



WATER STREET BRIDGE REPLACEMENTS

FITCHBURG, MA

PROJECT PURPOSE:

The Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) has begun the design process for the replacement of two bridges along Water Street (Route 12) located in the City of Fitchburg. Water Street Bridge (Route 12) over Nashua River (F-04-018) carrying two-way traffic over the Nashua River will have its superstructure replaced, and Water Street Bridge (State 2A) Over Boulder Drive and Pan Am Railroad (F-04-017) carrying two-way traffic over Boulder Drive and the Pan Am railroad will be fully replaced.

PROJECT NEED:

Water Street Bridge (State 2A) over Boulder Drive and Pan Am Railroad was built in 1900 and rehabilitated in 1953. It carries four lanes of traffic and approximately 20,000 vehicles daily as well as pedestrian and bicycle traffic from Route 12 to Main Street in Fitchburg.

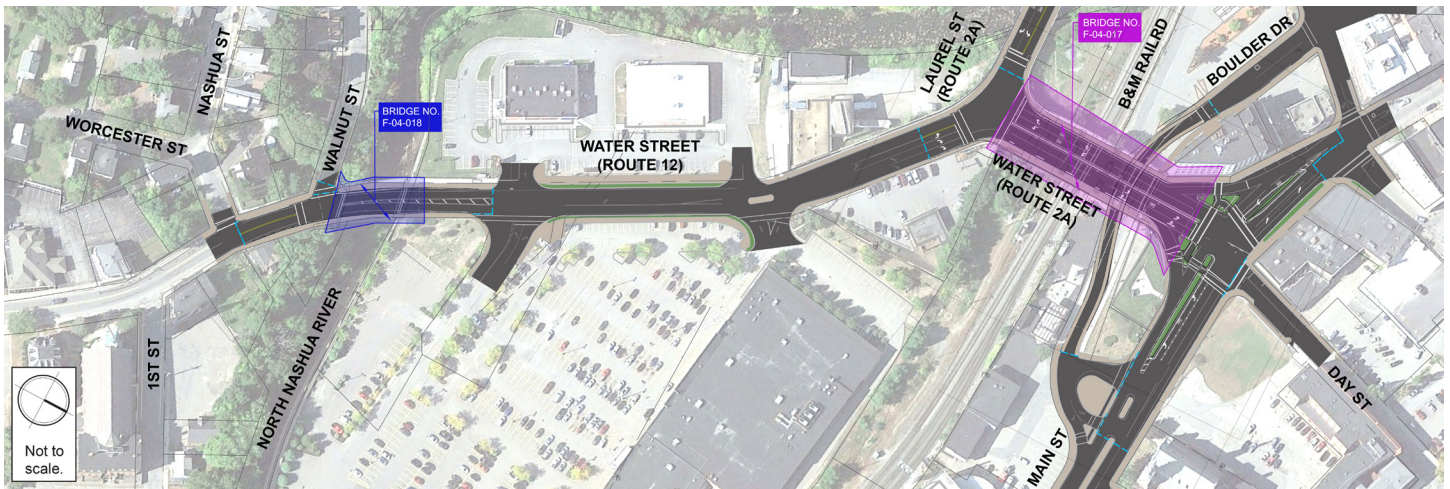
Boulder Drive running East underneath the bridge carries over 5,000 vehicles daily. Fitchburg State University is located north of the bridge and welcomes over 5,000 students to campus each year. Market Basket shopping plaza is located just south of the bridge.

Water Street Bridge (Route 12) over the Nashua River was constructed in 1937 and rehabilitated in 1967. It carries two lanes of traffic and over 20,000 vehicles daily over the Nashua River. Located three miles south of the bridge is Fitchburg Municipal Airport and access to Route 2.

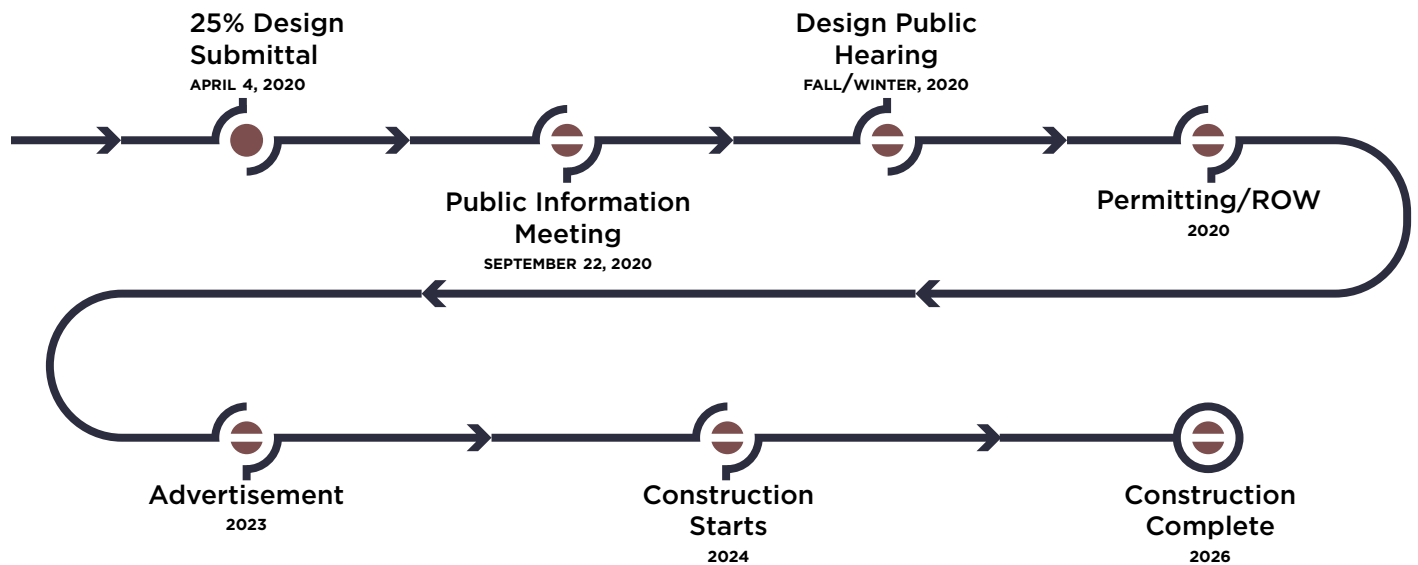
Recent inspections have determined that both bridges are structurally deficient and in need of replacements. Water Street is a significant roadway in Fitchburg and provides a gateway to the City's Central Business District. The street is a critical route traveled by many to get to and from the area's major institutions.



PROJECT SCOPE



Construction is anticipated to start in 2024 as the Circle Street Bridge and River Street Bridges are also in need of replacement and will be constructed in 2022-2024. The staggering of bridge replacements will help to alleviate the need for multiple lane closures in the busiest part of the City.



HOW TO STAY INFORMED:

Weekly construction updates and project informational materials can be found on the project website:

mass.gov/lists/meeting-materials-water-street-bridges-replacement-project-fitchburg

Send your questions and comments to the project email:

fitchburgbridges@dot.state.ma.us

