

**Questions and Answers from public meeting
on the Craigie Drawbridge Replacement
October 7, 2010 - Museum of Science**

What is the Emergency Access Plan through the work zone during construction?

All emergency vehicles approaching the site will be waived through after traffic is stopped at Leverett Circle.

What provisions have been made for emergency response on the water?

The Mass State police marine unit will be locating a vessel within the basin to maintain access to the Charles River.

What will the effects be to Charles River navigation traffic?

The US Coast Guard granted a waiver to the MassDOT which allows the navigation channel through the Craigie Drawbridge to be occupied from November 1 2010 through April 27, 2011. Navigation will not be permitted through the channel during this period.

Will hazardous cargo routes be detoured into neighborhoods?

The hazardous cargo route is designated by the US Department of Transportation Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration. The route will be unaffected by this project.

Will an advisory sign about walking bikes over the bridge be in place?

Yes, a sign will be placed at the bridge.

Will the modifications at Museum Way and Rutherford Avenue improve pedestrian safety?

Modifications were made in August 2010 to change the signal timings. No additional pedestrian-specific changes are planned.

An old press release indicates Average Daily traffic to be 117,000 vehicles per day. MassDOT is specifying 45,000 ADT. Why the discrepancy?

The press release from 2008 contains an erroneous number. The correct ADT is 45,000. The historical volume count from 1999-2006 indicates volume in the 30-40,000 range with volume declining over that period. The detailed counts done by the designer in 2006 were 42,000 ADT and we have used 45,000 for the design criteria.

Will there be another meeting in Cambridge?

An East Cambridge neighborhood meeting was held on September 29, 2010. No additional meetings in Cambridge are planned at this time.

There have been a number of times where detail officers are not directing traffic consistent with the traffic management plan. How will this be addressed?

The MassDOT has been meeting regularly with area police agencies to ensure that detail officers are clear on assigned duties. Each detail officer will be provided specific instructions for the assigned intersection at the beginning of each shift.

Will traffic be detoured traveling from Boston?

Traffic traveling from Boston will be unaffected by detours for this project.

There is a VMS on land Boulevard that is not placed well. Can it be relocated?

The Variable Message Sign location has been reviewed by MassDOT field staff and has been relocated for better visibility.

Can MassDOT change the configuration to be one lane inbound and one lane outbound even if just for weekends?

No. MassDOT's traffic engineers have reviewed this option and have determined that a configuration that changes on weekends of from morning to afternoon is not feasible. The complex detour signage is difficult to switch back and forth in a timely manner and a shifting traffic pattern is difficult for commuters to adjust to.

What will the final condition be on the bridge? Will bikes be allowed on the sidewalk?

The final bridge condition is still being finalized. Current plans call for the addition of in-road bike facilities. Even with the addition of bike facilities cyclists will still be allowed to continue to use the sidewalks which are designated multi-use.

What would constitute an “unbearable” traffic condition?

Traffic conditions will be monitored continuously. Although “unbearable” is a subjective term MassDOT is committed to working with local officials to assess conditions and make adjustments as necessary.

Cambridge Parkway has the potential to receive a lot of overflow traffic from land Boulevard. Are any measures being taken to prevent this from happening?

No measures are being taken as part of this project. It is our understanding that recently passed legislation includes provisions to address issues on Cambridge Parkway as part of a future project.

What is MassDOT doing about nearby projects?

MassDOT is carefully coordinating project activities with nearby projects being undertaken by MassDOT, MBTA, DCR, City of Boston and City of Cambridge. At no time will projects in the reason be running opposing traffic detours.

Where will the contractor stage work from?

The contractor has had a staging area in place off of Museum Way for the past 18 months. That area will continue to be used for this phase. Additionally, work will be staged from barges in the navigation channel and at times from the roadway adjacent to the bridge.

Who should people call in the case of an emergency or major site problem?

For emergencies such as accidents and safety issues people should still call 911. For issues related to traffic and site conditions please call the MassDOT Highway Operations Center at (617) 946-3150