



MUDDY RIVER PROJECT TEMPORARY UTILITY RELOCATION FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQ)

On March 16, 2011, The Department of Conservation and Recreation and the Boston Parks and Recreation Department hosted an informational meeting on the Muddy River Project Temporary Utility Relocation. The purpose of the meeting was to present an overview of the upcoming utility relocation, including the schedule, project requirements, and how construction related impacts are being addressed. This FAQ is intended to provide answers to additional questions the public may have about the project.

Why is it necessary to relocate the utilities from Brookline Avenue between Park Drive and the Riverway/ Fenway?

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) is preparing for the construction of the Muddy River Flood Damage Reduction and Environmental Restoration Project in Boston and Brookline (Project). An important goal of the Project is to reduce the frequency and severity of damage from flooding to public and private property in the Muddy River watershed. In furthering this goal, Phase 1 of the Project includes modifications to the roadway crossings of the Muddy River on the Riverway and Brookline Avenue. This will be accomplished by creating new vehicular bridges through the installation of precast concrete arch culverts, as well as creation of an open river channel from the Riverway to Avenue Louis Pasteur by removing existing undersized culverts through which the Muddy River currently flows.

Prior to the commencement of Project work, utility companies must temporarily remove and relocate their infrastructure from Brookline Avenue. The temporary relocation of utilities is mandatory for the construction of the 10-foot x 24-foot culvert under Brookline Avenue.

Which utilities will be relocated?

The following utilities will be temporarily relocated prior to the start of the Muddy River Project: NSTAR (electric), National Grid (gas), Verizon (telephone), Comcast (cable), Verizon Business and Forest City Network (telephone/fiber optics). The Boston Water and Sewer Commission water line and sewer line also will be relocated as part of the Muddy River Project.

Where are the utilities being relocated to?

Because of the lack of options for relocation, Boston Parks, DCR, and the ACOE are allowing the utilities to temporarily relocate in the parkland, west of Brookline Avenue, an area set aside for staging of the Muddy River Project.

Are permits required for the temporary utility relocation?

YES. Since the section of Brookline Avenue between Park Drive and the Riverway is under DCR jurisdiction, DCR will issue a construction permit to allow the utilities to work in the road. Boston Parks will issue a permit to allow the utilities to construct temporary infrastructure in the park. Both permits will include provisions for protection of public safety, hours of work, noise abatement, traffic management, and restoration of the premises.

Will the utilities' contractors be able to work whenever they want?

NO. The permits issued by DCR and Boston Parks are very specific about work hours. Road and sidewalk work during the day shall not occur during morning and evening peak traffic flows. Nighttime work in the roadway shall be limited to the hours of 7 PM to 5 AM, subject to further restrictions if traffic impacts warrant. On Red Sox game nights, work shall not commence until 1-2 hours after the completion of the game. No weekend work will be allowed.

Does this mean the utilities will be working at night, every night?

NO. The work in the road will happen intermittently. Most of the work will occur in the park.

How will traffic traveling through the area be affected by the temporary utility work?

A traffic management plan has been developed to mitigate impacts. There should not be any impacts to traffic during daytime working hours. When Brookline Avenue outbound (between Park Drive and the Riverway) is closed at night, police details will re-route traffic around the Sears Rotary. When Brookline Avenue inbound (between the Riverway and Park Drive) is closed, the traffic will be directed through the jug handle.

How will I know that nighttime work will be occurring?

DCR will issue traffic advisories that will be posted at <http://www.mass.gov/dcr/news.htm>. These traffic advisories will be shared with the Boston Transportation Department and with MASCO.

What about emergency vehicle access? Will ambulances, fire trucks, or police cruisers be affected?

Nighttime closures will not have an impact on emergency vehicles. One side of Brookline Avenue will always be open during nighttime work hours. Emergency vehicles will have through-access along Brookline Avenue.

How will pedestrians traveling through the area be affected?

A construction fence will be installed in the park to establish the work zone used by the utility companies and their contractors. This fence will block the pedestrian path crossing the park. The park path will be closed at Park Drive, and pedestrians traveling to the medical area and other outbound destinations along Brookline Avenue will be directed around the park.

How will noise from the nighttime road work be abated?

The utility companies' contractors are required to comply with City of Boston noise regulations. In addition, DCR has requested that jack-hammering and other loud noise be conducted early in the evening. The permit also requires the contractor to use "white sound" back-up alarms for all vehicles to further reduce noise.

Where will the utility companies stage the materials and equipment needed for the relocation work?

If needed, the utility companies will stage materials and equipment on site within the fenced work zone.

When does the work start and how long will it last?

The utility relocation starts in April and work will continue for about three months.

Will the utilities have access to the temporary location during the construction of the Phase I culvert?

The utilities are responsible for providing a continuity of service and will coordinate access to maintain their facilities within the temporary location with the ACOE and the City of Boston.

When do the utilities return to a permanent location?

Following the completion of the ACOE work along Brookline Avenue, but prior to final pavement and surface restoration, the utility companies will abandon the temporary location and may seek an official "grant of location" from DCR to authorize return of their facilities to designated portions of Brookline Avenue.

Who is paying for the utility relocation?

The utility companies are responsible for the relocation, including all costs.

How can I get more information during the utility relocation?

The permits require that the utility companies place signs at the site with their contact information. Information is also available by calling 617-626-4973.