

# New Bedford I-195 to Route 18 Interchange Rehabilitation Project

## PROJECT OVERVIEW & NEED

Interstate 195 from Mt. Pleasant Street to the Route 18 Interchange is structurally deficient and in need of repair and rehabilitation. The interchange was first constructed in 1965.

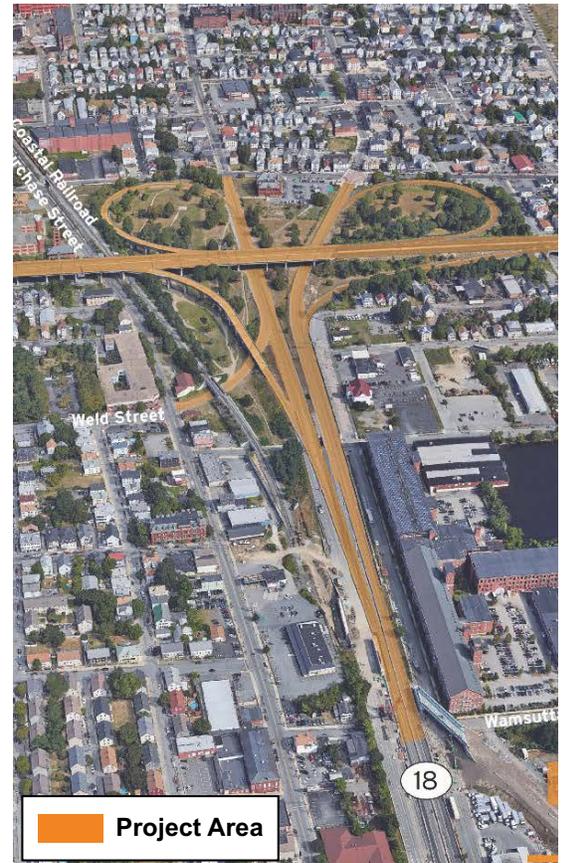
I-195 carries over 75,000 vehicles daily from Route 140 to the I-195/Route 18 Interchange.

Route 18 in New Bedford carries almost 36,000 vehicles daily, as well as pedestrian and bicycle traffic between Coggeshall Street and Weld Street.

The project area ramps carry almost 50,000 vehicles on and off the I-195 interchange per day.

To ensure the safety of this critical connection, MassDOT has assembled a team to rehabilitate and partially replace the elevated portions of the interchange on I-195 in New Bedford that spans from County Street until just beyond the Route 18-Exit 15 / Acushnet Avenue Interchange.

Working with the City of New Bedford, abutting residents, roadway users and other stakeholders, the team will design a plan for construction that minimizes and mitigates temporary construction impacts.



## CONTEXT & KNOWN CONCERNS

In addition to the spalling concrete, exposed reinforcing and deteriorated steel superstructure, the bridges display other deficiencies. The mainline sections of the bridge and Ramp F, Exit 15 I-195 Eastbound to Route 18 Southbound, are classified as functionally obsolete. The Ramp C Bridge, Exit 15 I-195 Westbound to Route 18 Southbound, is structurally deficient.

Along I-195 Westbound, there is insufficient weaving area, where vehicles cross paths in order to access different destinations, between the Ramp D on-ramp, Route 18 Northbound to I-195 Westbound, and the Ramp C off-ramp. From 2012 to 2014, 41 crashes were reported in the project area, mostly due to these narrow lanes on the exit ramps that did not provide enough room for weaving to safely take place.

The signalized intersections experience frequent traffic delays and traffic signal heads do not mitigate sun glare effects.

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## PROCESS

Proposed improvements are focused on replacing and rehabilitating the 15-span elevated section of Interstate 195, as well as the similarly elevated sections of Ramps C and F. It will also increase safety and improve operations on the mainline and throughout the interchange area. The bridge work will be a combination of superstructure replacement /substructure rehabilitation, and structure removal to be replaced by earth embankment. The retaining wall along Cedar Grove Street will also be replaced, potentially offering an opportunity for aesthetic improvements.

All four through lanes on the mainline will be maintained throughout construction.

To replace the superstructure of Ramps C and F, the ramps will be closed to traffic for extended construction periods. Ramp D will be closed concurrently with Ramp C to complete work.

The Proposed Design will not require any permanent right-of-way action on private property. Temporary easements and occupation of city streets and intersections for construction operations is anticipated. No permanent impacts to city streets or intersections are anticipated at this time.

## PROJECT BENEFITS

Once the project has been completed, the I-195 Interchange will feature new signage to enhance daytime and nighttime visibility, signal improvements, new drainage, and safety enhancements such as wider auxiliary lanes for weaving, longer deceleration lanes, road shoulders, and safer roadside barriers. Aged, damaged guardrail will be replaced.

The Westbound side of the highway within the project limits will be widened which will create a safer merge between Ramp C, Exit 15 I-195 Westbound to Route 18 Southbound, and Ramp D, Route 18 Northbound to I-195 Westbound, and improve the ramps' geometry for the 30 mile per hour speed limit.

## CONTACT US

For more information on the project, traffic impacts, and how to get involved, you can visit the project website at: <https://www.mass.gov/route-i-195-to-route-18-interchange-rehabilitation-in-new-bedford> or contact:

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