

Chelsea Street Bridge Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

1. Who owns the Chelsea Street Bridge?

MassDOT owns the Chelsea Street Bridge and uses a private contractor to maintain the bridge and operate the lifts for water users and gates for vehicles and pedestrians.

2. Who has the authority to regulate the Chelsea Street Bridge?

The United States Coast Guard (USCG) controls and enforces all draw bridge regulations. MassDOT is accountable to the Coast Guard for bridge lift activity that affects the safe passage of vessels. Waterway users are accountable to follow all draw bridge regulations.

3. What regulations are controlled by the Coast Guard for the Operation of the Chelsea Street Bridge?

The USCG requires MassDOT to keep a log book of all lifts. The bridge must open on demand and lift to the full height of 175 feet for any size vessel. 33 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Section 117 controls draw bridges and Chelsea Street additionally is listed in 33 CFR 117.593 part b.

4. What is the process to change a USCG regulation?

As owner of the bridge, MassDOT is responsible to submit an application to the USGC for a regulation change. The application must include, at a minimum, a comprehensive data analysis to demonstrate why the change would be supported by and benefit waterways users. This review period for the USGC typically takes between 6 months and 5 years depending on the regulation change request(see 33 CFR 117.8).

5. Why is MassDOT coordinating an effort to Trial a Voluntary Advanced Notification Program for the Chelsea Street Bridge closures?

MassDOT is coordinating both roadway and waterway users to launch advanced notification to improve the predictability of bridge lifts (closures) to more effectively manage traffic and roadway disruptions without adversely impacting maritime operations.

6. How can I get real time (on-demand openings) information on bridge lifts?

As the bridge is required to open on demand, each public agency (MassPort, MBTA and Highway) is responsible for messaging their customers and therefore uses their own methods for communicating real time lifts including MBTA alerts, Massport twitter, and Highway variable message signs.

7. How can I get information on advanced notification of bridge lifts?

It is MassDOT's goal to provide advanced notification of bridge lifts/closures using MassPort's [LogantoChelsea](#) twitter and roadway variable message signs beginning **July 8, 2019**. MBTA SL3 and 112 bus alerts will also incorporate the latest information on bridge status and are available for text message and email subscription at [mbta.com/alerts](#). This is a **Work In Progress** and as such will seek to improve accuracy and reliability over time through testing during all four seasons.

8. How can I provide feedback on the performance of the Voluntary Advanced Notification Program (ANP)?

MassDOT urges the public to provide input on how the ANP is working. Please scan the QR Code to the right or go to [tiny.cc/ChelseaLift](#) to add comments. Thank You!

MASSDOT WANTS TO
HEAR FROM YOU!

