



# Morgan-Sullivan Bridge Replacement Project

## January 2019 Fact Sheet

### About the Project

This project will replace and widen the Morgan-Sullivan Bridge, which carries Route 147 over the Westfield River between West Springfield and Agawam. The project will also reconstruct and add new traffic signals to three intersections:

- Memorial Avenue at River Street in West Springfield
- Springfield Street (Route 147) at Main Street/Suffield Street in Agawam
- Springfield Street (Route 147) at Walnut Street/Walnut Street Extension in Agawam



*Location of the Morgan-Sullivan Bridge and three adjacent intersections identified above.*

### Project Benefits

The current bridge was built in 1946 and is structurally deficient. The new bridge will be widened to include four travel lanes plus a left turn lane for vehicles and Complete Streets improvements. A Complete Street provides safe and accessible options for all travel modes, including vehicles, pedestrians, and bicyclists. The project will result in improvements for each user of the bridge, which are detailed on page 2.

# Project Benefits



## Pedestrians

- **New sidewalks** will be added in several locations where currently none exist, and they will connect to Doering Middle School and the Big E site
- Existing sidewalks will be reconstructed and widened to comply with **Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) standards**



## Vehicles

- Additional turning lane and queuing space will be provided at intersections on both ends of the bridge to **ease traffic congestion**
- Three intersections (see page 1) will be **widened, reconstructed, and synchronized** with a new traffic signal system
- Improved traffic signs and pavement markings will provide **better visibility**



## Bicyclists

- New separated (and protected) two-way **bicycle lanes** on the east side of the bridge will connect to Doering Middle School and the Big E site
- Two designated **bicycle crossings and signals** at the Route 147/75/159 intersection will reduce turning conflicts between vehicles and bicyclists

Other roadway improvements include drainage system modifications with deep sump catch basins.



*MassDOT engineers evaluated the bridge condition and determined it needs to be replaced.*

## Phased Construction Schedule

| Stage   | Dates                         |
|---|-------------------------------|
| Preliminary Work – Complete                               | October 2018                  |
| Road Work, Stage 1 – Complete                             | November 2018 to January 2019 |
| Bridge Work, Stage 1<br>Road Work, Stage 2A – 2D          | January 2019 to Fall 2020     |
| Complete West Side of Bridge, Open to Traffic             | Fall 2020                     |
| Bridge Work, Stage 2<br>Road Work, Stage 3A – 4           | Fall 2020 to Spring 2022      |
| Complete East Side of Bridge, Open Full Bridge to Traffic | Spring 2022                   |
| Full Beneficial Use                                       | Spring 2022                   |
| Project Completion  | Summer 2022                   |

*The schedule for this major infrastructure project is weather dependent and subject to change without notice.*



# Frequently Asked Questions

## *What are the construction activities and traffic impacts for Bridge Work Stage 1?*

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During Bridge Work Stage 1 (January 2019 to Fall 2020), the bridge will be reduced to one lane of travel in each direction, 24/7. All vehicular traffic will be shifted to the east side of the bridge while crews demolish and replace the west side. Bridge and road work during winter months will be intermittent, depending on weather conditions. Throughout this stage, there will be ongoing road work on local streets near the bridge. Advisories will be posted to the [project website](#) and announced to the [project email list](#).

During Bridge Work Stage 2, traffic will be shifted to the newly-constructed west side of the bridge while the east side is demolished and replaced. The bridge will also be open to one lane of travel in each direction during this stage. A left turn lane at each end of the bridge will also be open to help improve traffic flow.

## *Why is construction staging being used? Were other techniques considered?*

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The staged construction approach was determined most feasible given the constraints of the bridge geometry and location. A complete closure to demolish and reconstruct the bridge in its current location was deemed unacceptable due to the lack of an adequate detour and the anticipated impacts on travel, including on emergency response and businesses in the areas on both sides of the bridge. The designers considered a temporary bridge but determined it would have significant additional impacts on adjacent properties, utilities and businesses, and would require the construction of temporary piers and intersections that would delay the construction schedule.

Accelerated Bridge Construction techniques, such as fabricating large pieces of the structure away from traffic areas and disrupting traffic only to move and place them, were considered during the preliminary design phase. These options were not pursued due to the complexity of the bridge geometry, restricted access, soil conditions that require deep foundations, and water control limitations.

## *How is MassDOT mitigating traffic during construction?*

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The temporary traffic signals at both ends of the bridge will be equipped with vehicle detection to respond to traffic demands and assign green time as efficiently as possible. MassDOT will monitor the temporary signals, explore ways to optimize operations and minimize congestion and delays, and coordinate potentially beneficial modifications with the municipalities throughout construction. The contractor will carry out additional work on nights and weekends to avoid traffic impacts as much as possible, and police details will be provided at critical intersections during peak periods, if needed.

In December 2018, MassDOT also widened the Route 5 South off-ramp to Route 57 West to include an additional lane. This will help accommodate motorists who may use this route as an alternative to the Morgan-Sullivan Bridge during construction. This change was suggested by an attendee of the October 2018 public meeting.



*Morgan-Sullivan Bridge piers in the Westfield River*

# Frequently Asked Questions (cont'd)

## *How will MassDOT coordinate with The Big E and what mitigation will be in place?*

MassDOT is meeting regularly with representatives from the Big E and will continue close coordination throughout the event. During the Big E, traffic on the bridge will remain restricted to two lanes (one lane in each direction) and pedestrians will be accommodated in all stages of construction. There will be no construction work during the event to prevent any further impacts.

## *How is MassDOT addressing the needs of local businesses?*

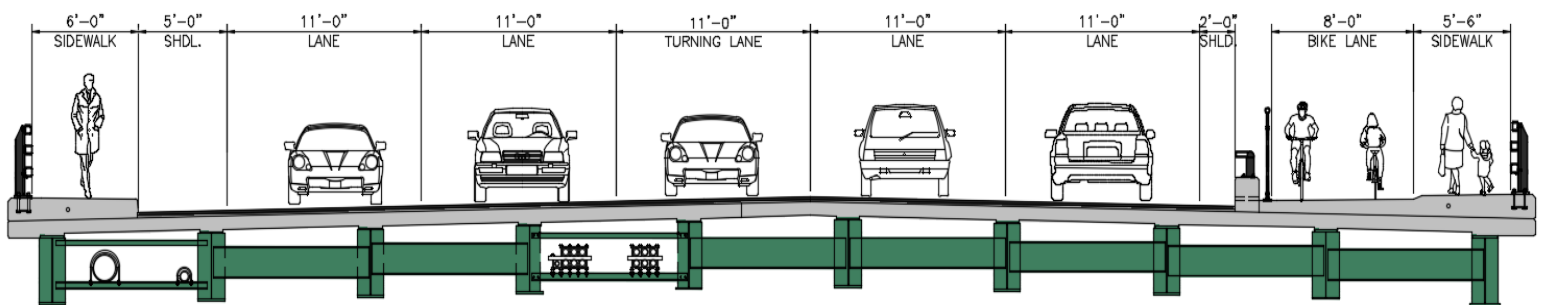
MassDOT's contractor, Northern Construction, will maintain access to all businesses throughout construction and will post signage indicating that businesses are open. Northern Construction will do as much as possible to accommodate businesses' needs when scheduling construction work to minimize impacts. MassDOT personnel will also be onsite throughout construction to monitor business access.

## *What accommodations are made for emergency vehicles?*

The temporary traffic signals at both ends of the bridge will be specially equipped to receive a signal from emergency vehicles as they approach the intersection. This will override the regular signal programming to stop traffic in all directions and give a green light to the approaching emergency vehicle.

## *How will MassDOT alert vehicles that a train is present at the CSX Railroad Crossing blocking the nearby Bridge Street/Front Street alternate route?*

MassDOT will provide warning signs at multiple locations in advance of the Bridge Street Bridge/Front Street railroad crossing from both Agawam and West Springfield. This warning system is still under development in coordination with the municipalities. MassDOT is also exploring other ways to deliver information about the status of the crossing.



*New cross section of the Morgan-Sullivan Bridge showing new sidewalks, two-way bicycle lanes, four lanes of vehicle traffic, and one left-turn lane.*

Visit the project website to see up-to-date traffic advisories and sign up for email alerts:  
**[www.mass.gov/morgan-sullivan-bridge-replacement-project](http://www.mass.gov/morgan-sullivan-bridge-replacement-project)**

*You can view more information about the project in the October 2 public meeting presentation on the Documents and Meeting Materials page.*

Email the project team with questions or comments at:  
**[MorganSullivanBridge@dot.state.ma.us](mailto:MorganSullivanBridge@dot.state.ma.us)**