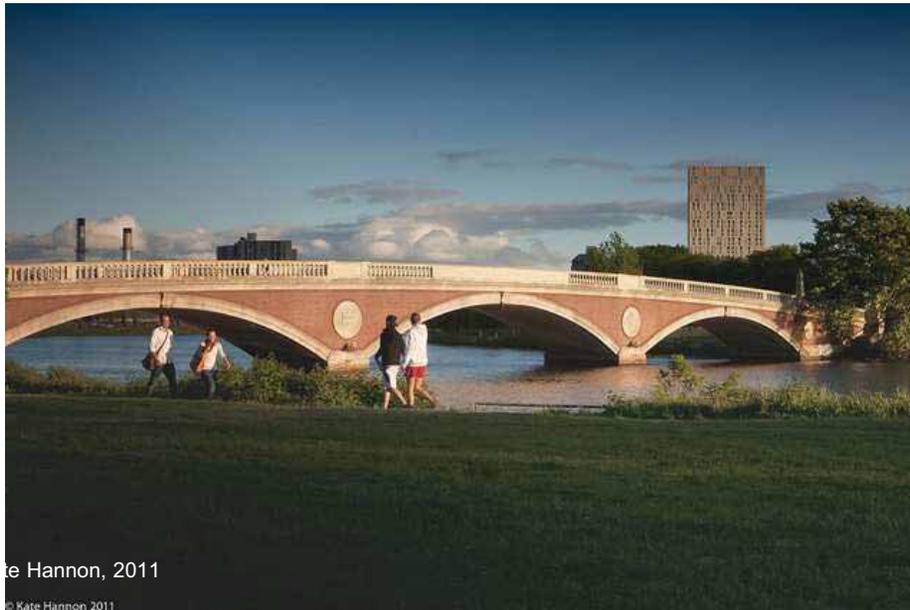


John W. Weeks Footbridge Accessibility Improvements Project Boston and Cambridge, MA



10 July 2013, 6:30 PM

**Harvard Business School, Batten Hall, Innovation-Lab (I-Lab)
125 Western Avenue, Boston**



Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Governor

Deval L. Patrick

Energy and Environmental Affairs Secretary

Richard K. Sullivan, Jr.

Department of Conservation and Recreation Commissioner

John P. Murray



DCR Mission Statement

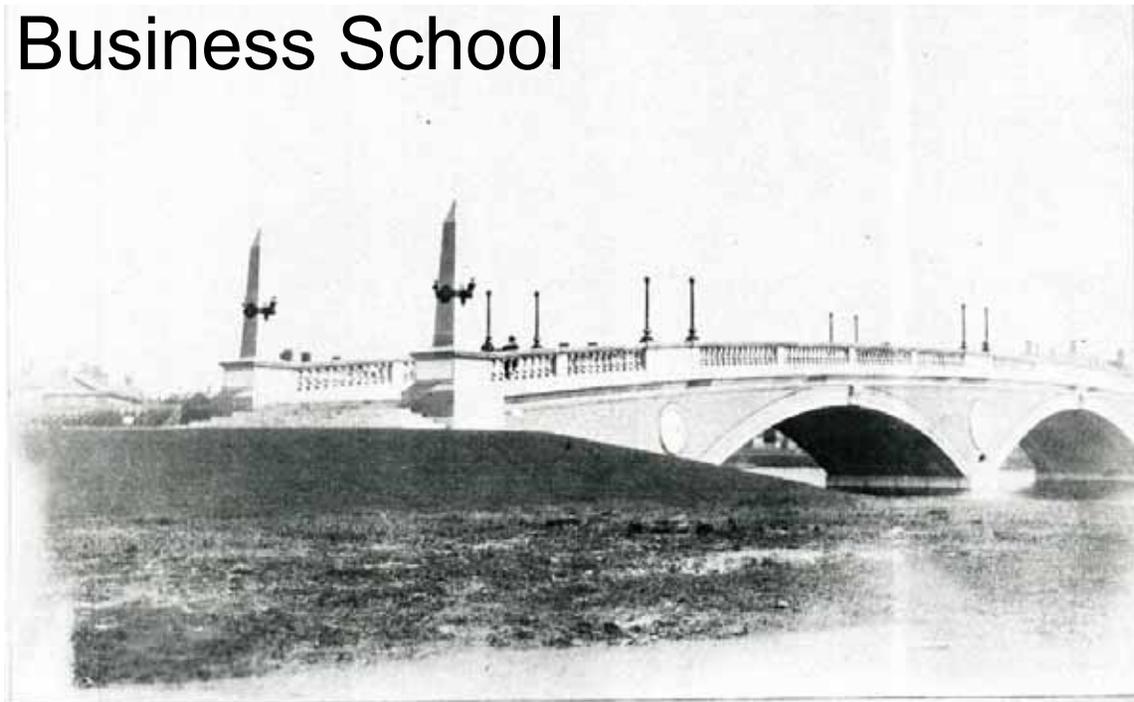
To protect, promote and enhance our common wealth of natural, cultural and recreational resources for the well-being of all.

Purpose of Meeting

- Review project goals/public benefits.
- Present project scope/elements.
- Present construction plan and project schedule.
- Provide information on construction impacts and mitigation plans.
- Answer questions and provide contact information.

History of Weeks Footbridge

- Completed in 1927
- Designed to carry steam pipes and provide access to the newly-established campus of the Harvard Business School



JOHN W. WEEKS BRIDGE

May 6, 1927.

History of Weeks Footbridge

- Designed by noted architectural firm of McKim, Mead and White in Georgian Revival style to complement the architectural design of Harvard's early residential houses and the Harvard Business School campus.
- Structural engineering by M.D.C. Chief Engineer John R. Rablin
- Named for John Wingate Weeks, a U.S. Representative and Senator from Massachusetts and Secretary of War for Presidents Harding and Coolidge



Description of Weeks Footbridge



- Three-span concrete-arch bridge noted for its granite pylons, limestone balustrades, and decorative spandrel medallions.
- Reinforced concrete utility corridors connect to each end of bridge
- One of the most visually distinctive bridges in the Lower Charles River Basin

Description of Weeks Footbridge

- Popular vantage point for spectators during Head of the Charles Regatta



Project Goals / Benefits

- Improve accessibility
- Perform basic structural repairs
- Maintain and restore historic character



Extensive Coordination

- Harvard University
- Boston Landmarks Commission
- Cambridge Historical Commission
- Cambridge Commission for Persons with Disabilities
- Institute for Human Centered Design
- DCR Universal Access Program

Project Funding & Costs

- Commonwealth of Massachusetts Accelerated Bridge Program (ABP)
- Harvard University contribution - \$150,000
- Construction Project Cost - \$2,520,000

DCR Recent Investment in the Area

- Weeks Phase I – \$500,000 total
- Balustrades



DCR Recent Investment in the Area

- Navigation Lighting



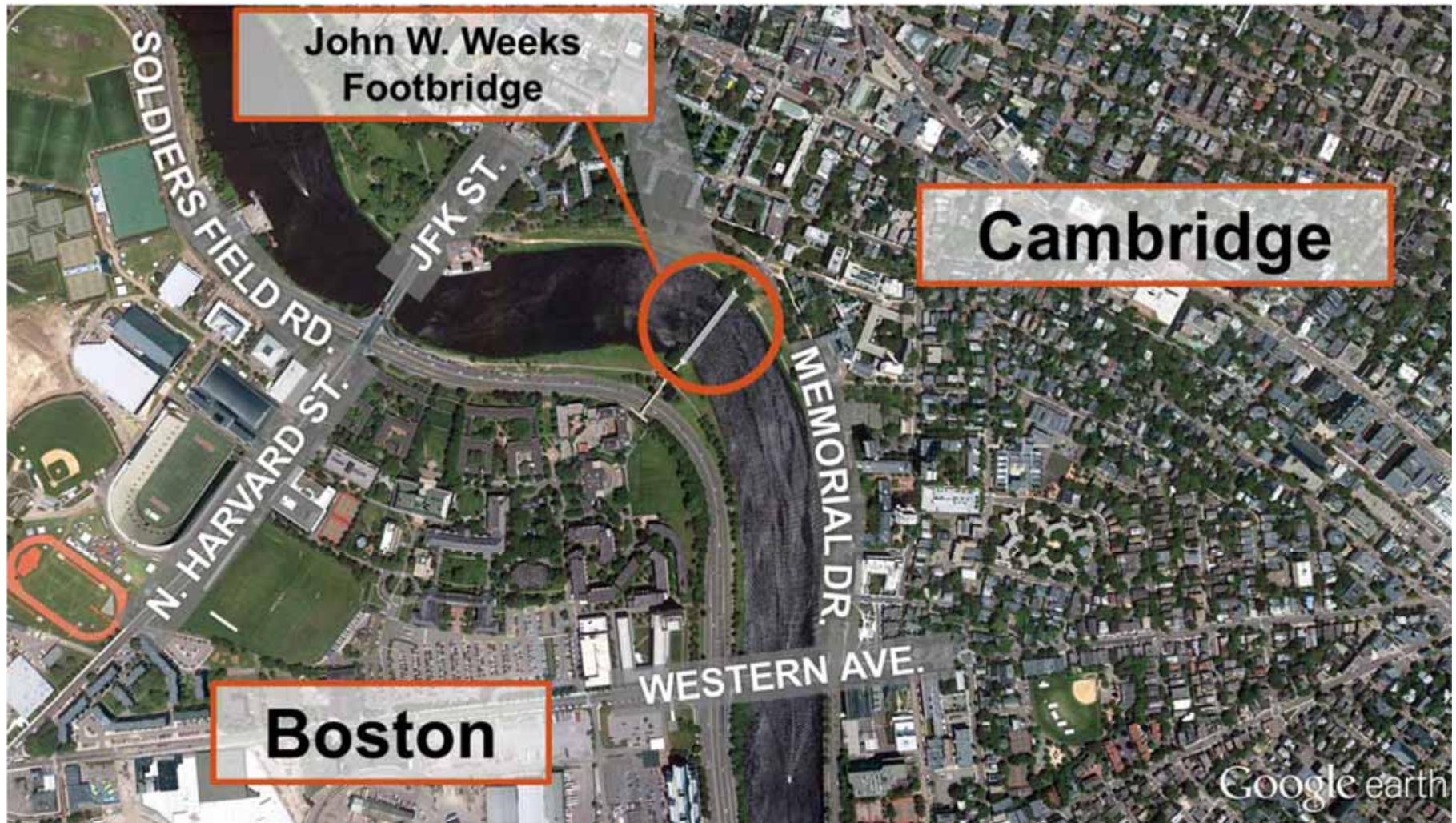
Project Design Team

- Structural – Simpson Gumpertz and Heger
- Historic Preservation (historic considerations, masonry, waterproofing)
 - Simpson Gumpertz and Heger
- Landscape/Civil – BETA Group, Inc.
- Environmental – Epsilon Associates
- Electrical/Lighting – Thompson Engineering Company, Inc.
- Survey – Welch Associates

Project Contractor

- RICCI Construction Co.
 - Recent Bridge Projects
 - Route 109 over Charles River, Dedham, MA
 - Pedestrian access maintained over temporary bridge
 - Staged construction
 - High Plain Road over Route I-93, Andover, MA
 - Raised profile of bridge
 - Ferry Road over MBTA, Haverhill, MA
 - Includes drainage and site work.

Aerial – Locus Plan



Existing Conditions

- Stairs – Impediment to accessibility
- Minor structural deterioration



Project Scope / Elements

- New accessible approach paths
- Accessible profile on bridge
- New accessibility-compliant railings in front of existing balustrade
- Restore eroded river bank adj. to bridge
- Repair gutters and scuppers / drainage



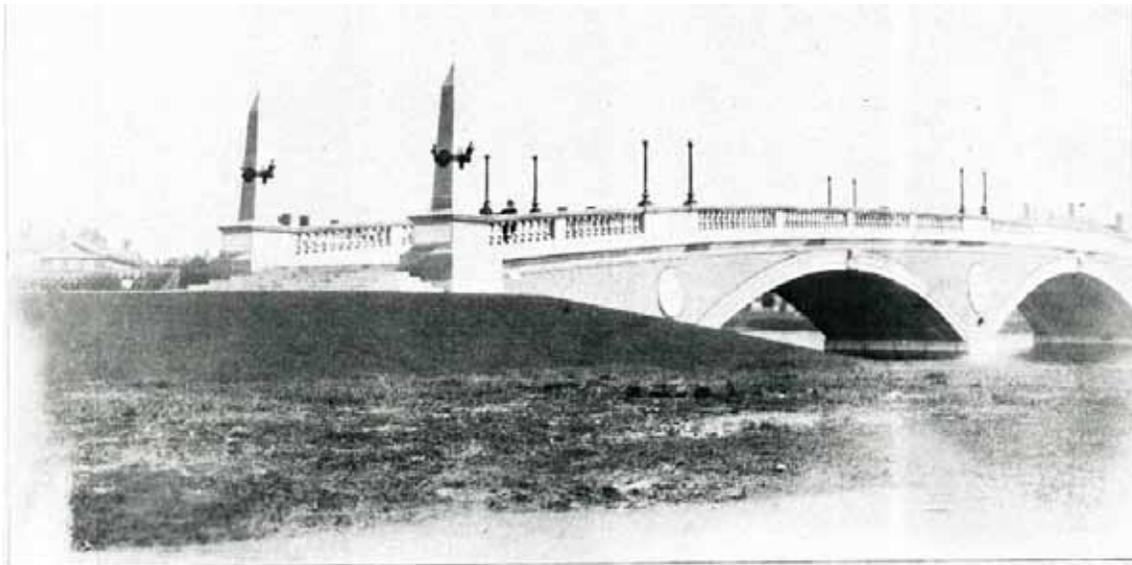
Project Scope / Elements

- Restore brick masonry
- Repair underside of arches
- Repair interior spalls



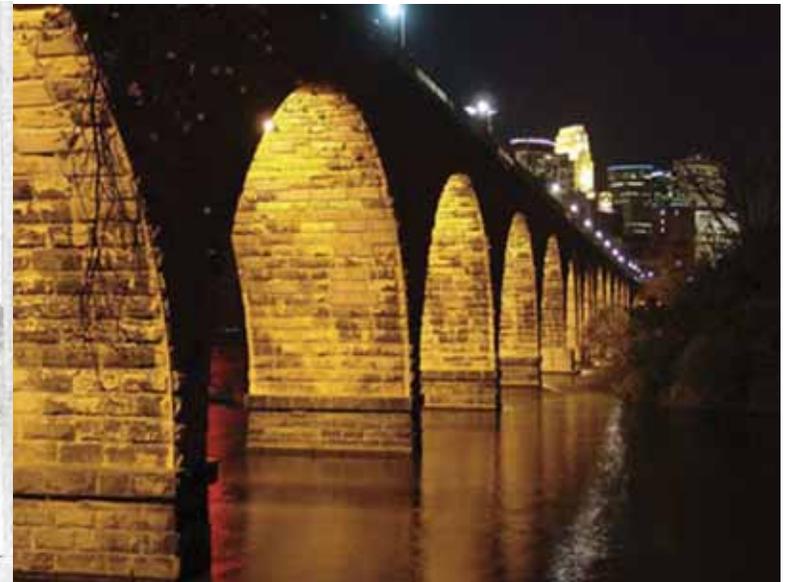
Project Scope / Elements

- Restore historic lighting poles on structure
- Revise lighting on approaches
- Add architectural lighting on sides and underside of bridge



JOHN W. WEEKS BRIDGE

May 6, 1927.



Considerations for Ramp Design

- Maintenance of historical character of bridge
- Slope of ends of bridge is 9.5%
 - (greater than standard 8.33% ramp slope)
- Extent of modification to bridge deck and balustrades
- Limited clearance over arches inside of bridge for maintenance of utilities
- Additional weight on existing utility corridors

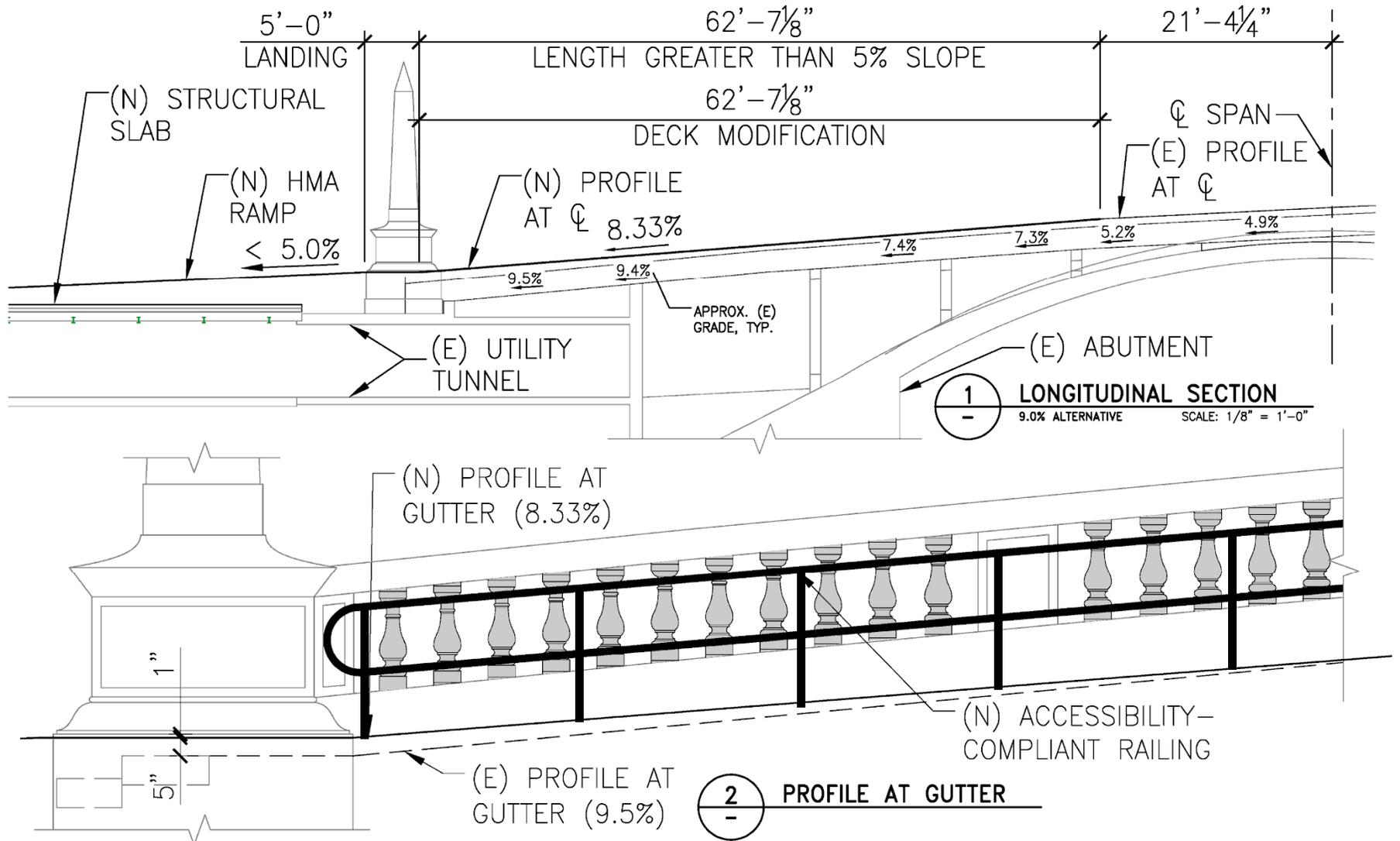
Considerations for Ramp Design

- Impact of additional fill on trees
 - Boston Approach
 - 3 invasive Norway Maples removed
 - 2 Basswood trees removed
 - 4 new Red Oak
 - 3 tree wells
 - Cambridge Approach
 - 4 new London Plane
 - 2 tree wells

Final Design: Straight Ramp

- Full-width substantially-compliant accessibility
- Continuous 8.33% ramp on bridge
- 5% paths from ends of bridge

Final Design – Sections



Reviews and Permitting

- Boston Conservation Commission
- Cambridge Conservation Commission
- Boston Landmarks Commission
- Cambridge Historical Commission
- Massachusetts Historical Commission
- Cambridge Commission for Persons with Disabilities
- Institute for Human Centered Design
- Massachusetts Architectural Access Board

Construction Schedule

- Apparent Low Bidder - RICCI Construction
- Expected Notice-to-proceed - End of July
- Construction Begins - August 2013
- Construction Times
 - Generally Monday to Friday – 7am to 5pm
 - Occasional Weekend Work
- Estimated Construction Duration
 - 18 Months

Special Considerations / Mitigation During Construction

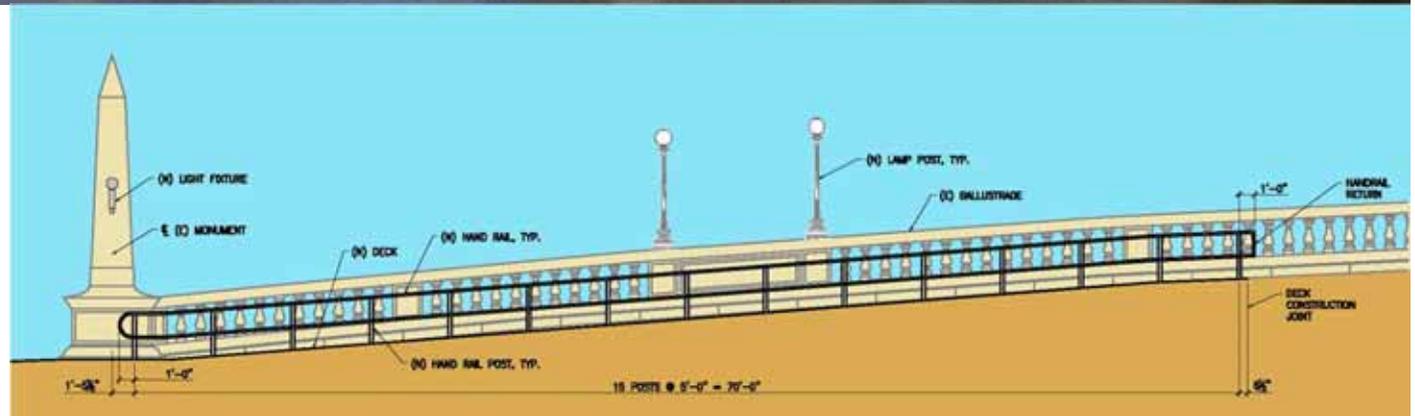
- Pedestrians
 - Will maintain a minimum 5-ft-wide pedestrian access over bridge using phased construction.
- Boaters
 - Will maintain at least two arches.
 - No construction work during Head of the Charles Regatta.
 - Barges will be used for construction and will have navigation lighting (including at eye height).

Special Considerations / Mitigation During Construction

- Environmental impacts on river banks
 - Using temporary erosion control measures during construction.
 - Installing permanent stabilized slope to prevent future erosion.
 - Using temporary shielding and a containment system to prevent construction debris from entering the water.

Project Benefits

- Improved accessibility
- Extended service life



Discussion, Questions & Answers

Additional Information

For more information:

- Web: <http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/dcr/public-outreach/public-meetings/>

If you have comments:

Email: dcr.updates@state.ma.us

Call: 617-626-4974

Write: Department of Conservation and Recreation, Office of Public Outreach,
251 Causeway Street, Suite 600, Boston, MA 02114

Note: Public comments submitted to DCR by email or letter will be posted on the DCR website in their entirety, and no content, including personal information, will be redacted.

If you have questions or concerns or would like to be added to an email list to receive DCR general announcements:

Email: MassParks@state.ma.us

Call: 617-626-4973