

FRANKLIN LINE



DEDHAM East Street Bridge Replacement

East Street Bridge FAQ

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 12'3", 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'?

Raising the East Street bridge height to 14' greatly reduces the possibility of truck collisions and complies with the Federal Highway Administration recommended minimum clearance standard of 14'. The maximum legal truck height under Massachusetts law is 13'6". 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 team and contractor minimize impacts during construction?

The East Street Bridge Replacement Project will use accelerated bridge construction (ABC) techniques. The new bridge superstructure will be constructed adjacent to the current bridge and moved into place over an isolated scheduled weekend. This technique will minimize prolonged East Street traffic closures and impacts to MBTA service. Additionally, the project will use drilled micropiles instead of driving foundation piles to reduce construction noise.

The project team will continue to provide regular updates throughout the design and construction phases. The team will also conduct targeted outreach to abutting businesses that will be affected during construction.

Where will traffic be detoured to during East Street closures?

Detour routes have not been identified yet as the project is still in the design phase. Once design is complete, detour routes will be defined, approved by the Town, and shared with the public. Detour routes will be signed, so travelers know how to reach their destination.

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 expanded 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 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.

Will the lowering of East Street impact flooding?

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

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:

[MBTA.com/EastStBridge](https://www.mbta.com/EastStBridge)