



February 2014 Construction Update

Major construction on the Massachusetts Department of Transportation's (MassDOT) Whittier Bridge/I-95 Improvement Project began in fall 2013. Construction hours are generally 7 AM to 5 PM, Monday through Friday, with occasional work on Saturdays. MassDOT's contractor, Walsh-McCourt JV1, has implemented a single right lane closure on I-95 northbound on most work days through 2014 to allow construction vehicle access to the new northbound highway alignment work zone. Other lane closures are implemented when necessary. Daytime I-95 closures are limited to single lanes; nighttime closures can be one or two lanes. Some lane closures are also necessary on local roads. Additionally, detours on local roads are necessary, particularly when the existing bridge structures above them are demolished. Detours will be scheduled for off-peak and nighttime hours. Email advisories are sent notifying stakeholders, including local media, about detours and lane closures.

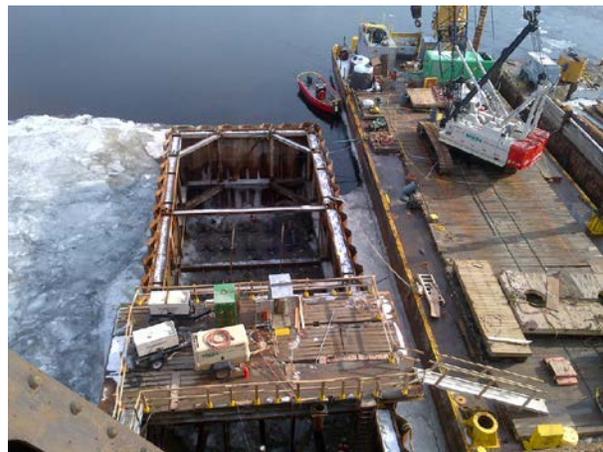
The following is a summary of work completed to date, a description of ongoing construction and a look at upcoming activities that will take place through spring 2014.



Completed northern abutment for new Whittier Bridge northbound span

Completed Work:

- Test pits, borings, surveys and tree and shrub clearing for new northbound I-95 alignment
- Relocation of Newburyport water line and activation of new tie in
- Preliminary construction for shared-use path and Newburyport water line access roadway along the northbound I-95 right-of-way from Ferry Road to the Merrimack River shoreline
- Construction of northern abutment for new northbound Whittier Bridge span
- Construction of stormwater detention pond just north of Ferry Road
- Removal of plaques and granite seals for restoration
- Stormwater drain pipe installation in new northbound I-95 alignment
- Pier 3 (northernmost) and Pier 2 (middle) cofferdam installation



Pier 3 cofferdam

Ongoing Work:

- Constructing southern abutment for new northbound Whittier Bridge span
- Restoring porcelain and gold leaf on plaques
- Installing temporary and permanent piers immediately adjacent to the existing northbound Whittier Bridge span and to the east to support the railway that will carry the gantry crane used to construct the new northbound bridge span
- Excavating at I-95 bridge abutments over Route 110 and the abandoned railroad right-of-way in Amesbury
- Placing Pier 3 concrete
- Installing micro-piles at Pier 2
- Pouring concrete shafts for Evans Place bridge foundation
- Relocating utilities at Evans Place bridge



Construction of southern abutment for new Whittier Bridge northbound span

Upcoming Work:

- Install rail system to carry gantry crane for new Whittier Bridge northbound span construction
- Restore granite seals
- Install new wall adjacent to Laurel Road
- Demolish and reconstruct Pine Hill bridge over I-95 south of the Whittier Bridge in Newburyport
 - One alternating lane of travel on Ferry Road/Pine Hill Road with signals
 - Lane restrictions on I-95
- Demolish and reconstruct I-95 bridge over Route 110 north of the Whittier Bridge in Amesbury
 - Nighttime detour of Route 110 traffic around I-95 interchange area from 9 PM to 5 AM, Sunday night, March 2 through Friday morning, March 7
 - Lane restrictions on I-95
- Demolish and reconstruct I-95 bridge over abandoned railroad right-of-way north of Route 110
 - Temporary, full closure of I-95 northbound on-ramp with detour from after Labor Day to November 15 for complete deck replacement
 - Lane restrictions on I-95
- Begin I-95 widening toward median between Route 110 and Route 286
- Complete Piers 1, 2 and 3
- Install steel girders and precast deck for new Whittier Bridge northbound span

The first traffic shift to move all I-95 north and southbound traffic onto the new northbound span is anticipated for the end of 2014. The shift is contingent upon completion of the work on all other bridges and relocation of a major natural gas transmission line near Ferry Road, which must be completed before winter 2015.

Please visit the project website at www.mass.gov/massdot/whittierbridge to sign up for email alerts and updates and to learn more about this important project. For questions or concerns about the project, please contact Stephanie Boundy, Public Outreach Coordinator for MassDOT, at stephanie.boundy@state.ma.us or 857-368-8904.