



July 2016 Construction Update

Major construction of the Massachusetts Department of Transportation's (MassDOT) Whittier Bridge/I-95 Improvement Project began in fall 2013. Daytime construction hours are generally 6:00 AM to 4:00 PM, Mondays through Saturdays. Nighttime work hours are typically 4:00 PM to 2:00 AM, Sunday through Thursday. A Saturday night shift from 8:00 PM to 5:00 AM may be utilized, on an as-needed basis.

MassDOT's contractor, Walsh-McCourt JV1, has shifted traffic to the new Whittier Bridge and is demolishing the old structure. The contractor continues to implement various lane closures on I-95 North and South in the project corridor on most work days to allow construction vehicles access to the work zone. Daytime I-95 closures are limited to single lanes; nighttime closures can be one or two lanes. Some lane closures are also necessary on I-495 North and local roads, including Route 110 and Evans Place/Main Street. Additionally, detours on local roads are necessary during off-peak and nighttime hours, particularly when the existing bridge structures above are under construction.

Email advisories are sent regularly, notifying stakeholders, including local media, about detours and atypical lane closures.

The following is a summary of work completed through July 2016, a description of ongoing construction, and a look at upcoming activities through spring 2016.

Completed Work (since October 2015):

- Whittier Bridge:
 - Completed construction of the new northbound bridge span, including painting the arch, removing formwork, waterproofing, and paving
 - Shifted north and southbound traffic from old to new northbound bridge span and adjusted I-95 roadway and ramps to align with the new bridge
 - Began demolishing the old Whittier Bridge (removal of asphalt, barrier, structural steel, and bridge abutments) including lead paint abatement
 - At new southbound Pier 3, removed rock obstructions, installed foundation piles, foundation and plinth, which involved in-water work and the use of a cofferdam to keep the water out while crews work below water level
 - Relocated the gantry cranes from the northbound bridge span to the southbound bridge span
 - Installed restored porcelain and gold leaf bridge plaques on the new southbound bridge span
- I-95:
 - Completed work on I-95 median cross-overs north and south of Whittier Bridge and road widening to prepare for traffic shift to new southbound bridge span
 - Installed drainage south of Pine Hill Road/Ferry Road Bridge
 - Graded cross-over area south of Pine Hill Road/Ferry Road Bridge
 - Jacked steel beams and continued construction of the northern span of the I-95 bridge over Route 110
 - Completed construction of retaining wall (composed of EPS blocks) and installed nearby drainage structures between Evans Place/Main Street and Route 110



I-95 northbound traffic was shifted to the new Whittier Bridge span in November 2015. I-95 southbound traffic joined northbound traffic on the new span in December 2015.

Ongoing Work:

- Whittier Bridge:
 - Continuing demolition of old Whittier Bridge (removal of north abutment)
 - Continuing installation of micro piles for the new southbound bridge span
- I-95:
 - Installing drainage structures on I-95 North and South
 - Completing construction of I-95 South bridge over Evans Place/Main Street (using cost saving, accelerated bridge demolition and construction techniques to expedite work)
 - Continue milling and installing a new layer of pavement on I-95 North and South
- Constructing shared-use path trailhead entry at Newburyport Park-and-Ride lot



Demolition of the old Whittier Bridge began in January 2016 and will continue through the spring. Once demolished, the new southbound span will be constructed in its place.

Upcoming Work:

- Whittier Bridge:
 - Construct new southbound bridge span piers and abutments
 - Shift launch girders and gantry crane across the Merrimack River
 - Install foundation piles for Pier 1 of new southbound bridge span
 - Install precast foundations, columns and pier caps for new southbound Piers 1 and 2
- I-95:
 - Demolish and reconstruct I-95 bridges over Route 110
- Prepare for trail connection beneath I-95 to connect the Salisbury Point Ghost Trail and Amesbury trails

After the old bridge is demolished, the new span will be constructed in its place and southbound traffic will be shifted to it in late summer or early fall 2017.

Learn More

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. View progress photos on MassDOT's [Whittier Bridge Flickr Album](#). For questions or concerns about the project, please contact Daniel Fielding, Legislative Liaison for MassDOT, at daniel.fielding@dot.state.ma.us or 857-368-8959.

