow locations and allows MSD to limit impacts to private property.

BENNETT AVENUE

# Hampton Park Project (MSD 14283)

*Hampton Park Combined Sewer Relief and Creek Channelization*

- Purpose:
  - Removes 6 existing combined sewer overflows from Hampton Branch
- What it will do:
  - Build about 2,300 feet of new combined sewer along Hampton Branch, north of I-64, to carry overflow to a tunnel intake
  - Repair and stabilize (rehabilitate) the Hampton Branch creek channel between I-64 and Clayton Road
- Result:
  - Improved water quality in Hampton Creek
- Project stage:
  - Pre-design, 2027. This project is at an earlier stage than the tunnel.

BENNETT AVENUE

# Construction at Bennett: What to Expect

## During construction

- Activity at the site off and on (intermittent) over a period of several years.
- Noise and truck traffic typical of an active construction site.
- Drilling an intake drop shaft and vent shaft down to the tunnel.
- Near-surface work to build the structures and connecting sewers that bring existing flow to the shaft.
- Staging of equipment and materials

## After construction

- Minimal permanent features, such as manhole lids, small electrical pedestals, and a hard surface for maintenance access
- Odor control (carbon filter) system for the shaft and intake
- Site fencing, in consultation with City of Richmond Heights
- Roads and infrastructure restored

BENNETT AVENUE

# Bennett Avenue Construction Schedule

| Project Name | MSD # | 2027 | 2028 | 2029 | 2030 | 2031 | 2032 | 2033 | 2034 | 2035 | 2036 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Upper RDP and RDP Tributaries Storage Tunnel (work at Bennett site) | 12441 | | | | | | | | | | |
| Hampton Park Combined Sewer Relief and Creek Channelization | 14283 | | | | | | | | | | |

Construction at or connected to the Bennett site

PRELIMINARY

## Before construction begins

- Property acquisition: underway now and continuing as needed through 2030
- Design complete: Winter 2027-28 (anticipated)
- Construction contractor hired: 2029–2030. The contractor will hold a public meeting with neighbors before work begins.

BENNETT AVENUE

# Addressing Your Questions

*You asked:*

## Hold MSD to a clear standard of property upkeep

Once MSD takes full possession of a property (when the keys are handed over), MSD is responsible for mowing the grass and maintaining the building.

*You asked:*

## Protect the historic district

A federal historic review (Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966) began August 6, 2026.

1. **Review initiated** August 6, 2026
2. **Identify consulting parties** Underway now ◀ WE ARE HERE
3. **Assess effects** Technical report delivered to the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) and consulting parties
4. **Develop mitigation** Meet with SHPO and consulting parties to agree on appropriate mitigation
5. **Implement mitigation**

BENNETT AVENUE

# Addressing Your Questions

*You asked:*

**Make sure you are aware before work takes place**

### Advance notice of construction

The construction contractor will hold a public meeting with neighbors before construction begins.

### Truck routes and parking

Haul routes, truck volumes, and worker parking will be set by the contractor within its Richmond Heights permit.

### Work hours

The project anticipates following standard construction work hours defined by Richmond Heights.

### Site security

The site will be made secure with fencing.

### Vibration

Vibration monitoring will be required through the project's specifications.

### Pre-construction surveys

Before work begins, the condition of nearby buildings, driveways, retaining walls, utilities, and roads is documented, near the site and along the tunnel.

# Next Steps and Staying Informed

## What's next

- Section 106 historic review continues
- Property acquisition continues as needed
- Ongoing coordination with Richmond Heights staff, with the next staff meeting in spring 2027
- 95% design: Summer 2027 (anticipated)
- Intake site resident outreach
- Contractor public meeting before construction

## How you'll hear from us

- Regular updates to the City of Richmond Heights
- Project webpage, where you can review information and submit questions (link/QR code on next slide)
- Project contacts on the next slide; call or email anytime

# Thank You!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Project Webpage – msdprojectclear.org/UpperRDPTunnel