



**For immediate release
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**DCR CLOSING BOTH SIDEWALKS ON THE BU BRIDGE
DURING HEAD OF THE CHARLES REGATTA**

One traffic lane will be reserved for pedestrians only

The Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) will close both sidewalks on the BU Bridge this weekend to ensure public safety during the Head of the Charles Regatta.

While the sidewalks are closed, one Boston-to-Cambridge traffic lane will be closed to vehicles and reserved for pedestrian use only. This will leave one lane of vehicular traffic open in each direction. Since last May, DCR crews have been repairing the sidewalks on the BU Bridge, which crosses the Charles River between Boston and Cambridge. DCR engineers recommend closing the sidewalks during the Regatta to prevent large numbers of spectators from congregating there while the work is underway.

“DCR is committed to public safety,” said DCR Commissioner Richard K. Sullivan Jr. “We recognize the Head of the Charles Regatta is an enormously popular event, and we encourage spectators to find alternate viewing spots.”

The sidewalks will be closed from 7 p.m. Friday, Oct. 17, through 5 a.m. Monday, Oct. 20. State police details will help manage traffic across the bridge.

The \$2.3 million sidewalk project, which is expected to continue for several more months, involves replacing both sidewalk spans, including the supporting steel beams beneath them and the approach sidewalk at each end, and repairing and painting the sidewalk railings. Unified Contractor Inc. of Melrose is doing the work.

A full, \$20 million rehabilitation of the BU Bridge is expected to start next spring.

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The Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR), an agency of the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs, oversees 450,000 acres of parks and forests, beaches, bike trails, watersheds, and dams, in addition to 278 bridges and miles of roadways. Led by Commissioner Richard K. Sullivan Jr., the agency's mission is to protect, promote, and enhance our common wealth of natural, cultural, and recreational resources. To

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