

New Bedford I-195/Route 18 Interchange Rehabilitation Project 2025 Newsletter



Construction on the New Bedford I-195/Route 18 Interchange Rehabilitation Project Has Begun!

As of Summer 2025, MassDOT broke ground on construction. MassDOT is working to update the interchange for all travelers in New Bedford and from across the region.

Construction Status

The project is currently in Phase 2 of construction.

Project Background

The goal of the project is to replace and repair part of the highway bridge and ramps to make them safer and easier to use. The project includes:

- Widening and reconstructing I-195 from Mt. Pleasant Street to N. Front Street
- Replacing the I-195 eastbound/westbound ramp bridges and ramp to Route 18
- Replacing the barrier and median of the three ramp bridges
- Constructing a noise wall along Cedar Grove Street
- Upgrading local roadways and sidewalks for accessibility
- Improving stormwater drainage systems
- Constructing a park and path beneath the interchange

Project Progress

This project is planned to be completed in five stages between 2025 and 2030.

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Phase 1 (Summer 2025 – Fall 2025): Complete

Phase 1 began with preparing the project area for construction. This included utility work; installing temporary parking, lighting, signage, and barriers; pavement striping; and clearing. Phase 1 construction work included the following:

- Demolishing medians on the I-195 bridges
- Paving the median
- Constructing westbound crossovers
- Shifting I-195 westbound traffic to the temporary setup on the existing I-195 bridge



Image 1. Completion of Phase 1



Image 2. Shift to Phase 2 Traffic

Phase 2 (Fall 2025 – Summer 2027): Currently Ongoing

Phase 2 began in September 2025. On September 8, 2025, the I-195 westbound Exit 26 and the I-195 westbound on-ramp from Route 18 were closed to traffic. During this phase, the I-195 westbound bridge and ramps will be demolished and rebuilt. Phase 2 will include the following:

- Demolishing the I-195 westbound bridge, retaining wall, and ramps
- Building a new I-195 westbound bridge, retaining wall, and ramps
- Building eastbound footings and columns
- Building Route 18 northbound, ramps, and stormwater basins



Image 3. Ramp C Demolition



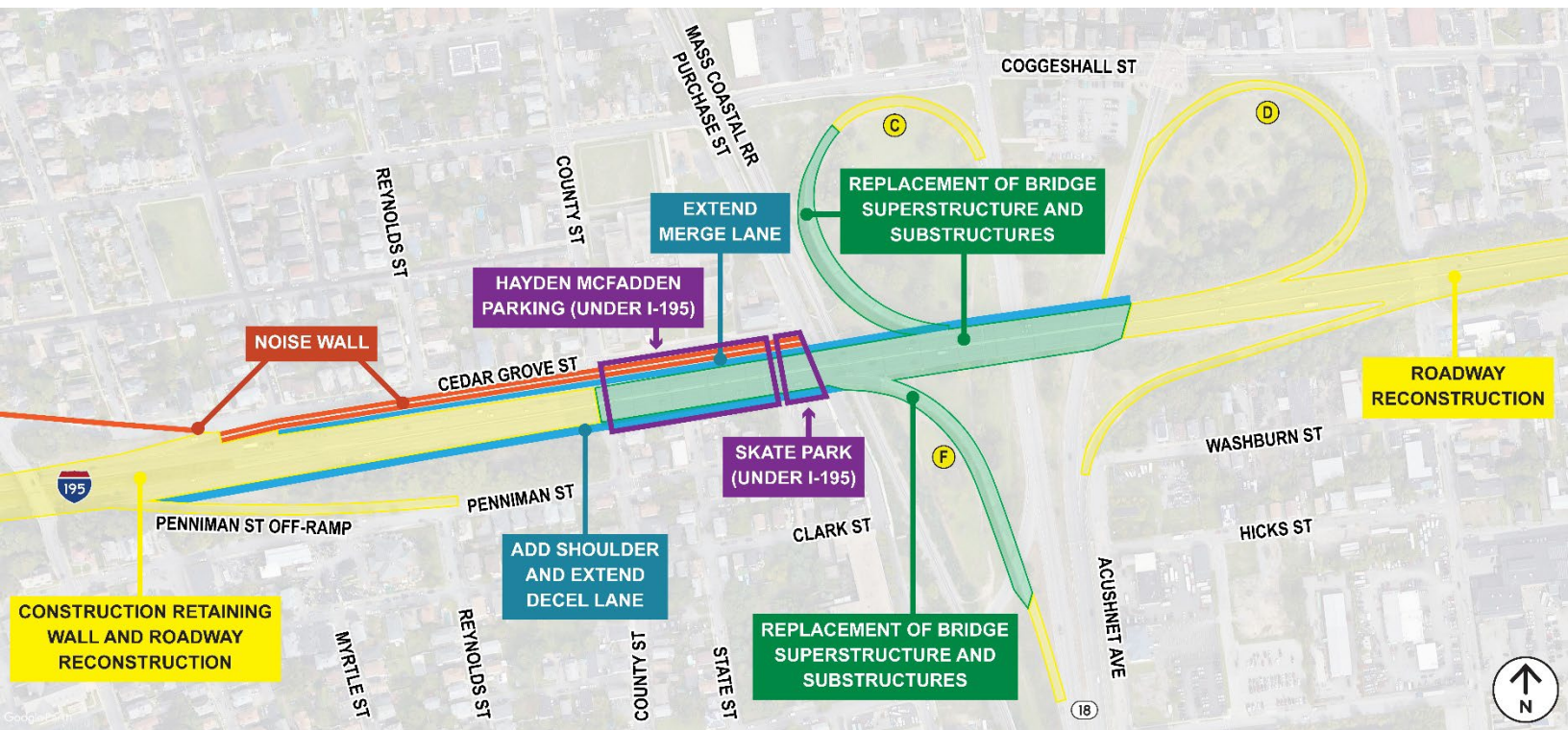
Image 4. Excavation along Ramp A

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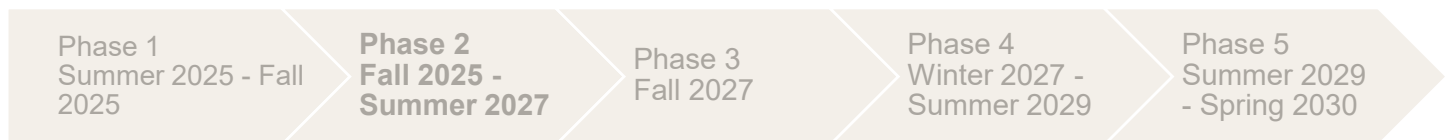
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About the Project Area

The interchange in New Bedford is a key route through the South Coast area of Massachusetts. It connects municipalities from New Bedford and Fall River to Providence, Rhode Island. The access to I-495 connects New Bedford across the state to Worcester and Cape Cod. Locally, five on- and off-ramps connect back to the City. The interchange is heavily used by local and regional travelers. The bridge carries about 75,000 vehicles per day. About 50,000 vehicles use the adjoining ramps.



Project Timeline



Working Together

MassDOT thanks the people and community of New Bedford for their support. The project team was able to hold 14 pop-up information tables over the summer. With the help of local businesses and events, we were able to share information directly with the people of New Bedford.

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Stay Informed

MassDOT continues to share information with the public about construction. Work with the community is also ongoing. The project team has been:

- Coordinating with New Bedford Public Schools
- Working with local groups
- Sending regular project updates and advisories to email subscribers
- Publishing in the newspaper and on social media
- Hosting public information meetings and pop-ups in the area

For more information or to sign up for emails, please visit the project website. For any further questions please contact the project team at the project email.

Project website <https://www.mass.gov/route-i-195-to-route-18-interchange-rehabilitation-in-new-bedford>

Project email i195route18newbedford@dot.state.ma.us