

LONGFELLOW BRIDGE

REHABILITATION PROJECT

BRIDGING THE PAST AND THE FUTURE

PROJECT UPDATE APRIL 2011

The Massachusetts Department of Transportation is undertaking a major project to restore and rehabilitate the historic Longfellow Bridge across the Charles River. The bridge is an important multi-modal link and a visual, architectural, and engineering icon. An Early Action Contract was issued in 2010 to address key issues in the short term while final design activities are underway. MassDOT worked with the Longfellow Bridge Rehabilitation Task Force from June to October 2010 to gather input on how space on the bridge would be allocated among all users. This update provides information on activities since the conclusion of the Task Force.

Project Developments

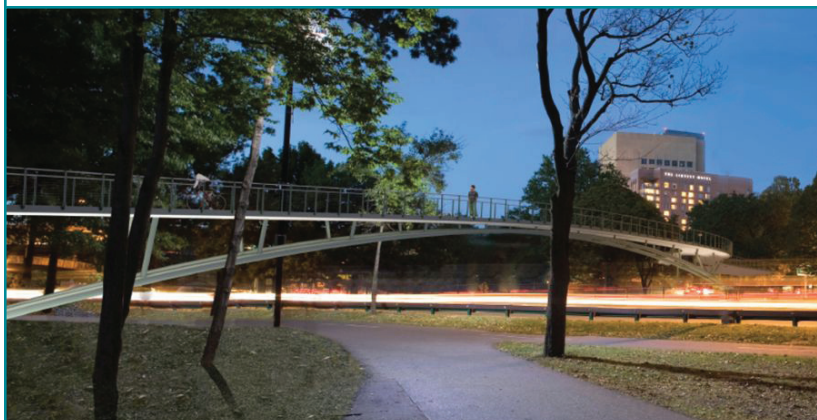
- In June 2010 MassDOT convened a 36-member Task Force to discuss options for configuring the roadway portion of the Longfellow Bridge. Task Force members represented a diverse set of stakeholder groups such as bicycle, pedestrian, transit, business, civic organizations, and emergency service agencies. Members provided input on design of the bridge and allocation of space for user groups. The group met nine times and developed ten alternative bridge layouts. The layouts and recommendations on connections at the bridge approaches will be evaluated in the forthcoming Environmental Assessment (EA).
- Interest in wider sidewalk entrances to the Longfellow Bridge and a new pedestrian bridge led to the idea of relocating the existing Storrow Drive off-ramp to the existing Mugar Way near John Jeffries House. MassDOT is studying potential impacts of relocating the off-ramp, including noise and the impacts and benefits to parkland, pedestrians and cyclists.
- Design is progressing to address the needed structural improvements to give the bridge an additional 75-year life.

- MassDOT will be submitting a Design Exception Report to request approval from Federal Highway Administration to narrow the width of the motor vehicle lanes and shoulders.

Update on Progress of Early Action Contract

The contractor, SPS New England Inc., has completed interim modifications to sidewalks connecting Longfellow Bridge sidewalks to Charles Circle. Final paving of a short portion of roadway between Charles Circle and the Longfellow Bridge will be completed in May after the Craigie Bridge detour has been removed. Work is progressing to consolidate the cable utilities under the bridge. Work to clean, de-lead, and prime the arch rib girders is expected to begin in early May. All piers and abutments will be cleaned and masonry repaired at all but the two central piers and eight towers. The masonry cleaning scope began in late March with repointing work to commence in April. In early summer, the contractor will reconstruct the First Street Pump Station and install

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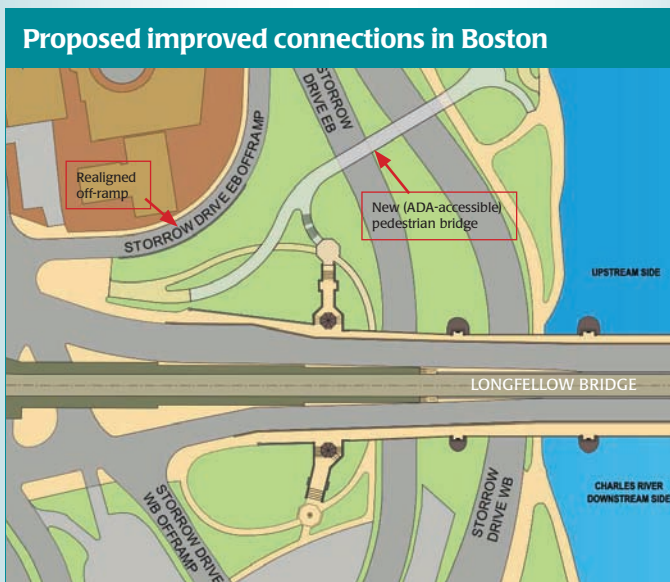
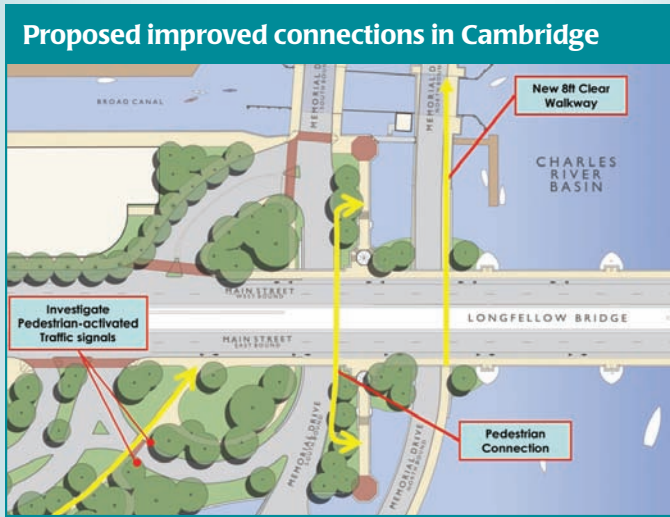


Proposed Parkland Connectivity Improvements

A new, fully ADA-accessible pedestrian bridge will be evaluated in the Environmental Assessment, planned to be submitted to FHWA in spring. Additionally, MassDOT will improve the park area and connections from Longfellow Bridge to the surrounding parklands and communities.

View of proposed pedestrian bridge from the Esplanade.

Proposed Connectivity Improvements



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new pumps to better control Memorial Drive flooding near the Longfellow Bridge. Closed-circuit television cameras will be installed on the bridge in late spring to monitor traffic conditions along the bridge, Memorial Drive and Storrow Drive. The Early Action Contract is expected to be complete in December 2011.

Section 106 Historic Review & Section 4(f) Parkland Reviews

To provide widened sidewalk entrances to the bridge from Charles Circle, the southeast and northeast walls would be moved out from the existing bridge edge. This was presented to Section 106 Consulting parties in December 2010 and January 2011 (the State Historic Preservation Officer, Boston Landmarks Commission, Cambridge Historical Society, Department of Conservation and Recreation and Federal Highway Administration). Responses were favorable. Impacts from this widening would be offset by relocating the existing Storrow Drive off-ramp to the existing parallel roadway, Mugar Way, at Charles Circle. This proposal would result in a net increase in parkland and will be evaluated in the Environmental Assessment. MassDOT is continuing to work with the consulting parties on the bridge rehabilitation and restoration, street lighting and architectural details.

Public Participation

MassDOT is committed to public outreach throughout the duration of design and construction of this project. Please see the project website, www.mass.gov/massdot/charlesriverbridges, for information and updates.

Contact

If you would like to be added to our US Mail or email distribution lists, please contact Stephanie Boundy, Public Outreach Coordinator by email stephanie.boundy@state.ma.us or call 617-973-8049.

If you have questions, please contact Michael O'Dowd, Project Manager, by email Michael.O'Dowd@state.ma.us or call 617-973-7475.

Please submit written communications, including requests for information and comments, to:

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Project Schedule

Environmental Assessment and Section 4(f) Evaluation	Spring 2011
Complete Early Action Contract	December 2011
25% Design Public Hearing	Summer 2011
Complete Final Design	March 2012
Construction: request for bids	Early Summer 2012
Construction	2012–2016