



**Massachusetts Bay  
Transportation Authority**

# On-Call ROW – Porter Square Retaining Wall Repairs

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Public Meeting

November 5, 2020

Virtual Meeting – 6:00 PM

Maribel Kelly, MBTA Sr. Director of Commuter Rail Infrastructure

Ted Banks, MBTA Sr. Project Manager

# Public Meeting amid COVID-19 circumstances

In light of the ongoing **COVID-19** coronavirus outbreak, Governor Baker issued an emergency order on March 12, 2020, allowing public bodies greater flexibility in utilizing technology in the conduct of meetings under the **Open Meeting Law**.

The MBTA greatly values the participation of its citizens in the public meeting process but given the current circumstances and recommendations at both the state and federal levels to limit or avoid public gatherings together with the present closure of public buildings to the public, the MBTA has decided to implement the “remote participation” procedures.

The **virtual webinar** is part of that effort.



# Notification of Recording

- This meeting will be recorded, and the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (MBTA) may choose to retain and distribute the video, still images, audio, and/or the chat transcript.
- Attendees will be muted, and video will be turned off upon entry.
- By continuing with this virtual meeting, you are consenting to participate in a recorded event.
- The recordings and chat transcript will be considered a public record.
- If you do not feel comfortable being recorded, please turn off your camera and/or mute your microphone or leave the meeting.



# Virtual Meeting Best Practices

- The question and answer portion will take place at the end of this presentation.
- If you have any questions during the webinar, you may submit them in zoom's Q&A box, located at the bottom of your zoom window.
- If you are attending via phone, you can ask a question by dialing \*9. This will put you in a queue and the moderator will call out the last 4 digits of your phone number when it is your turn.
- For Tech Issues throughout this presentation please call **508-443-4045**
- This meeting presentation is currently available to view on the project's website, [www.mbta.com/PorterSqRepairs](http://www.mbta.com/PorterSqRepairs).
- The entirety of this webinar recording will be posted to the project's website upon the conclusion of the presentation.



# Agenda

- A. Project Team
- B. Project Background
- C. Project Overview and Benefits
- D. Existing Conditions
- E. Construction Phasing
- F. Project Schedule
- G. Potential Project Impacts
- H. Public Outreach
- I. Questions & Comments



# A. Project Team

## **MBTA**

- Sr. Director of Commuter Rail Infrastructure

Maribel Kelly

## **Panelists – Project Team**

- MBTA Sr. Project Manager
- MBTA Resident Engineer
- SPS New England Sr. Project Manager
- GTR Principal
- City Point Meeting Moderator

Ted Banks

Frank Tramontozzi

Jason Peddle

Curtis George

Joe Nolan



## B. Project Background

- This repair work is funded under the MBTA's Capital Investment Plan:
  - Investment program to improve and modernize assets, expand service, and meet the MBTA's strategic priorities and performance goals.
  - Commuter Rail Emergency/On-Call Repairs
- On-call project was notified of the need of repairs
  - Approximately 240 ft. of sidewalk has been compromised
  - The retaining wall located under Somerville Ave. and along the commuter rail ROW started to show signs of displacement creating concerns on the integrity of the structure.





# C. Project Overview and Benefits

- \$2.5 million-dollar critical safety-based infrastructure repair
- Repairs to the existing retaining wall under Somerville Avenue along the Commuter Rail ROW:
  - Critical safety-based infrastructure repairs
  - Ensure integrity of the station retaining wall
  - Bring to a State of Good Repair Status
  - Drainage system maintenance





# D. Existing Conditions

- Retaining wall in need of repair due to age and weather
- Stairway Access from Somerville Ave. to be removed
- Right-of-Way sidewalk



# Construction Phasing



# E. Construction Phasing – Demolition

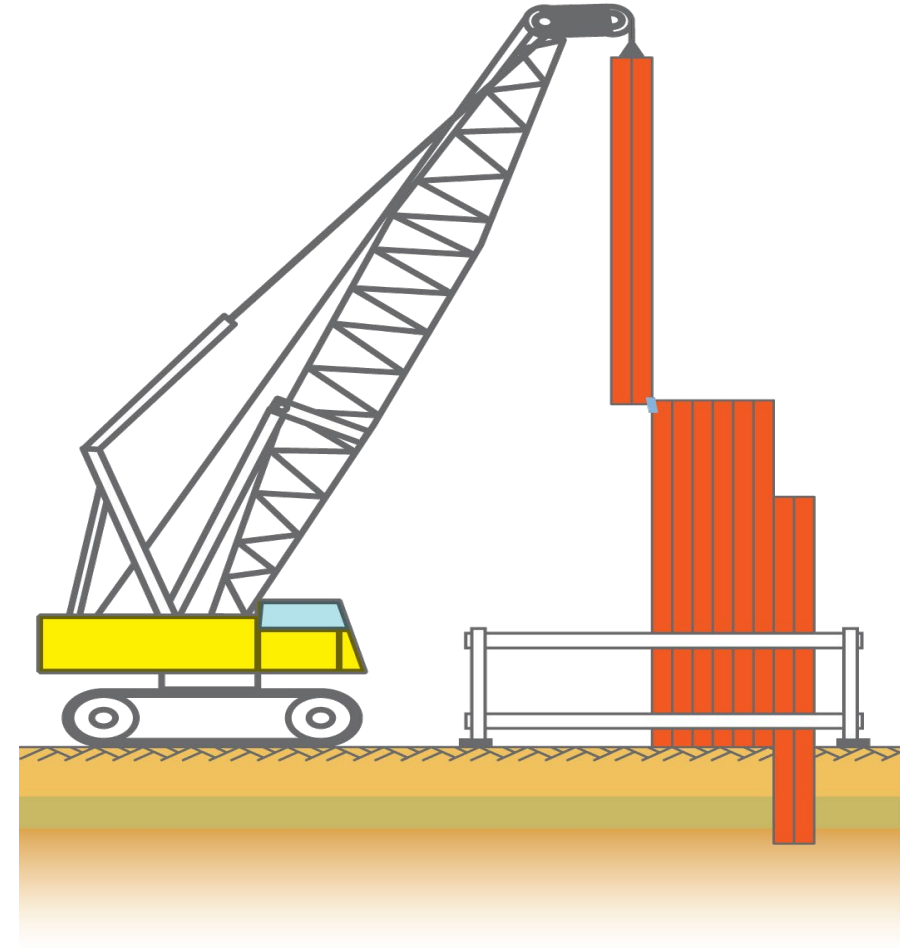


- Removal of existing elements at track level and top cap of granite block wall.
- Completed in October 2020



# E. Construction Phasing – Installation of Sheet Piles

- Necessary to stabilize existing block wall during construction of new wall.
- Anticipated to be completed in November 2020.





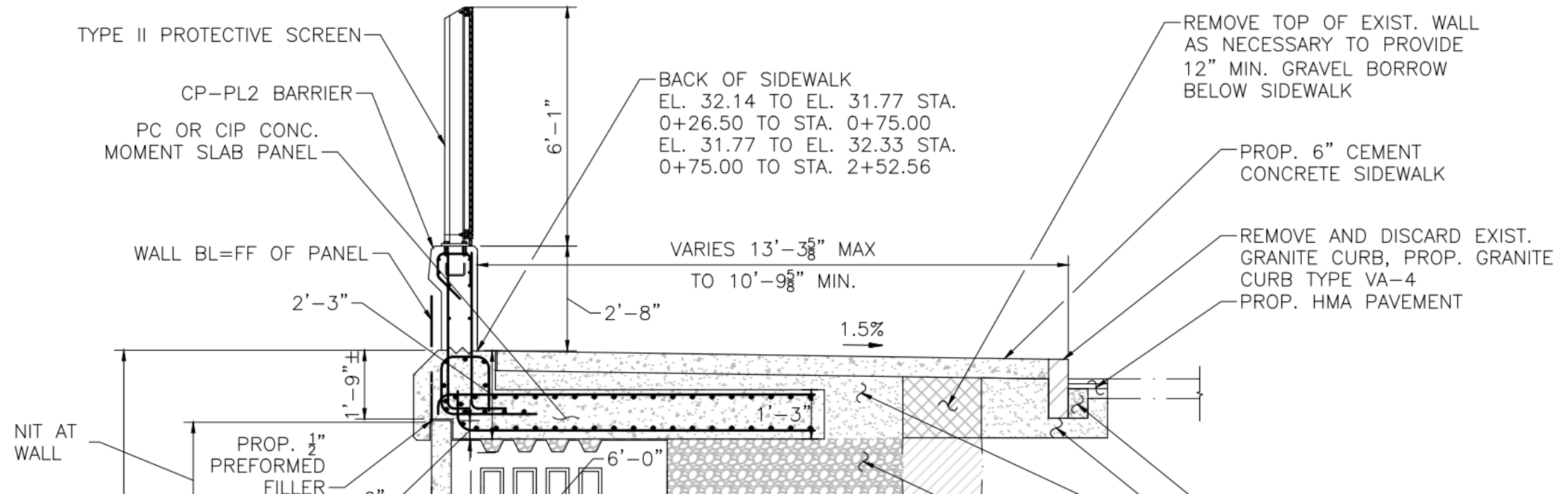
# E. Construction Phasing – Construction of T-Wall



- Placement of precast concrete wall units.
- Anticipated to take place from December 2020 – February 2021.



# E. Construction Phasing – Sidewalk, Barrier, Fence



- Construction of a new sidewalk on top of the new wall.
- Anticipated to take place from March 2021 – June 2021





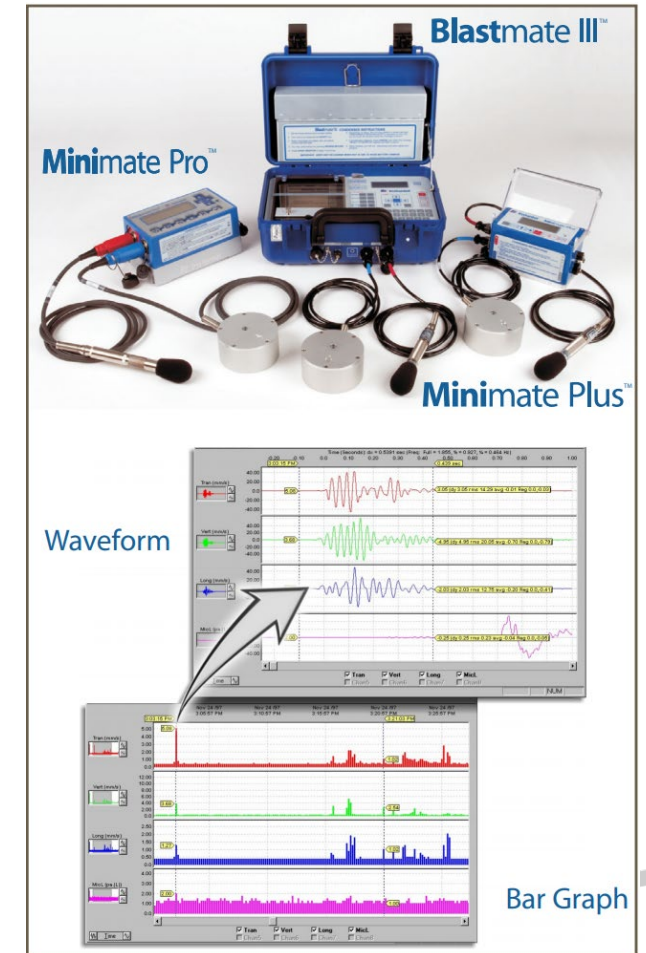
# F. Project Schedule

MILESTONE	SCHEDULE
<b>Demolition</b> Removal of existing elements at track level and top cap of granite block wall	<b>COMPLETED October 2020</b>
<b>Installation of Sheet Piles</b> Necessary to stabilize existing block wall during construction of new wall	<b>November 2020</b>
<b>Construction of T-Wall</b> Placement of precast concrete wall units	<b>December 2020 – February 2021</b>
<b>Sidewalk, Barrier, Fence</b> Construction of a new sidewalk on top of the new wall.	<b>March 2021 – June 2021</b>
<b>Demobilize/Project Completed</b>	<b>Late June 2021</b>



# G. Potential Project Impacts: Vibration Monitoring

- Seismographs are devices that measure the vibrations in the ground or a structure and develop a reading which is compared to the appropriate construction vibration standards for the project.
  - Devices are installed at existing structures closest to the proposed work
  - Vibrations will be monitored on a continuous basis and configured to send reports by email to the Project Team once daily or when threshold values are exceeded



# G. Potential Project Impacts: Survey / Rodent Control

## Survey:

- Survey Practices completed:
  - Pre-construction surveys to the project abutting structures/homes within 100 feet of work zone as requested

## Rodent Control:

- The MBTA and the Contractor will be monitoring and addressing any rodent issues throughout this project.
- The public is encouraged to contact the project team if they notice any rodent issues by the work site. Project Email:  
[PorterSqROWRepairs@mbta.com](mailto:PorterSqROWRepairs@mbta.com)



# H. Public Outreach

## Visit the Project Website

[www.mbta.com/PorterSqRepairs](http://www.mbta.com/PorterSqRepairs)

- Public and Stakeholders can sign up for email updates.
- Construction Advisories will be sent out prior to any significant work scheduled (sheet pile driving, weekend work, etc.)

## Project Email

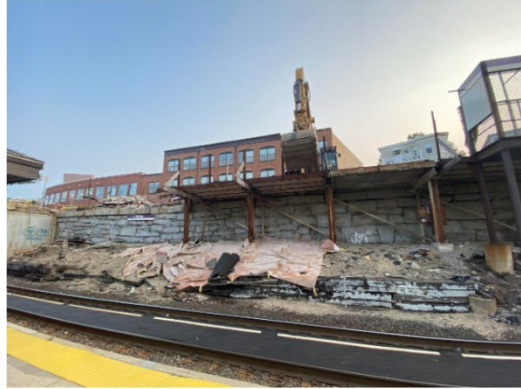
[PorterSqROWRepairs@mbta.com](mailto:PorterSqROWRepairs@mbta.com)

Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority

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### Porter Square Retaining Wall Repairs




**Building a Better T**

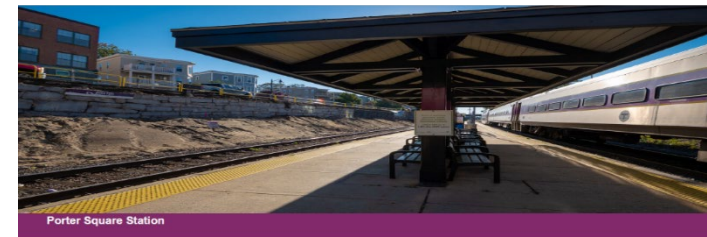
As part of our \$8 billion, 5-year capital investment plan, we're renovating stations, modernizing fare collection systems, upgrading services for our buses, subways, and ferries, and improving the accessibility of the entire system.

[Learn more](#)

**Related Projects**



As part of the MBTA's [Capital Investment Plan](#), repairs to the Porter



### Porter Square Station Retaining Wall Repairs – Construction Advisory

As part of the MBTA's On-Call Commuter Rail Right-of-Way (ROW) Improvements, the MBTA is making urgent safety repairs to a deteriorating retaining wall at Porter Square Station. These repairs consist of making necessary repairs to the retaining wall under Somerville Avenue and along the Commuter Rail ROW. These repairs will ensure the integrity of the retaining wall and bring it to a State of Good Repair status. The Station will remain open during construction.

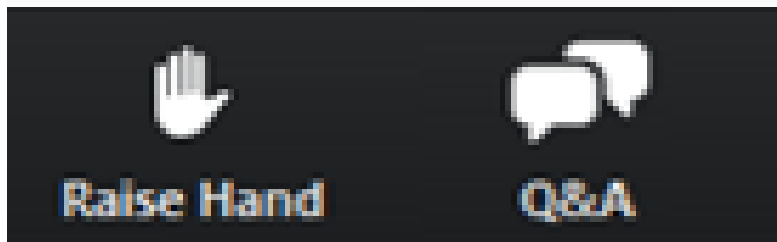
Some limited nighttime and weekend work may take place if required and will be communicated to the public before this work is to take place.

The MBTA is in the process of scheduling a Virtual Public Meeting for this project, which is anticipated to be scheduled for the first week of November. Notices will be distributed to the community within the upcoming weeks with meeting details and how to participate.



# I. Questions & Answers

- Please share only one question or comment at a time.
- To ask a question via phone, dial \*9 and the moderator will call out the last 4 digits of your phone number and unmute your audio when it is your turn.
- Use the “**Q&A**” button to submit a typed question or comment at any point during the meeting.
- Press the “**Raise Hand**” button to share your question or comment verbally.
  - After you raise your hand, wait for the moderator to recognize and unmute you before speaking.
  - After you share your question or comment, we will lower your hand and you will be muted to allow the team to respond and provide opportunities for others to participate.



**Tech Issues? Call 508-443-4045**

**You may also submit your questions or comments if we run out of time, after the meeting, to the project email address: [PorterSqROWRepairs@mbta.com](mailto:PorterSqROWRepairs@mbta.com) or visit [www.mbta.com/PorterSqRepairs](http://www.mbta.com/PorterSqRepairs) for more information.**



# Thank You!

