

MBTA Fitchburg Line Improvement Project

Concord Bridge Work

Executive Summary

As part of the MBTA's Fitchburg Line Improvement Project, three railroad bridges in Concord, between Concord and West Concord Stations, will be rehabilitated. These bridges cross the Sudbury River, Route 62/Main St, and the Assabet River. During this work, commuter rail service will continue to operate on one of the two tracks, with a modified schedule, while the work takes place on the other track. Work will occur at all three bridges simultaneously in two phases. The first phase will occur from May 2014 until April of 2015, with the second phase commencing thereafter. Weekend commuter rail service will be suspended during the construction season (May to November) in 2014 and 2015 to facilitate construction. The weekday commuter rail service schedule will be adjusted starting in August 2014.

The work is funded in part by grants from the Federal Transit Administration (FTA). The Wetland permit has been issued by the Concord Conservation Commission; historic review has been completed by the Massachusetts Historic Commission and FTA. All work will take place within the MBTA's railroad right-of-way, or easements purchased for the project, and the roadway right-of-way for Route 62.

The Sudbury River Bridge will be repaired. The repairs to the concrete abutments and pier commenced in the fall of 2013 and will be completed in the spring and summer of 2014. The steel superstructure will be repaired and painted (black), and the tracks and ties will be removed and replaced.

The Assabet River Bridge will be replaced. The existing steel superstructure will be removed. A new, slightly longer steel superstructure (painted black) will be installed supported on drilled concrete shafts located behind the existing stone abutments. The stone abutments will be repointed and will remain to support the embankment at the river.

The Route 62/Main Street Bridge will be replaced. The new steel bridge (unpainted 'weathering steel') will be two and a half feet higher over the roadway than the existing bridge to remove the current low clearance restriction. The existing stone abutment on the west side of the bridge will remain, while the stone abutment on the east side will be relocated back to allow widening of the sidewalk by 4 feet. The new steel bridge superstructure will be supported on new drilled concrete shafts located behind the existing stone abutments. The approach embankments, particularly on the easterly side toward the adjacent Sudbury River Bridge, will be raised which will require clearing of the slopes in addition to the areas around the new bridge.

The new bridge will be assembled over the roadway on temporary supports adjacent to, and just south of, the existing bridge. This assembly will occur at night, with the roadway and sidewalk closed each evening, over a 2 to 4 week period in the summer of 2015. In August 2015, the roadway and sidewalk will be closed for one week (Wednesday to Wednesday) to allow the old bridge to be demolished and the new bridge to be rolled into place over the weekend. During these roadway closures, traffic will be detoured via Route 2 and Elm Street/Route 2A. Detour signage, police details, and advance notice message boards will be provided to facilitate the detouring of traffic. Additional temporary lane closures will be required from time to time for the work in the bridge area with appropriate signage, barriers, and police details.

When completed at the end of 2015, this work will improve the operation of both the commuter rail service and Route 62/Main Street. The increased height of the new bridge above the roadway, coupled with the wider sidewalk, will provide vehicles, cyclists and pedestrians with greater sight distance and improved overall safety in this location.



MBTA Route 62 Bridge Replacement

Timeline

Activity	2014			2015																
	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Clearing and Site Preparation	■	■	■																	
Abutment Work - First Track				■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■						
Abutment Work - Second Track												■	■	■	■	■	■			
Assemble New Bridge															■	■				
Roll In New Bridge																■				
Complete Work/Restore Site																	■	■	■	■