

MEMORANDUM

TO: Richard A. Davey, Secretary & CEO
FR: Frank DePaola, Highway Division Administrator
RE: Ongoing Work in the MHS Tunnels
DA: November 18, 2011

To follow is a summary of maintenance and construction activities performed last week in the Metropolitan Highway System tunnels.

Please feel free to contact me if you need additional information.

Overnight work:

- Sawing and sealing joints in the pavement in the I-90 Eastbound Tunnel. Eighteen joints were installed across the roadway through a recently paved section of the tunnel.
- Trench drain inspections. Contractors inspected 27 trench drains in the tunnel system. Roadways in the tunnels are below ground levels, at lower elevations than the roadways outside the tunnels. Trench drains help to prevent water flowing downhill on roadways outside the tunnels from entering the tunnels. Inspections occurred in the I-90 Eastbound and Westbound Tunnels, The Ted Williams Tunnel Eastbound and Westbound, the Storrow Tunnel Eastbound and Westbound, the HOV Tunnel and the I-93 Southbound Tunnel. Inspections also included ramps in the vicinities of those tunnels.
- Camera cleaning and repairs in the Ted Williams Tunnel Westbound, and related ramps. Ten cameras were cleaned and two were repaired.
- Continuing substructure repairs in the Storrow Tunnel. Contractors poured concrete, in a continuous pour, on formed sections within the tunnel.
- Inspection of conduit routing along Ramp L-CS in the vicinity of the I-93 Southbound Tunnel. Contractors inspected and verified conduit routing for conduit running beneath the roadway surface.
- Railing removal continues in the I-93 Northbound and Southbound Tunnels and on related ramps. Contractors have removed approximately 400 linear feet of railings in the Northbound tunnel and approximately 450 linear feet in the Southbound tunnel (and on related ramps).
- Inspection of Boston Properties structures in the Prudential Tunnel Eastbound. This is part of a routine inspection of the Prudential Tunnel. The property overhead is owned and maintained by Boston Properties.
- Sign maintenance and replacement in the I-93 Tunnel Northbound. MassDOT replaced one sign and portions of three others. MassDOT also performed preventive maintenance on an additional sign.
- Tunnel lighting inspections. A contractor inspected tunnel lights in the I-93 Tunnels Northbound and Southbound, the I-90 Tunnels Eastbound and Westbound, and the Ted Williams Tunnel Westbound. This inspection is related

- to MassDOT's development of permanent repair plans for the tunnel lighting system. MassDOT has already attached redundant straps on all tunnel lighting as a temporary solution to the tunnel lighting issue identified earlier this year. The contractor is now inspecting in order to develop a permanent solution.
- MassDOT removed six high-impact transitional lighting fixtures from the I-93 Southbound Tunnel. The lights were struck by an overheight vehicle. The lights will be replaced.
 - MassDOT cut down and removed an overhead AM wire that fell to the roadway surface in the I-93 Northbound Tunnel. Workers removed approximately 150 feet of wire from the tunnel. Permanent repairs are scheduled for the overnight shift on Sunday, November 20 into Monday, November 21. MassDOT is looking into whether an overheight vehicle strike may have caused the wire to loosen.

Daytime work:

- Soil test borings in the vicinity of Vent Building 1, near South Station. Contractors have encountered obstructions in the borings, and are currently boring the third of four holes to be used for soil testing. Contractors have already drilled six holes to varying depths, including two to the full depth of 135 feet. Contractors have not encountered frozen soil in either of these deep holes. MassDOT is considering drilling another deep hole in the vicinity of the United States Postal Service parking lot in an effort to obtain additional information on soil conditions. MassDOT expects to provide a full report on testing results by year's end.