NORTH WASHINGTON STREET BRIDGE REPLACEMENT

REPLACING TODAY’S NORTH WASHINGTON STREET BRIDGE

Today’s North Washington Street Bridge, also known as the Charlestown Bridge, dates from 1898. Consisting of 12 spans and approximately 1,000’ long, it connects the two historic Boston neighborhoods of Charlestown and the North End. North Washington Street carries local and regional vehicular traffic, heavily-used MBTA and Boston Public Schools buses, private shuttles, cyclists, and pedestrians, headed to work, school, and destinations around Boston.

Over more than a century of service, the bridge has been reconfigured and repaired multiple times to extend its lifespan, including the permanent closure of its swing span in 1961, the removal of the elevated Orange Line in 1977, and the closure of the center bay in 2003. In its current condition, including emergency repairs, the bridge costs the City of Boston between $3-5 million each year to keep safely operational. It is due for a well-deserved retirement.

A BRIDGE FOR THE 21ST CENTURY

The City of Boston and MassDOT undertook a joint planning process from 2004 to 2017 that included coordination with local, state, and federal agencies and extensive public outreach to design a new multimodal bridge for the 21st century.

This new bridge will be a complete street over water, including:

- Two vehicle lanes in each direction
- One inbound dedicated bus lane
- Separated cycle tracks in each direction
- Sidewalks on both sides including a wide scenic overlook and seating area

The structure will also improve water flow and conditions for boaters by reducing the number of piers in the water from 12 to 5, and widening the navigation channel to 141’. The new bridge is estimated to cost $177 million.

NEW BRIDGE CROSS-SECTION AT THE MIDWAY OVERLOOK
Construction will occur in several stages with some work beginning in October 2018 and is expected to continue through 2023. MassDOT and the City of Boston have offered financial incentives to encourage early completion.

In late fall 2019, the general contractor, JF White, will install a temporary parallel bridge to expedite construction and reduce traffic and pedestrian impacts. The temporary bridge will be in place for about two years while the old bridge is demolished and the new bridge is constructed. Two inbound lanes, one outbound lane, and one sidewalk on the temporary bridge will maintain access for all modes of travel during the heaviest periods of work.

Project working hours will be 7AM to 10PM. It is anticipated that during certain stages the contractor will work between the hours of 10PM and 7AM at times and periods of 24-hour work are also expected.

Maximum noise levels allowed are specified in the contract, varying by time of day, with the lowest levels allowed overnight. Additional requirements and provisions are in place for the control of dust, hazardous materials, water quality, rodents, and other potential impacts of construction.

MassDOT will keep people informed and help them plan around impacts with traffic notices, regular construction look-aheads, regional outreach to divert traffic, stakeholder briefings, and public meetings in Charlestown, the North End, and the West End.

**STAY INFORMED**

For more information, please contact:  
NorthWashingtonStreet@dot.state.ma.us

To sign up for progress updates and project materials, and to learn more about the project, visit:  
mass.gov/north-washington-street-bridge-replacement

**TEMPORARY BRIDGE STAGE 2 OF CONSTRUCTION, APPROXIMATELY 2020-2022**

**TEMPORARY BRIDGE CROSS SECTION**