



Mass Central Rail Trail - Norwottuck Rehabilitation Project Update

August 15, 2014

Important Erosion Control and Restoration Added to the Project!



Following the completion of the Norwottuck reconstruction design plans, an historically blocked culvert began contributing to channelization, bank erosion, and an undermining of the trail in the vicinity of Amherst College and Amherst Farmer's Supply in 2012-2013. Since that time, DCR has been working on both temporary and longer-term fixes to address this problem.

This month, the Federal Highway Administration approved the expenditure of additional federal funds and an "extra work order" under the MassDOT rehabilitation contract to address this issue! This extra work will include the installation of two new culverts to divert water flow, the stabilization of the stream bank, and valuable stream channel restoration.

New Project Completion Date

In large part, as a result of this extra work and winter paving constraints, the final completion of the MCRT – Norwottuck Rehabilitation Project to Station Road in Amherst is now not anticipated until early summer of 2015. While the project will now take longer to complete, DCR believes the final product will be well worth it.

Route 116 to Southeast Street in Amherst to Closed! No Access!

The section between Route 116 in Amherst and Southeast Street, in Amherst will be closed for an extended period of time between August and November of 2014.

Work on this section will include the re-decking of two bridges, installation of new culverts, erosion repair near Amherst College, path resurfacing, and additional amenities.

Users will not be allowed to access or use this portion of the path until work is complete! All users should find alternative routes and sections on which to recreate or commute.

A potential detour is available on Route 116 and Mill Lane with return access to the trail at Southeast Street. MassBike has posted potential detour information at <https://mapsengine.google.com/map/viewer?mid=zo7mIE2b5EJY.ksqJcGgDt-I>

Current Anticipated Schedule and Closures:

At this time, we expect the following schedule of path closures. All dates are subject to change.

Stage	Expected Closure	Type of Work	Possible On-Road Alternatives
Cross Path Rd., Hadley to East St., Hadley	Reopened! Fall, 2013		
Connecticut River Bridge to Cross Path	Reopened! May, 2014	Bridge re-decking and repairs, path repaving.	
Damon Rd. parking lot	Reopened! May, 2014	Redesign, expansion and repaving of the lot.	
East St., Hadley, to South Maple St., Hadley	Reopened! May, 2014	Repaving and boardwalk	
South Maple St., Hadley, to Rt. 116, Amherst	Reopened! July, 2014	Excavation, repaving, bridge repair, and picnic area.	
Rt. 116, Amherst – Amherst College Erosion Area	August, 2014 through September, 2014	Installation of new culverts, bank stabilization and stream restoration.	Route 116 and Mill Lane
Rt. 116, Amherst, to South East St, Amherst	August, 2014 through November, 2014	Excavation and repaving	Route 116 and Mill Lane
South East St., Amherst to Station Rd., Amherst	March, 2015 through June, 2015	Excavation, repaving, and parking lot renovation	South East St. to Station Rd.

More Information?

DCR will continue to post information, updated schedules, and closures on our project web page at <http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/dcr/conservation/planning-and-resource-protection/projects/norwottuck-rail-trail-rehabilitation-project.html>.

We will also provide email updates via our Norwottuck Reconstruction ListServe. You can sign up for the ListServ at the link above.

Thank you for your patience and support.