

Winchester Station Improvements FAQ

Updated November 2023

1. What work remains to be done on the Main Street rotary at the intersection of Main and Church Streets?

For the rotary area at Church Street and Main Street, steel and concrete work remains for the construction of new piers and aspects of the new platform, including a steel beam that will be placed over the roadway for the rail and platform bridge in the first half of 2024. Advanced notification to the Town will be made for expected night or weekend street closures for this work. Station work is generally advancing from south to north at this time, with the majority of work occurring near the rotary in the second half of 2024.

2. Who will be responsible for maintaining the elevators, specifically interior and exterior cleaning of the elevators once the station opens?

The MBTA typically holds agreements with the local municipalities for maintenance at individual stations. For the elevators at Winchester Station, the MBTA will manage the maintenance and activities such as cleaning. This task typically falls within MBTA jurisdiction and there is a team dedicated to elevator maintenance.

3. When will construction be completed? Do construction schedules account for Winter weather?

Winchester Station is expected to partial reopen in July 2024, allowing riders to use both inbound and outbound service. This partial reopening will accommodate a partial train length, rather than access to the full train. At that time, there will be elevators, ramps, and stairs available to access the station, but for only half of the station. The entire station, with all access points available, is expected to be fully open to the public in late-2024. All elevators, ramps and stations will be accessible per the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). The project schedule accounts for weather delays and has expected contingency to allow the project to meet these milestones.

4. For the parking adjacent to the station, are any of the parking lots owned by the MBTA and will there be handicap accessible parking available?

The parking adjacent to Winchester Station is owned and operated by the Town of Winchester. Handicap accessible spots in these parking lots will be restored and made available as the station reopens.

5. What steps will be taken by the project team to mitigate against construction nuisances such as dust, noise, and rodents?

The contractor will be required to prepare plans to manage and mitigate dust, noise, and rodents during construction. If anyone experiences any of these issues during construction, please contact the project team via the project email at winchesterstation@mbta.com.

6. Following decades of train service at Winchester Center Station, has any testing been done for hazardous materials?

An environmental assessment was done on the property and hazardous materials identified will be abated and removed according to code.

7. How will station lighting be improved to increase safety and prevent spillage into neighboring properties?

The project photometric plan has been designed to increase visibility and safety. Light fixtures are equipped with shades to prevent light spillage into neighboring areas.

8. Is there a plan in place for mitigation in the event there is damage to neighboring buildings during construction?

The abutting properties will be included in the pre-condition assessment surveys that will be completed prior to construction. Upon entering the construction phase, the contractor will meet with abutters and review existing conditions documentation. If during performance of the work, there is damage to neighboring properties as a result of the work the contractor will be held accountable to remedy the repair. The MBTA is currently developing plans to do vibration monitoring during construction and will set up a hotline or email address to contact in the event there are issues or questions that arise during construction.

The MBTA and project team will work to ensure all project updates and notices are communicated as soon as possible and will continue to work with the Town to share the information to maintain open lines of communication. For project updates and information, please visit the project website at mbta.com/winchesterstation.

9. Will Shore Road be kept open during construction?

The project team is actively researching the impact to Shore Road during construction and the goal is to keep the road open. The project team will do everything possible in the planning phase to ensure the contractor is able to keep Shore Road open during construction.

10. Will the final station design improve the station appearance, incorporate green design elements, and utilize existing materials to ensure cohesion with the surrounding area?

The project team is diligently working to make the updated and improved station as aesthetically pleasing as possible and compatible with the surrounding area. A current challenge is to salvage the existing stone and use it to patch existing walls and structures as needed. The new construction will be made to look as close to the existing stone as possible.

The design for the station does not preclude the installation of green elements, such as solar panels, that can be added in the future.

11. How does the project design address run-off from stormwater and snow melt?

The design will include connections to stormwater drainage for stormwater run-off and snow melt.

12. Will barriers or fencing be installed to the ramp over the Quill Rotary?

Mesh barrier will be included as part of the final design of the pedestrian bridge over the Quill Rotary so as to prevent objects being tossed on to vehicles below.

13. Will the MBTA ensure the trees and lawns in the area of the station be protected through construction?

Construction at the Quill Rotary will disrupt the current landscaping as new supports for the pedestrian bridge and ramp are installed. Replacement vegetation in highly visible areas will be accommodated. No work will be performed on or adjacent to the existing Common such that tree and lawn protection is anticipated.

14. Given the open concept design of the updated station, will there be shelter and canopies over the platforms for adequate rain, wind, and snow protection?

The design team has included glass near the headhouse to protect customers from the elements while maintaining a light and airy concept. Canopies and wind protection will be installed at the south end of the station near Waterfield Road and at other locations along the platforms. In addition, all ramps and stairs are covered with a roof.

15. Will there be communication utilities open to the public in the updated station, including a phone in the event of an emergency?

There will be a Customer Assistance Area on both platforms (inbound and outbound) and will include a direct phone link to security.

16. Will there be Wi-Fi at the station?

The MBTA has made great progress including wireless throughout its fleet, including ferries, and North Station, and Back Bay Station. The system-wide roll out is continuing but currently does not include internet.