



## DCR's Weeks Memorial Footbridge Project – Update (9/27/11)

- As previously announced, DCR has recently initiated work on the Weeks Memorial Footbridge to repair the original limestone balustrade handrails and replace a portion of the navigational lights above each arch on both the upstream and downstream sides of the bridge. This work is expected to conclude in mid- to late-January, 2012.
- Given the historic nature of the footbridge, DCR has been coordinating with the Cambridge Historic Commission, the Boston Landmarks Commission, and the Massachusetts Historic Commission.
- Passage along the footbridge will be provided through a center path on the walkway of the footbridge to maintain public access throughout the construction project.
- The necessary work will be carried out from the deck, above the River, simultaneously upstream and downstream. A containment system made of netting, which will extend 6" below the arches, mid-span, will be installed to prevent any debris from entering the Charles River. This plan reflects a revision of the previously announced plan, which called for sequenced arch closures and staging of a barge in the Charles River. In order to further minimize any navigational impediments, the contractor has adjusted the plan to do the work from the top of the bridge, rather than from the River.
- The weekend of the Head of the Charles Regatta, October 21<sup>st</sup> – October 23<sup>rd</sup>, all work on the footbridge will be suspended. The bridge will be open for pedestrians to cross the River, but no public viewing of the races from the bridge will be allowed.
- These immediate investments in railing and lighting repairs are a first step in a larger, multi-phase renovation and restoration of the Weeks Footbridge that DCR expects to unveil to the public through a public process and to commence in 2012.
- As part of design for the larger project, inspections of the arches, including preliminary structural evaluation of the undersides, will be conducted from a barge-mounted aerial lift and a boat. Provided that weather allows, it is anticipated that the inspections will be carried out from October 31 through November 2, between the hours of 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., during which time arches will be blocked, as follows: on October 31, the Cambridge end arch; on November 1, the center arch; and on November 2, the Boston end arch. For the first day, the barge will be moored on the downstream Cambridge side during off-hours. The rest of the time, the barge will be moored on the downstream Boston side during non-working hours.

