

I-90 Toll Demolition and Roadway Reconstruction Project

Elected Officials Briefing #2

Weekend Look ahead (11/4 – 11/6)

Dear Elected Official,

Good news!!! Construction at all locations is progressing at or ahead of schedule, and we continue to see high demand for transponders both online and in-person at our customer service locations. The focus right now is on completing Stage 1 construction as expeditiously as possible, in order to prepare and clear the roadway for Thanksgiving holiday travel.

As you know, Stage 1 construction involved shifting travel to the outside lanes of the toll plaza while work was completed in the center. Stage 2 involved shifting travel back to center of the newly constructed roadway. This configuration of travel lanes through the center of the demolished toll plazas is referred to as “winter condition” because the lanes will remain this way through the winter while work is done on the outside of the former toll plazas and the final roadway is built (drainage, guardrail, etc).

All twenty-three toll plaza locations were scheduled to reach stage 2 “winter condition” no later than November 22, 2016; however, work is trending ahead of schedule.

Stage 2 “winter condition” **has been reached** at the following locations with vehicles now driving through the center lanes on a newly paved roadway:

- Weston (interchanges 14, 15 and 55)
- Lee (interchange 2)

Stage 2 “winter condition” **is scheduled to be reached** this weekend, weather permitting, at:

- On Friday, Ted Williams Tunnel (interchange 37)
- On Friday, Millbury/Worcester (interchange 11)
- On Saturday, Westfield (interchange 3)

All locations are scheduled to reach stage 2 “winter condition” no later than November 14, 2016. This forecast is contingent on cooperative weather and no incidents that impact work.

Construction Status Overview:

Construction is trending ahead of schedule in nearly all locations, with 81.3% of toll booths completely demolished. Each location has its own very specific traffic management plan and construction management plan; therefore some locations are in varying stages of demolition and reconstruction, while some have already reached Stage 2 “winter condition”.

This week, MassDOT crews and contractors continue the stage 1 demolition process in most areas, including excavating and backfilling at locations with tunnels, and grading and preparing the roadway for paving, paving and striping in preparation to shift traffic back to the center of the newly constructed roadway.

Traffic Impacts:

There were no major traffic disturbances to report to date. On Monday October 31st, traffic volumes were approximately 6-10% lower than normal, which reflect the proactive messaging to drivers. Those volumes quickly returned to normal levels on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. MassDOT continues to monitor traffic volumes and travel times on a daily basis.

We did receive a report of one minor local traffic issue in Palmer, which was addressed with a traffic signal timing change and seems to have been resolved. There have been, and there may continue to be intermittent delays during overnight hours when heavy equipment is being moved in and out of work zones and requires holding traffic for a short period of time.

Massachusetts State Police are reporting to MassDOT that there have been no major incidents as a result of these work zones. There have been two minor fender benders (paper swap only), but overall crashes in these areas are down from the same time last year. There have also been no workplace injuries.

There have been two noise complaint issues, (one in Westfield, another in Allston) but these have been addressed by speaking directly to the residents. It is worth noting that the demolition work that would cause the most significant noise issues has been, for the most part, completed.

Detailed Interchange Status (as of November 4th):

Due to how fast moving this project is these statuses are subject to change by the day.

West Stockbridge (IC 1)

- Initial paving sequence completed. Continuing demolition, excavating and graveling of tunnels.

Lee (IC 2)

- Traffic has been moved over to its Stage 2 “winter condition”. Beginning stage 2 work this weekend.

Westfield (IC 3)

- All tunnels removed and filled in. Paving scheduled for Friday night and setting barrier. Drivers will be shifted to “winter condition” configuration this weekend.

West Springfield (IC 4)

- Tunnel walls have been demolished and currently preparing for paving tonight.

Chicopee (IC 5)

- Continue to demolish concrete. Backfilling and grading at tunnel locations. Paving is scheduled for early next week.

Chicopee (IC 6)

- Backfilling and grading at tunnel locations. Paving is scheduled for early next week.

Ludlow (IC 7)

- Tunnel demo complete, backfilling, continuing demolition of concrete slab on approach to booths and bringing new roadway to grade.

Palmer (IC 8)

- Concrete demolition complete at plazas is complete. This weekend will be backfilling tunnel locations and grading in preparation for paving next week.

Sturbridge (IC 9)

- Grading work ongoing in preparation for paving to take place late Sunday night.

Auburn (IC 10)

- Grading work ongoing in preparation for paving Friday night and moving barrier over weekend in anticipation for traffic shift to stage 2 early/mid next week.

Millbury (IC 10A)

- Grading work in preparation for paving Friday night, moving barrier over weekend in anticipation for traffic shift to stage 2 early/mid next week.

Millbury/Worcester (IC 11)

- Paving complete. Currently moving barrier into position in anticipation to move traffic into “winter condition” late Friday night.

Hopkinton (IC 11A)

- Initial paving at this location will take place tonight. Tunnel demolition continuing on into Sunday.

Framingham (IC 12)

- Tunnel demolition continuing on into Sunday, then will finishing grading and complete paving work before shifting travel lanes into “winter condition”.

Natick (IC 13)

- Tunnel demolition continuing this weekend then will finishing grading and complete paving work before shifting travel lanes into “winter condition”.

Weston (IC 14/15/55)

- Currently in Stage 2 traffic plan with traffic going through the center of the former toll plazas. Completed Stage 1 work ahead of schedule.

Allston/Brighton (IC 18/19/20)

- Completing demolition of underground tunnels and grading. Over this weekend paving will occur in many locations either Friday (IC 20) or late Sunday (IC 18EB, IC 19) in preparation to shift into winter condition early/mid next week.

Ted Williams Tunnel (IC 31/37)

- At IC 31, pouring slab over stairwell then paving. At IC 37 plan is to shift traffic into “winter condition” Friday tonight.

All Electronic Tolling Activation and E-ZPass Distribution:

On Friday at 10:06 p.m., Massachusetts officially became a cash-free toll state when All Electronic Tolling was officially activated.

- From that time until this Friday at 8 a.m., the overhead gantries registered approximately 8.2 million transactions.
 - Approximately 83.7% of the transactions registered from Monday to Friday were with E-ZPass, which puts MassDOT very close to its goal of 85% E-ZPass market share.

- Over the last week, the customer service centers have seen 9,791 walk-in customers.

On Monday afternoon, the website www.ezdrivema.com was activated, so customers can now check their accounts, and signup for transponders.

- Since the website was activated Monday afternoon until Friday morning, more than 20,000 payments have been made.
- In that same time, more than 20,700 calls have been made to our service center hotline.

Stay Informed

Follow @MassDOT on Twitter for live construction updates. MassDOT implemented AETinfo@dot.state.ma.us as a resource for constituents with any questions comments or concerns related to construction. For constituents with E-ZPass or Pay By Plate billing questions, please contact the EZDriveMA hotline or EZDriveMA website below. As always, please reach out to your Legislative Liaison or Community Affairs Liaison for immediate assistance. If there is information not contained in this briefing that you would like reported on, please let us know.

Thank you again for your interest in this project.

Respectfully submitted.