



PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING

JANUARY 29, 2025

FOR THE PROPOSED

**BRIDGE STREET OVER BASS RIVER (HALL-WHITAKER DRAWBRIDGE)
TEMPORARY BRIDGE REPLACEMENT
PROJECT NO. 608514
BRIDGE NO. B-11-001**

IN THE CITY OF BEVERLY, MASSACHUSETTS

**COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
HIGHWAY DIVISION**

**JONATHAN GULLIVER
HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATOR**

**CARRIE E. LAVALLEE, P.E.
CHIEF ENGINEER**

**THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION – HIGHWAY DIVISION
NOTICE OF A PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING
Project File No. 608514**

A Public Information Meeting will be held by MassDOT to discuss the proposed BRIDGE REPLACEMENT, B-11-001, BRIDGE STREET OVER BASS RIVER (HALL-WHITAKER DRAWBRIDGE) TEMPORARY BRIDGE project in Beverly, MA.

WHERE: Beverly Middle School, Auditorium
Beverly, MA 01915

WHEN: Wednesday, January 29, 2025
6:00-7:30PM

PURPOSE: The purpose of this meeting is to provide the public with the opportunity to become fully acquainted with the proposed BRIDGE REPLACEMENT, B-11-001, BRIDGE STREET OVER BASS RIVER (HALL-WHITAKER DRAWBRIDGE) TEMPORARY BRIDGE project. All views and comments made at the meeting will be reviewed and considered to the maximum extent possible. Updates to the permanent Hall-Whitaker and Kernwood Ave Bridge Maintenance project will also be discussed.

PROPOSAL: The proposed project consists of the installation of a TEMPORARY BRIDGE replacement for the existing BRIDGE STREET OVER BASS RIVER (HALL-WHITAKER DRAWBRIDGE) and the demolition of the existing bridge.

This location is accessible to people with disabilities. MassDOT provides reasonable accommodations and/or language assistance free of charge upon request (including but not limited to interpreters in American Sign Language and languages other than English, open or closed captioning for videos, assistive listening devices and alternate material formats, such as audio tapes, Braille and large print), as available. For accommodation or language assistance, please contact MassDOT's Chief Diversity and Civil Rights Officer by phone (857-368-8580), fax (857-368-0602), TTD/TTY (857-368-0603) or by email (MassDOT.CivilRights@dot.state.ma.us). Requests should be made as soon as possible prior to the meeting, and for more difficult to arrange services including sign-language, CART or language translation or interpretation, requests should be made at least ten (10) business days before the meeting.

In the event of inclement weather a cancellation announcement will be posted on the internet at <https://www.mass.gov/orgs/highway-division/events>.

JONATHAN GULLIVER
HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATOR

CARRIE E. LAVALLEE, P.E.
CHIEF ENGINEER



Dear Concerned Citizen:

The Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) is committed to building and maintaining a transportation infrastructure that is both safe and efficient for all who use our roadways, bridges, bicycle facilities and pedestrian paths, while maintaining the integrity of the environment.

As part of the design process for this project, we are conducting this public hearing to explain the proposed improvements, listen to your comments and answer any questions you may have. At the conclusion of the hearing, MassDOT will review all of your comments and, where feasible, incorporate them into the design of the project.

We recognize that road and bridge construction can create inconveniences for the public. MassDOT places a great deal of emphasis on minimizing the temporary disruptive effects of construction.

MassDOT encourages input from local communities and values your opinions. Please be assured that we will undertake no project without addressing the concerns of the community.

Sincerely,

Carrie Lavalley, P. E.
Chief Engineer



Figure 1: Project Locus Map

Project Location:

The Hall-Whitaker Bridge connects the Ryal Side neighborhood of Beverly to downtown via Bridge Street over the Bass River in Beverly, Massachusetts. The Kernwood Avenue bridge is located to the south of the Hall-Whitaker Bridge. It connects Salem and Beverly over the Danvers River.

Purpose:

The purpose of this project is to safely restore vehicular traffic to Bridge Street. The project entails constructing a temporary fixed bridge south of the existing Hall-Whitaker Bridge to restore vehicular traffic and to provide a reliable traffic route during the future full bridge replacement, and then demolishing the existing bridge. The permanent bridge replacement will be completed under a separate and future construction contract. A separate project entails significant repairs to the Kernwood Avenue Bridge so it can remain in service until a temporary bridge can be installed at the Hall-Whitaker Bridge.

Existing Conditions:

The Hall-Whitaker Bridge is closed to vehicular traffic but remains open to pedestrians and bicycles, and marine navigation. Prior to closure it was posted for 10-ton vehicles limiting truck, emergency response, school bus, and other access across the bridge. The existing structure is beyond its useful life, and due to the extent of deterioration and necessary repairs, the bridge cannot be repaired and requires a full replacement. The Kernwood Avenue Bridge is currently programmed for replacement in 2027. A major repair contract was initiated for the Kernwood Avenue Bridge in 2023 to extend its service life while project development proceeds for a permanent replacement bridge.

Proposed Project:

The Hall-Whitaker Bridge project entails constructing new foundations supported on temporary piles, maintaining the existing navigational channel location, constructing piers, and erecting a fixed steel-framed and prefabricated panel bridge immediately south of the existing bridge alignment. The temporary bridge will carry two 10-foot vehicle lanes, one in each direction, two 5-foot shoulders (for shared bicycle use), and a 5-foot sidewalk on one side. Following the opening of the temporary bridge, the existing bridge and part of its substructure will be demolished. Simultaneously, repairs will be made to the superstructure of the Kernwood Avenue Bridge.

Maintenance of Traffic During Repairs:

During the construction of the temporary Hall-Whitaker Bridge, pedestrians and bicycles will continue to use the existing bridge northern sidewalk. The existing vehicular detour will remain in place until completion of the temporary bridge. During Kernwood Avenue Bridge repairs, periodic closures of the roadway and navigation channel will be required.

Project Schedule:

Construction on the temporary Hall-Whitaker Bridge is anticipated to start in 2025 and open to traffic in 2027. Construction of the permanent bridge replacement is scheduled to begin following the opening of the temporary bridge. Kernwood Avenue Bridge replacement will begin in 2027 and be completed by 2031, with the bridge reopening to traffic in 2032.

Project Cost:

The conceptual cost estimate for this project is \$33.3 million.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q: Why does this project need to happen?

A: While currently safe for pedestrians and bicycle users, inspections of the Hall-Whittaker bridge in 2022 identified deficiencies in the structure. A major repair contract was also initiated for the Kernwood Avenue Bridge in 2023 to extend its service life. Major repairs and total replacement are necessary to ensure future safety and to meet 21st century infrastructure standards.

Q: During construction of the temporary Hall-Whittaker Bridge, how will pedestrian access be managed?

A: Pedestrian access will be maintained on the existing bridge northern sidewalk.

Q: Will there be any improvement to pedestrian and bicycle access on the Hall-Whittaker Bridge?

A: Currently pedestrians and bicyclists are sharing the existing bridge sidewalks. Once the temporary bridge opens, bicyclists will have a 5-foot bike lane in each direction, and pedestrians will have a protected 5-foot sidewalk on the south side of the temporary bridge. Bicyclists and pedestrians will have a variety of route options.

Q: Are you coordinating with other projects in the area?

A: Yes. The project team is fully aware of the projects in the area, including the Bridge Street Reconstruction (MassDOT Project No. 608348), and is committed to actively coordinating with respective project teams, to mitigate construction impacts.

Q: What will the environmental impacts of the Hall-Whittaker project be?

A: MassDOT is actively coordinating with State and Federal Agencies to understand, avoid, and minimize environmental impacts.

Q: Will there be impacts to Bass River access during construction of the temporary Hall-Whittaker Bridge?

A: As part of the construction, there will need to be some restrictions to the River in order to remove bridge piers and build new supports. However, the project team will have provisions to maintain access for boaters, and for notification and coordination with the Harbor Master and Coast Guard.

THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
HIGHWAY DIVISION

NON FEDERAL AID

Beverly, MA
BEVERLY- BRIDGE STREET OVER BASS RIVER (HALL-WHITAKER DRAWBRIDGE)
TEMPORARY BRIDGE REPLACEMENT
BRIDGE NO. B-11-00

This sheet is provided for your comments. Your input is solicited and appreciated. You may e-mail comments directly to MassDOTMajorProjects@dot.state.ma.us or you may mail this sheet with any additional comments to:

Carrie E. Lavallee, P.E., Chief Engineer
MassDOT – Highway Division
10 Park Plaza, Boston, MA 02116-3973
Attn: Major Project

Statements and exhibits intended for inclusion in the public hearing transcript must be emailed or postmarked no later than ten (10) business days after the hearing.

PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT LEGIBLY.

Name: _____ Title: _____

Organization: _____

Address: _____

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Please Place
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Carrie E. Lavallee, P.E.
Chief Engineer
MassDOT – Highway Division
10 Park Plaza
Boston, MA 02116-3973

RE: Public Information Meeting
BEVERLY- BRIDGE REPLACEMENT, BRIDGE STREET OVER BASS RIVER
(HALL-WHITAKER DRAWBRIDGE)
Project No. 608514
BEVERLY
Project File No. 608514

Attn: Major Projects

