

PFC Ralph T. Basiliere Bridge

STAGE ONE OF MAJOR CONSTRUCTION BEGINS

WEEK OF JUNE 14th

What is happening?

Beginning during the week of **June 14th**, MassDOT's design-builder for the replacement project will begin a series of closures of the western (upstream) lanes and sidewalks on the bridge. These closures are needed to address the relocation of electrical and telephone lines to allow stage one demolition to take place later this year without interruption to utility services. This work represents the start of major construction operations to fully replace the existing Basiliere Bridge. **Lane closures will take place overnight between 8:00PM and 4:00AM, Sunday-Thursday. Sidewalk closures will take place during daytime and nighttime hours. All travel lanes are expected to remain open during daytime hours.**

How will I be impacted?

Lane and sidewalk closures will be intermittent depending on the construction operations. If closures are needed for a safe work zone, police details will be present to ensure the smooth flow of traffic. **The specific times that closures are needed will be listed on the project website and shared through project update emails.**

In cases when the upstream sidewalk is closed, pedestrians may request assistance from the police detail when crossing the intersections at either end of the bridge. Cyclists who prefer to cross the bridge on the sidewalk are requested to dismount and walk their bicycles due to space constraints. Motorists should exercise additional caution and courtesy when moving through these intersections as there may be a higher-than-normal volume of pedestrians crossing from one side of Route 125 to the other. **During this initial stage of construction, the Bradford Rail Trail and**

Dempsey Boardwalk will be open and accessible as normal.

Looking Ahead

Later this summer, the gas line which runs down the center of the bridge will be relocated to the structure's western half. As with the relocation of electric and telephone wires, this is required for stage one demolition to take place without interruption of utility service. As the gas line is below the road, relocation can take place without impacts to motorists or pedestrians.

Once all utilities have been relocated, crews will perform additional steps to prepare the downstream side of the bridge for demolition.

To ensure a safe work zone, barrier will be placed down the center line of the bridge reducing the structure to one northbound lane (towards downtown Haverhill) and one southbound lane (towards Bradford). The western sidewalk will be part of this work zone and closed for an extended period. Once this condition is implemented, to ensure a smooth flow of northbound traffic, **all left turns from the bridge onto Merrimack Street will be prohibited.** Motorists seeking to access Merrimack Street should:

- Continue on State Route 125 to the intersection with Ginty Boulevard and Bailey Boulevard.
- Turn left on Bailey Boulevard.
- Proceed past the intersections of Bailey Boulevard/Haverhill Place and Bailey Boulevard/How Street.
- Turn left on Emerson Street.
- Proceed to Merrimack Street.

A detour map is provided below. Police details will be present to guide traffic. **Given the importance of the Basiliere Bridge to first responders in**

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Haverhill, police details may choose to briefly clear one or both directions of traffic to allow the passage of emergency vehicles. Motorists should exercise caution and pay close attention to instructions from police or construction personnel.

Motorists with regional destinations may consider crossing the Merrimack via I-495, which can be accessed from downtown Haverhill by following River Street (State Route 113 westbound), Main Street (State Route 125 northbound), or Winter Street and Broadway (State Route 97 westbound) and from Bradford by following South Main Street (State Route 125 southbound) to Industrial Avenue. All businesses will remain accessible and open to serve customers receive deliveries, and dispatch goods as normal. Once the work zone is

expanded, the Bradford Rail Trail will close where it passes below the bridge to ensure public safety. Additional information will be provided in advance of the trail's temporary detour through the intersection of State Route 125 and Middlesex Street.

Construction to fully replace the Basiliere Bridge is anticipated to run through spring 2032.

Questions?

All members of the public are encouraged to sign up to receive updates through the project website: mass.gov/basiliere-bridge-project-haverhill.

If you have questions or concerns, please contact us at haverhillbasilierebridge@dot.state.ma.us. For immediate concerns or emergency conditions at the work site, please call our hotline at (978) 736-8140.

