

Trapelo Road/Belmont Street - Roadway Reconstruction

The Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) is pleased to provide this construction update for the Trapelo Road/Belmont Street reconstruction project in Belmont and Watertown. In collaboration with state and local officials, MassDOT is rehabilitating the section of Trapelo Road from Waverly Oaks Road to Belmont Street and the section of Belmont Street from Trapelo Road to Brimmer Street. The \$17 million project is addressing existing traffic signal and geometric deficiencies by improving the capacity, reliability, safety and mobility for pedestrians, bicyclists, public transportation and vehicular traffic. The project will enhance the aesthetics along the corridor, which is home to both residential and business uses, and will reduce the annual maintenance costs for the communities.

Completed Work

The project is approximately 60% complete with over \$10 million in spending to date. The contractor, Newport Construction Corporation has completed micro milling and placement of the intermediate pavement course from Mill Street to School Street, with the exception of the area between Williston Road and Common Street where the new Cushing Village development project is proposed. New granite curbing and sidewalks have been installed on the north side of the road within these same limits and similar work is progressing easterly on the south side of the roadway. Over 213 new trees have been planted along portions of the corridor, which along with additional landscaping items already installed, represents approximately 50% of the overall landscaping plan. The installation of the new drainage system is substantially complete including over 200 new catch basins and drainage manholes and 11,700 feet of new drainage pipes of varying sizes. The equipment associated with the new traffic signal systems has been installed at approximately half of the intersections along the corridor and those locations are ready to be connected to the municipal power system.



Completed Sidewalks and Intermediate Pavement Layer

Ongoing Work

The contractor will continue to install new curbing and sidewalks on both sides of the road between Common Street (Cushing Square) and Grove Street. The limited amount of remaining drainage work will occur once National Grid completes the relocation of their gas main in the affected area. The new catenary poles associated with the MBTA public transportation system are being fabricated at the supplier's facility. The contractor will continue to install traffic signal equipment with the goal of energizing the new systems and removing the existing installations as soon as practicable.

Upcoming Work

In early August, the contractor will install permanent trench patching along the remaining areas of the project. Micro milling and the installation of the intermediate layer of new pavement between School Street and Ericsson Street/Brimmer Street is scheduled to occur in mid-August. In early August, the contractor will begin replacing a number of previously installed sidewalk panels that were determined to be out of tolerance due to issues related to preparing and handling the cement concrete material. The contractor will also begin the installation of the new curbing between Williston Road and Common Street, barring any additional delays due to the Cushing Village project. In order to address existing roadway grading issues and potential drainage concerns, the decision was recently made to modify the project design to include full depth roadway reconstruction between Arlington Street/Marion Road and Oxford Avenue, including a short segment of Marlboro Street. This work will be scheduled as soon as the revised design plans are received from the design consultant, BSC Group. The delivery of the new catenary poles is expected to occur in September with installation to commence upon arrival. The MBTA is preparing to commence any needed preparatory work prior to the installation of the new poles.



Signal and Streetscape Work at Cushing Square

Once all of the aforementioned work items are completed, the contractor will schedule the installation of the final bituminous concrete wearing surface and pavement markings. Both of these work items are weather dependent and it is not yet possible to determine whether the work can feasibly be completed this construction season or will need to be completed in spring 2016 along with the remaining landscaping.

Issues Affecting Schedule

A number of conflicts with underground utilities were encountered at the start of construction. To minimize delays, over 100 test pits have been taken to locate existing underground utilities to identify potential conflicts with the proposed underground work. Conflicts were found at multiple locations, requiring design modifications to be developed by the consultant. Though this process has impacted the schedule for some operations, particularly those related to the drainage and traffic signal systems, far more significant delays would have occurred had it not been used.

Other than the underground utilities installations, the majority of the work proposed between Williston Road and Common Street has not been implemented to allow for the potential coordination with the Cushing Village project. The project team has been in contact with the development team to determine the status of their efforts to secure the needed funding and approvals for their underground utility connections. The most beneficial scenario would involve the developer completing their work first with the contractor then completing the roadway reconstruction and paving work to avoid this area from having to be disturbed as part of both projects.

Notwithstanding all of the above, the goal at a minimum is to complete all of the work items necessary to allow the project to achieve full beneficial use prior to the end of 2015.