



December 6, 2024

**NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY**  
**Draft Environmental Assessment**  
**MBTA Draw One Bridge Replacement Project**

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The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) in conjunction with the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (MBTA) has prepared a Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) to analyze and describe the potential impacts associated with the:

**[Draw One Bridge Replacement Project](#)**

The Draw One Bridge Replacement Project (the “Proposed Project”) would replace the Draw One Bridge, which carries Amtrak passenger and MBTA commuter rail traffic over the Charles River in the cities of Boston and Cambridge, Massachusetts.

This notice advises the public that the EA is available for public review and that FTA in conjunction with MBTA will be conducting a virtual public hearing on the proposed project. **The virtual public hearing will be held via Zoom on January 2, 2025, from 6:00 – 7:30 PM.** To register for this meeting go to the following link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZ0of-yuqzwtGNHAL-fXrxaUPUI2Zpuoe6gM>

The virtual public meeting will consist of audio and visual components. Written comments may also be provided by email, as explained below. All verbally provided testimony and timely written comments will be considered by FTA and MBTA and included as part of the administrative record for the project. Responses to verbal testimony and written comments will be prepared by FTA and MBTA and included as part of the project record. Emailed public comments on the Draft EA for the Proposed Project will be accepted until **12:00 pm on Monday, January 6, 2025**. Please send comments to [DrawOne@mbta.com](mailto:DrawOne@mbta.com).

Consistent with the requirements of 23 CFR 774.5(b)(2)(i), the FTA is seeking comments from the public on its intent to make a Section 4(f) *de minimis* determination for the minor Section 4(f) use of the following publicly-owned public parks under the jurisdiction of the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR): Gridley Locks Footpath and Parcel (Proposed South Bank Park), Vacant Parcel (Proposed South Bank Park), North Bank Bridge, Pier and Riverfront Walkway, Paul Revere Park, and North Point Park.

The Draft EA, including a discussion of the minor Section 4(f) use of publicly-owned public parks under the jurisdiction of DCR, is available for review on the following website: [www.MBTA.com/DrawOne](http://www.MBTA.com/DrawOne).

Replacement of the Draw One Bridge is critical in order to keep the MBTA system in a state of good repair and improve the reliability and safety of MBTA commuter rail and Amtrak services. The bridge is a crucial rail link between Boston and greater New England. The existing two two-track bascule bridge spans still in use, as well as the supporting infrastructure of two disused spans, would be replaced with three two-track, standalone vertical lift bridge structures within the footprint of the existing bridge (the new bridge structures would carry six tracks, rather than four).

The Proposed Project would also replace the Boston and Main Railroad (B&MRR) Signal Tower A and modify the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR)-owned North Bank Bridge, which crosses the MBTA Right-of-Way (ROW) north of the Draw One Bridge. The existing signal system and switch heaters associated with the Draw One Bridge would be replaced, and a new drainage system would be provided.

Physical copies of the Draft EA are available for review at:

FTA Region 1 Office Kendall Square 220 Binney Street Suite 940 Cambridge, MA 02142 617-494-2729	State Transportation Building MBTA Draw One Bridge Replacement Program 10 Park Plaza Boston, MA 02116
Cambridge City Hall 795 Massachusetts Avenue Cambridge, MA 02139	Boston City Hall One City Hall Plaza Boston, MA 02201
Cambridge Public Library 45 Pearl Street Cambridge, MA 02139	Boston Public Library 700 Boylston Street Boston, MA 02116

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