

I-90 Toll Demolition and Roadway Reconstruction Project

Elected Officials Briefing #3

Week Look ahead (11/7 – 11/11)

Dear Elected Official,

Construction at all locations continues to progress 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 all Stage 1 construction as early as the end of this week, ahead of schedule and well in advance of the Thanksgiving holiday.

As you know, Stage 1 construction involved shifting travel to the outside lanes of the toll plaza while work was being done in the center. Stage 2 involves shifting vehicles 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:

- Lee (interchange 2)
- Westfield (interchange 3)
- Millbury/Worcester (interchange 11)
- Weston (interchanges 14, 15 and 55)
- Ted Williams Tunnel (interchange 37)

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

- On Monday: West Stockbridge (IC 1)
- On Tuesday: Chicopee (IC 6), Ludlow (IC 7), Allston/Brighton
- On Wednesday: Chicopee (IC 5), Palmer (IC 8), Auburn (IC 10), Framingham (IC 12), Ted Williams Tunnel (IC 31)
- On Thursday: West Springfield (IC 4), Sturbridge (IC 9), Hopkinton (11A), Natick (IC 13)

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 all locations, with 82% 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 later steps of the stage 1 demolition process, including grading, paving, striping, and moving barrier 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. Volumes have returned to their normal levels. MassDOT continues to monitor traffic volumes and travel times on a daily basis. It is important to note, that the elimination of the toll plazas will not alleviate traffic congestion associated with traffic volume at locations away from the former toll plazas, but we are already seeing some of the benefits of the project, especially during the off peak travel periods.

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 a few 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.

As mentioned in the report last week, 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 or restricting the number of open lanes.

Detailed Interchange Status (as of November 7th):

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

West Stockbridge (IC 1)

- Grading work complete. Preparing for paving on Monday afternoon.

Lee (IC 2)

- Currently in Stage 2 configuration

Westfield (IC 3)

- Currently in Stage 2 configuration

West Springfield (IC 4)

- Completing tunnel demolition, backfilling and grading today in preparation for paving.

Chicopee (IC 5)

- Paving is scheduled for Monday in preparation to shift traffic into Stage 2 configuration.

Chicopee (IC 6)

- Paving is scheduled for Monday in preparation to shift traffic into Stage 2 configuration.

Ludlow (IC 7)

- Paving is scheduled for Monday in preparation to shift traffic into Stage 2 configuration.

Palmer (IC 8)

- Continuing grading in preparation for paving on Tuesday.

Sturbridge (IC 9)

- Began paving, continuing Monday into Tuesday in preparation to shift traffic into Stage 2 configuration.

Auburn (IC 10)

- Paving complete, striping in preparation to shift traffic into Stage 2.

Millbury (IC 10A)

- Paving complete, striping in preparation to shift traffic into Stage 2.

Millbury/Worcester (IC 11)

- Currently in Stage 2 configuration

Hopkinton (IC 11A)

- Tunnel demolition being completed, excavation and grading in preparation for paving on Tuesday.

Framingham (IC 12)

- Grading in preparation for paving work on Tuesday night in preparation for shifting travel lanes into Stage 2.

Natick (IC 13)

- Grading in preparation for paving work on Tuesday night in preparation for shifting travel lanes into Stage 2.

Weston (IC 14/15/55)

- Shifted traffic into Stage 3 to work towards final condition over winter.

Allston/Brighton (IC 18/19/20)

- Winter condition in some locations (IC 18WB and IC 20). Mobilizing barrier at IC18 EB and IC 19 in preparation to shift remaining locations into Stage 2 configuration.

Ted Williams Tunnel (IC 31/37)

- At IC 31, completed pouring slab over stairwell in advance of paving that will take place Tuesday night. At IC 37 traffic is in “winter condition”.

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 Monday at 8 a.m., the overhead gantries registered approximately 12.3 million transactions.
 - Approximately 83% of the transactions registered during weekdays were with E-ZPass, which puts MassDOT very close to its goal of 85% E-ZPass market share.
- Since October 28th, the customer service centers have seen more than 11,000 walk-in customers.

The new website www.ezdrivema.com is now activated, so customers can check their accounts, and sign up for transponders.

- Since the website was activated until this morning, more than 27,000 payments have been made.
- In that same time, more than 26,000 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.