

I-90 Toll Demolition and Roadway Reconstruction Project Elected Officials Briefing

Dear Elected Official,

Thank you for your active interest and participation in the All Electronic Tolling project. Your willingness to seek and share information with your constituents continues to be essential in educating the public about this new program, from how to obtain an E-ZPass to the new traffic patterns drivers encountered this week. MassDOT will continue to share information and answer any questions during this transition to the new EZDriveMA program.

This briefing is meant to provide the most up to date information on how construction is progressing and the status of electronic tolling. In short, 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.

We will continue to share information as we receive it, and we appreciate the patience and participation as we transition to the new EZDriveMA program, which will lead to safer, faster, and more convenient travel on our toll roads.

Construction Status Overview:

Construction is trending ahead of schedule in nearly all locations, with 80% of toll booths completely demolished. This week, MassDOT crews and contractors continue the stage 1 demolition process, including demolishing the concrete slabs approaching the toll plazas, excavating and backfilling at locations with tunnels, and grading and preparing the roadway for repaving.

It is important to note that 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. The information on the following page provides a detailed summary of each construction location.

Traffic Impacts:

There are no major disturbances to report of to date. On Monday, 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 and Wednesday. MassDOT continues to monitor traffic volumes and travel times on a daily basis.

Massachusetts State Police are reporting to MassDOT that there have been no major incidents as a result of these work zones. Crashes in these areas are trending downward from what we typically see at the former toll plaza locations.

Detailed Interchange Status (as of November 2nd):

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

West Stockbridge (IC 1)

- All toll booths demolished. Currently excavating and graveling in tunnels. Paving scheduled in next few days.

Lee (IC 2)

- All toll booths demolished. Tunnels have been filled in. Grading and compacting in preparation for paving in next day or two.

Westfield (IC 3)

- All toll booths demolished and tunnels removed and filled in. Paving scheduled in next day or two.

West Springfield (IC 4)

- Four booths demolished, two remain. Tunnel walls demolished and currently working on bringing road to grade for paving.

Chicopee (IC 5)

- Two out of three toll booths removed. Crews beginning to remove utilities from tunnels.

Chicopee (IC 6)

- Three of seven booths demolished. Continuing demolition of concrete slab on approach to booths and bringing new roadway to grade.

Ludlow (IC 7)

- Continuing demolition of concrete slab on approach to booths and bringing new roadway to grade.

Palmer (IC 8)

- All toll booths demolished. Continue to demolish concrete slab on approach to booths.

Sturbridge (IC 9)

- All toll booths demolished. Continue to excavate around tunnel areas.

Auburn (IC 10)

- All toll booths demolished. Grading work in preparation for paving.

Millbury (IC 10A)

- All toll booths demolished. Continuing to removing concrete slab, grading work in preparation for paving.

Millbury/Worcester (IC 11)

- All toll booths demolished. Grading and compacting completed and ready for paving.

Hopkinton (IC 11A)

- All toll booths demolished. Concrete demolition on approach slab in preparation for paving.

Framingham (IC 12)

- All toll booths demolished. Grading and compacting in preparation for paving in next day.

Natick (IC 13)

- All toll booths demolished. Continue tunnel excavation and grading to prepare for paving.

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 booths and continuing to demolish underground tunnels. Paving in some locations beginning this week into the weekend.

Ted Williams Tunnel (IC 31/37)

- Toll booths demolished, continuing to prepare for paving in next few days.

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 Wednesday at 8 a.m., the overhead gantries registered approximately 5.3 million transactions.
 - Approximately 83% of the transactions registered during Monday and Tuesday were with E-ZPass, which puts MassDOT very close to its goal of 85% E-ZPass transactions.
- From Friday until Wednesday morning, the customer service centers have seen 6,345 walk-in customers. At some service center locations, lines have been long, but they are fully staffed and processing customers efficiently.

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 Wednesday morning, more than 8,000 payments have been made.
- In that same time, more than 8,000 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.