



DEDHAM East Street Bridge Replacement

Dedham East Street Bridge FAQ

DESIGN PHASE

Why does the East Street bridge need to be replaced?

- The current East Street bridge is over 100 years old and has a substandard height of 12'1", which has led to many truck collisions. Between July 2019 and November 2020, there were 8 major collisions with the East Street bridge.
- To ensure the safety of both MBTA riders and the traveling public below, the MBTA will replace the current bridge, bring it into a State of Good Repair and protect it from future damage.

Why does the replacement bridge need to have a height of 14'? Will the 14' clearance prevent truck collisions?

- The existing bridge has a 12'1" substandard clearance. Raising the East Street bridge height to 14' complies with the Federal Highway Administration recommended minimum clearance standard of 14'. The maximum legal truck height under Massachusetts law is 13'6" so the new bridge will not be hit by standard tractor trailers. The Town will have the option to add signage as desired/needed.

Why was the replacement bridge on East Street in Westwood not raised to 14'?

- Site conditions at the Westwood East Street bridge prevented it from being raised to 14'. Underground utilities below the bridge limited the lowering of the road under the bridge. The project was still able to raise the bridge above 13'6" which clears the maximum legal truck height. Westwood has a restriction on trucks on East Street that is regularly enforced by the Town.

How will the project benefit drivers and pedestrians?

- The East Street Bridge Replacement project will provide improvements to the road beneath the bridge. The current travel lanes will be widened from 11'6" to 14' which includes a 2' shoulder. This will eliminate the "bottleneck" under the bridge and improve traffic flow. Additionally, continuous sidewalks on both sides of East Street will be added allowing pedestrians to safely walk under the bridge.

Will bike lanes still be available near and under the bridge?

- The project team coordinated with the Town of Dedham during the design phase of the project. Shoulder pavement markings will be provided by the town.

Will the lowering of East Street impact flooding?

- The roadway design will address any impacts that affect existing drainage along East Street.



DEDHAM East Street Bridge Replacement

Dedham East Street Bridge FAQ (*continued*)

CONSTRUCTION PHASE

Who is the construction contractor for this project?

- The contract was awarded to P. Gioioso & Sons and a construction Notice to Proceed (NTP) was issued on May 21, 2024.

How will the project team and contractor minimize impacts during construction?

- The East Street Bridge Replacement Project will use accelerated bridge construction methods to reduce impacts to East Street and MBTA Commuter Rail service. The new bridge will be constructed off-line, adjacent to the current bridge and moved into place over a few scheduled weekends. This will minimize prolonged East Street traffic closures and impacts to MBTA service. Additionally, the project will utilize drilled micropiles instead of driving piles to reduce construction noise.
- The project team will continue to provide regular updates throughout construction. The team will also conduct targeted outreach to abutting businesses that will be affected during construction.
- Commuter Rail service outages will be limited to a specific number of weekend closures to minimize the impact to Commuter Rail service. During these weekend outages, train service will be replaced by buses.

Where will traffic be detoured to during East Street closures and how will these detours be communicated to the community?

- During full roadway closures, traffic will be detoured via Cedar Street and Sanderson Avenue. Detour routes will be clearly signed so travelers can reach their destination. Detour routes have been coordinated with, reviewed, and approved by the Town of Dedham.
 - **For traffic traveling north on East Street:**
 - From the roundabout, take the Sprague Street/Cedar Street exit then continue on Cedar Street until you reach the five-way intersection.
 - Turn left on Sanderson Avenue then turn left (toward the bridge) or right (to continue north on East Street) to continue to your destination.
 - **For traffic traveling south on East Street:**
 - Turn left on Sanderson Avenue then right on Cedar Street.
 - Continue on Cedar Street until you reach the roundabout then continue to your destination.
- The project team will provide regular updates throughout construction on detour routes and traffic.

Will construction impact Endicott Station and/or Franklin Line Commuter Rail Service?

- Endicott Station will remain open throughout the project. There will be some weekend track outages to complete construction, which will impact Franklin Line Commuter Rail Service. During these weekend outages, bus shuttles will replace train service. You can view the latest alerts at [mbta.com/schedules/CR-Franklin/alerts](https://www.mbta.com/schedules/CR-Franklin/alerts).
- Access to parking at the station will always be maintained, though the access route may vary depending on the current roadway impacts. Please be sure to check the website for information on detour routes and station access.



DEDHAM East Street Bridge Replacement

CONSTRUCTION PHASE *(continued)*

What is the construction schedule?

- Mobilization, July through August 2024, includes activities such as survey work and field office and laydown area preparation work. Site preparation, August through October 2024, includes overhead utility relocation, minor track work, and temporary access ramps installation from street to track level. Drilling for micropiles will occur in Fall 2024 and a full track outage weekend is anticipated for this operation. Bridge installation work is anticipated to be completed in Spring 2025 and road and underground utility work is anticipated to be completed in Spring 2026, with final completion of work anticipated in Summer 2026.

What are the construction hours?

- Work will generally be completed on weekdays during the day 7 AM – 3:30 PM.
- Some work will be completed on weekends/and or overnight to minimize impacts to East Street traffic and MBTA Commuter Rail service.
- The project team will provide regular updates on upcoming weekend and night work throughout construction.

When will the roadway and bridge closures occur?

- A full track outage weekend is anticipated in Fall 2024 but more details will be provided as they become available.
- Bridge installation will take place in Spring 2025 and that will require bridge and roadway closures. The bridge installation will require demolition of the existing bridge and relocating the new bridge from its temporary position to the final location. This work will be conducted through multiple weekend outages that have not yet been determined but will be shared in advance so travelers can prepare for the closures.

What is the detour route during roadway closures and what would determine when the detour would be needed?

- If a full detour is required, the current design shows a detour to Cedar Street, but the detour will not be in place at all times.
- The primary activity that would require a full detour is the movement of the new bridge structure from the temporary location to the final position, which would happen over weekends. Other construction activities, like roadway lowering and underground utility work, may require a detour or single lane closure.

What traffic calming measures will be in place and how will truck traffic be managed after construction?

- Portable message boards and bridge clearance signs are installed on both sides of the bridge to increase awareness and to provide warning.
- The Town of Dedham is responsible for enforcing traffic control on the roadway and is aware of the concerns about traffic on East Street.

How is the MBTA coordinating with businesses about impacts?

- The project team and contractor have been and will continue to coordinate directly with businesses regarding impacts associated with construction.

How can we contact the project team?

- You can email any questions to EastStBridge@MBTA.com, which is regularly monitored by the project team. To sign up for project updates and find additional information, visit the project website www.MBTA.com/EastStBridge.