massDOT
Massachusetts Department of Transportation
Highway Division

INTERCHANGE 495/90 IMPROVEMENTS

NEWSLETTER



Newsletter Highlights

About the Project/ Project Goals



The I-495/I-90 Interchange historically has processed significant traffic and truck volumes in excess of its capacity. This project aims to enhance safety and operations for the motoring public.

Project Background



MassDOT, with public input, completed the environmental review for the project and selected a preferred alternative.The preferred alternative will involve a complete replacement of the interchange and its ramps.

Environmental Context



The I-495/I-95 interchange project area has many sensitive environmental resources, Our goal is to minimize impacts and provide mitigation for any unavoidable effects.

Project Schedule and Public Information



The DB Team has completed the design of the preferred alternative. The project has embarked on a robust public engagement effort, holding multiple public information meetings to date. The project website includes a wealth of information about the project.

Design, Construction, and Traffic Milestones



Design is complete and construction is ongoing and advancing. The project will maintain 3 lanes on mainline roadways during peak periods, preserve ramps connections, and provide clear signage and temporary lighting, Access for residents and businesses will be maintained.

About the Project



Proposed IC/Preferred Alternative

For years, the I-495/I-90 Interchange has experienced traffic demands exceeding its capacity. On an average day, over 100,000 vehicles travel on both I-90 and I-495, with about 75,000 vehicles traveling through the interchange, including approximately half of all trucking entering eastern Massachusetts. The deficient ramp geometry and weaving areas were exacerbated by concentrating movements through the former toll plaza, resulting in queuing onto the interstate mainlines and crash rates twice the statewide average. Through this project, we will improve the movement of people and goods through the area–today and into the future.

Project Goals

Reduce crashes
in the project area for all movements

Reduce recurring congestion
within the interchange

Reduce queuing
that currently extends from the interchange onto the mainlines of I-90 and I-495

Reduce travel time
the interchange, especially for high-volume movements

Project Background

MassDOT completed the environmental process for the project and chose a preferred alternative that meets the goals of the project. The work will be completed in an extremely sensitive environmental resource area.

Important project elements and modifications include:

Interchange



Complete replacement of the interchange including improved ramp geometry and elimination of weaving areas, as well as enhanced ramp spacing, acceleration and deceleration lanes.

Environmental



Protection, restoration and mitigation of environmental resource areas.

New Bridges



Construction of twelve new bridges, including I-495 over I-90, as well as I-495 and I-90 over the MBTA/CSX/Amtrak lines.

Auxillary Lane



A new auxiliary lane on I-495 northbound from I-90 to Route 9

Fruit Street and Flanders Road



Project also includes a new Fruit Street bridge over I-495 and a new I-495 northbound bridge over Flanders Road



Environmental Context

The I-495/I-95 interchange project area has many sensitive environmental resources, including the Cedar Swamp ACEC (the first ACEC in Massachusetts"), wetlands, floodplains, Whitehall Brook,archaeological sites, open spaces, and the Sudbury River. Our goal is to minimize temporary and permanent impacts and provide mitigation for any unavoidable effects. Continued coordination with MassDOT Environmental and DEP has been ongoing from the onset of the project and will continue through completion of construction.

Project Schedule and Public Information:

We have, and will continue to implement an extensive outreach program due to the strategic location and regional importance of the I-495/I-95 interchange. The impacts of the project will be experienced by stakeholders immediately adjacent to the interchange, in nearby communities, as well as travelers who live, work and conduct commerce in the region. Dynamic, diverse and far-reaching engagement strategies are being implemented for this project.

Construction is ongoing and advances as designs are completed and approved. There are five major stages of construction anticipated between 2022 and 2027

Stage 0

Enabling work including fiber relocation and temp Ramp ES/SE

(10/2022–4/2023)

Stage 1

Complete future I-495 NB in Median, Fruit Street, and Ramp ES

(12/2022–9/2024)

Stage 2

Complete future I-495 SB, Ramps WS, WN & SE

(6/2024–5/2026)

Stage 3/3B

Complete Ramp NE, NW, SW & EN

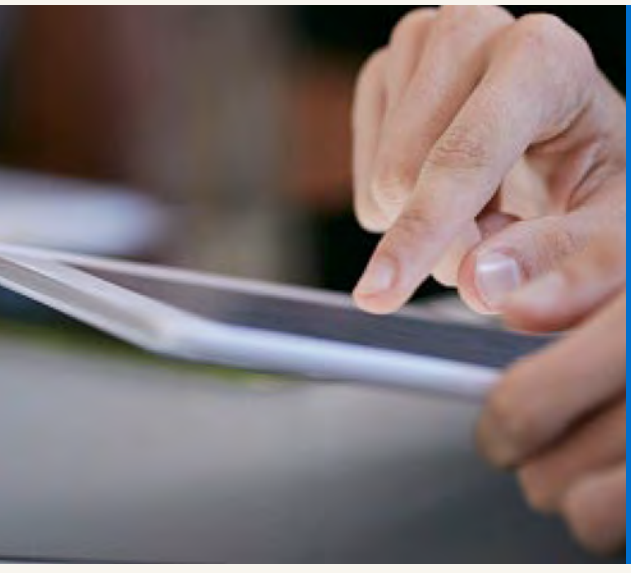
(4/2025–4/2027)

Stage 4

Complete I-90 widening, remove former loop ramps and complete environmental mitigation areas

(8/2026–6/2027)

Start of design (5/2022) → ***Completion of design (05/2025)***



Engagement:

The project has completed a robust engagement process to date including legislative briefings, targeted outreach to key stakeholders and agencies, including the Towns of Hopkinton and Westborough, DEP and FHWA. Numerous Public Information Meetings have been held, the most recent of which was on 9/16/25. Detailed information on the project and engagement efforts can be found on the project website: https://www.mass.gov/i-495i-90-interchange-improvements

Design Status

Final design development of the preferred alternative was completed in the spring of 2025.

Construction Status

Construction has been ongoing since the fall of 2022. Ongoing and upcoming activities are detailed below.



Ongoing Construction Activity 2025

- Future I-495 SB Mainline
- I-495 SB Bridges over I-90 and RR
- Fruit Street, Stage 2
- Ramp WN
- Ramp WS
- I-90 over Whitehall Brook, Stage 2
- I-90 over RR, Stage 2
- I-495 NB over Flanders Road
- Ramps NW, NE, SW and EN


Ramp WS steel erection

Upcoming Traffic Milestones

- Fruit Street complete and open to 2-way traffic Fall 2025
- Ramp WS (I-90 WB to I-495 SB) open Fall 2025
- Ramp WN (I-90 WB to I-495 NB) open Spring 2026
- I-90 shift over Whitehall Brook
- I-495 NB shift over Flanders Road


Ramp WN Construction Advancing


Ramp WS construction nearing completion


Fruit Street Stage 2 nearing completion