



October 2015 Construction Update

Major construction of the Massachusetts Department of Transportation's (MassDOT) Whittier Bridge/I-95 Improvement Project began in fall 2013. Construction hours are generally 7:00 AM to 6:00 PM, Monday through Thursday, and 7:00 AM to 3:30 PM on Fridays and Saturdays. MassDOT's contractor, Walsh-McCourt JV1, has been implementing a single right lane closure on I-95 northbound between Route 113 and Route 110 on most work days to allow construction vehicles access to the northbound highway alignment work zone. Other lane closures are implemented as 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, including Route 110 under I-95. Additionally, detours on local roads are necessary during off-peak and nighttime hours, particularly when the existing bridge structures above are demolished. Email advisories are sent regularly, notifying stakeholders, including local media, about detours and atypical lane closures.

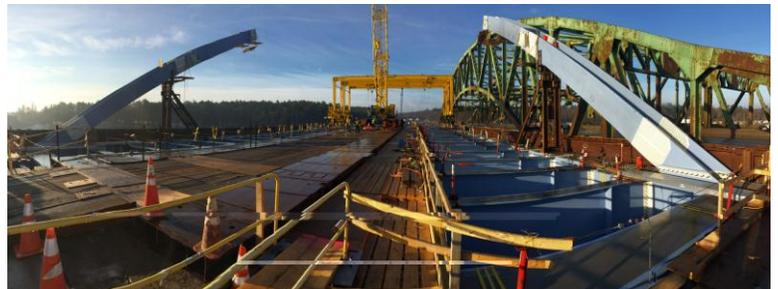


View of completed steel arch on the new northbound span with existing Whittier Bridge in the background (May 2015)

The following is a summary of work completed through August, a description of ongoing construction and a look at upcoming activities through winter 2015.

Completed Work (since December 2014):

- Whittier Bridge:
 - Erected steel arches and structural steel at Spans 1, 2 and 3 (to Pier 2) and completed installation and tensioning of hanger cables to reinforce the arch of the new northbound bridge span
 - Constructed new northbound bridge Pier 1 and extended launch girders all the way across the Merrimack River
 - Set precast concrete deck for Span 3 of the new northbound bridge span and completed concrete deck tensioning, reinforcement, and closure pours
 - Removed rock obstructions at new southbound bridge Piers 2 and 3, which involved in-water work and use of a cofferdam to keep the water out while crews work below water level
- Opened new Pine Hill Road/Ferry Road Bridge to traffic on June 26, which involved shallow excavation, installation of drainage structures, road reconstruction, and relocation of existing structures
- Completed demolition of north side of old Pine Hill Road/Ferry Road Bridge
- Completed construction of the new wall and landscaping adjacent to Laurel Road
- Ground, repaved, and restriped several exit ramps and the rest area off I-95 southbound in Salisbury
- Installed new permanent gas line across the new Pine Hill Road/Ferry Road Bridge in Newburyport
- Demolished and reconstructed I-95 bridge over abandoned railroad right-of-way north of Route 110 with precast concrete culverts
- Filled in gap and widened median between two I-95 bridges over Route 110 north of the Whittier Bridge in Amesbury
- Jacked steel beams and continued construction of the northern span of the I-95 bridge over Route 110



The first steel arch beams were placed on the new northbound Whittier Bridge span in March 2015

Ongoing Work:

- Whittier Bridge:
 - Continuing construction of the new northbound bridge span, including painting the arch and removing formwork
 - Continuing installation of micro piles for the new southbound bridge Pier 3
 - Finishing waterproofing and paving
 - Setting median barrier
- I-95:
 - Continuing work on I-95 median cross-overs north and south of Whittier Bridge to prepare for traffic shift to new bridge
 - Continuing I-95 widening toward median between Route 110 and Route 286
 - Installing drainage structures on I-95 north and southbound
 - Continuing construction of I-95 bridge over Evans Place/Main Street (using cost saving, accelerated bridge techniques to set beams to expedite work)
- Completing construction of retaining wall (composed of EPS blocks) and installing nearby drainage structures between Evans Place/Main Street and Route 110
- Constructing shared-use path trailhead entry at Newburyport Park-and-Ride lot

Upcoming Work:

- Whittier Bridge:
 - Pour concrete foundation and footing for the new southbound Pier 3
 - Dismantle the gantry crane from the northbound span and move to begin demolition and in-water construction of the new southbound bridge
 - Prepare for traffic movement onto new bridge
 - Install restored porcelain and gold leaf bridge plaques
- I-95:
 - Continue grading and paving area north of the Whittier Bridge
 - Install drainage south of Pine Hill Bridge
 - Grade crossover area south of Pine Hill Bridge
- Prepare for trail connection beneath I-95 to connect between the Salisbury Point Ghost Trail and Amesbury trails



Crews install structural steel and formwork for barriers on the Whittier Bridge in September 2015

The first traffic shift to move all I-95 north and southbound traffic onto the new northbound span (with three lanes in each direction) is anticipated begin in November/December 2015.



Crews use a traveling gantry crane (yellow) to erect steel girders on the southern end of the new Whittier Bridge northbound span

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.fielding2@state.ma.us or 857-368-8959.