



For Immediate Release

December 27, 2017

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MassDOT: Springfield I-91 Viaduct Project

Project 9 months ahead of schedule

Full beneficial use milestone reached

\$148 million project has rehabilitated viaduct that carries traffic on I-91

SPRINGFIELD – The Massachusetts Department of Transportation is pleased to announce that crews and contractors have reached the full beneficial use milestone for the \$148 million I-91 Viaduct Rehabilitation Project approximately nine months ahead of schedule, meaning that the majority of construction work is now completed and motorists can enjoy the full benefits of this project, as lanes of travel and nearby ramps are all open.

This major construction project has involved replacing the existing deck of the viaduct that carries traffic on I-91 north and southbound in Springfield. Work has also included safety improvements at the I-91/I-291 interchange, bridge drainage enhancements, installing pavement markings, constructing concrete sidewalks and wheelchair ramps on local roadways, installing curbing, and landscaping.

“We are proud to have reached this milestone for the Springfield I-91 Viaduct Project nine months ahead of schedule,” **said Transportation Secretary and CEO Stephanie Pollack**. “We thank drivers for their patience during construction and have appreciated the collaboration of members of the local business community, civic leaders and elected leaders as necessary work has involved lane detours and other impacts during the construction project.”

“We are pleased with the great work of our MassDOT Highway Division crews and contractors in reaching this milestone early so that the majority of construction work has now been completed,” **said MassDOT Highway Administrator Jonathan Gulliver**. “Our operations were carried out quicker than expected thanks in part to the cooperation from the traveling public and we thank the contractor and our crews for reaching this point in the project so that drivers now have an easier time traveling through this location.”

The achievement of the full beneficial use milestone means that only short-term, temporary lane closures will be necessary to complete the minor remaining work which includes painting, final paving operations, installing traffic markings, and underdeck lighting work.

Recent traffic milestones on this project have included opening the State Street on-ramp to I-91 northbound ahead of schedule on Monday, December 18. An additional lane of I-91 northbound was also reopened on December 8, giving traffic access to travel on all lanes.

In November 2017, MassDOT and the contractor expedited the project schedule to reopen a lane on I-91 southbound and all other ramps ahead of the Thanksgiving holiday. These lanes and ramps were closed in December 2015 and were originally planned to reopen in spring 2018. Full beneficial use was originally expected to be achieved in August 2018.

MassDOT also reminds members of the public that it is carrying out a separate construction project in the area south of the I-91 Viaduct that involves replacing the bridges that carry I-91 over Union Street and Broad Street. This project is currently proceeding ahead of schedule and it is expected that all lanes of traffic will be opened in summer 2018.

The Baker-Polito Administration has invested over \$2.8 billion since 2015 on highway construction projects and bridges, pavement, intersection and sidewalk improvements, and bike lanes, while authorizing over \$700 million in Chapter 90 local transportation funding for cities and towns. An additional \$30 million has been invested through Complete Streets and Municipal Small Bridge programming to support local transportation planning and community bridges not eligible for federal aid.

Statewide, those investments have paved approximately 2,000 lane miles, enough to cross Massachusetts and back at least 5 times; installed 160 miles of sidewalk, almost encircling the Quabbin Reservoir; and rehabilitated or replaced approximately 80 bridges. Projects include installing new safety equipment, optimizing traffic configuration, lane and intersection widening and building infrastructure which accommodates everyone, whether they are on foot, riding a bike, taking mass transit, or driving.

For more information about the I-91 Viaduct Rehabilitation Project, please visit the website at www.mass.gov/massdot/I91ViaductRehab or view progress photos on the project's [Flickr Album](#).

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