

Winchester Station FAQ

Updated July 2024

1. When will construction be completed?

Winchester Station is now scheduled to partially reopen on September 30, 2024, and to fully reopen in December 2024. The partial reopening in September will allow riders to use inbound and outbound platforms on the south half of the station. During this time, riders will be able to access stairs and elevators to the platforms. The partial reopening in September also includes the return of parking in the Aberjona and Waterfield parking lots and marks the conclusion of work on Waterfield Road. After the station fully reopens in December, miscellaneous on-site work, such as landscaping and finishing work, will continue through 2025. This work in 2025 is not anticipated to significantly impact the town or parking.

This schedule change is attributed to the unforeseen loss of single-track train scheduling on the Lowell Line in the Spring of 2024, and constrained resources from system wide rail projects in the region. Single-track train scheduling involves trains using a single track through an area, allowing for adjacent work to occur. The loss of this access resulted in longer construction durations for individual activities. This access was lost due to the ATC/PTC Program, the Fiber Optic Resiliency Project, and the North Side Commuter Rail Maintenance Work. In addition, Winchester Station schedule impacts are due to constrained resources from system wide project demand in the region, such as from the Track Improvement Program, Green Line Extension, and South Coast Rail.

To mitigate schedule impacts, the Project Team has altered mid-day train service for additional construction access, restored single track scheduling, better coordinated and scheduled maintenance activities, and has added work crews and extended work hours during the week and on weekends.

2. Will Route 134 bus service return to Winchester Station once the station reopens?

Yes, the Route 134 bus stop on Laraway Road is planned to return to service when the station fully reopens in December 2024.

3. When the station partially reopens in September 2024, how will the station be ADA accessible?

On the westside of the station, the elevator will be in operation. The Project Team is also working with the Winchester Fire Department to identify an area of rescue assistance to ensure the station complies with all relevant codes during the partial opening. In addition, there are emergency alert and call boxes within the elevators and within the station in the event of emergencies.

4. 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.

5. 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.

6. 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.

7. 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.

8. 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.

9. 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.

10. 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.

11. 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.

12. 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.

13. 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 .

14. 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.

15. 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.

16. 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.

17. 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 access on the train.