

Sumner Tunnel Centennial Restoration Project



What is happening?

Built in the 1930s, the Sumner Tunnel is the first traffic tunnel in Massachusetts and one of the oldest in the nation. Now, after nearly a century of service, it's time for an upgrade. To complete this work, we will need to close the tunnel – first on weekends and then full time – from Spring 2022 to Fall 2023, with additional weekend closures through the end of the year. We are committed to reducing the impact of this project on commuters and local communities.

Spring 2022 – Spring 2023

Weekend closures

May 2023 – Sept 2023

⚠ Full closure

Fall 2023 – Winter 2023

Weekend closures

Why a restoration?

The Sumner Tunnel is well beyond patches and repairs: the only way to keep it in service is with a top-to-bottom restoration. Corrosion and wear-and-tear have deeply impacted wall panels and gutters. There's exposed rebar on the ceiling, and even after resurfacing, pavement conditions are poor. This restoration will provide many public benefits including improved tunnel safety, a smoother, more durable roadway surface, new lighting and security systems, and better cell phone, GPS, and radio service inside the tunnel. With this work, we expect to keep the Sumner Tunnel in service for another century or more.

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How will this affect me?

Commuters and travelers

The project will lead to detours and delays for North-of-Boston and East Boston commuters, as well as complications for many Logan travelers. During this time, traffic will be diverted through other routes. MassDOT is working on proposed detour plans – check the project website for the latest updates.

Neighborhoods

East Boston, South Boston, and waterfront residents and business owners will experience increased traffic during construction as drivers detour through the Ted Williams Tunnel. And since much of the North End is built into the tunnel roof, construction will result in intermittent noise and vibration impacts to the neighborhood.

Closing the Sumner Tunnel is not a decision we're making lightly. We are committed to finding ways to mitigate these effects and reduce impact across the board. As the final design progresses and before construction begins, more detailed plans will be developed and posted on the project website.

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How can I find out more?

Please visit the project website below or scan the QR code for more details on the project, information on upcoming public meetings, and to sign up for regular email updates.

Project website mass.gov/Sumner100

Project email Sumner100@dot.state.ma.us

