



**Massachusetts Bay  
Transportation Authority**

## South Elm Street Bridge Replacement Project

---

Project Update – Contract # - H64CN01

January 2025

Joseph Czapiga, Senior Project Manager

# Agenda

1. Project Overview
2. Service Changes in Effect
3. Construction Progress Updates
4. What's Coming Next



# Project Overview

- We're replacing the South Elm St Bridge, which carries the Haverhill Commuter Rail Line over South Elm Street between Bradford and Haverhill stations.
- The current bridge was built in 1906 - it is beyond its useful life and ready to be replaced.
- The new bridge will include a ballasted steel deck to provide a smoother ride for passengers, and will increase horizontal clearance and spacing between tracks to remove current speed restrictions.
- Accelerated Bridge Construction techniques are used to reduce impacts and maintain single track rail operations for Amtrak and CSX, and compressing construction schedule to one year.



Existing bridge



Rendering of new bridge

# Service Changes In Effect

---

In July 2024, the following service change went into effect to allow for construction:

- Haverhill Station closed and riders are using Bradford Station for daily commuter rail train service.
- A shuttle service is operating between Haverhill and Bradford stations.
- The parking lot at Haverhill remains open.

# Construction Progress Update

---

Over the course of one weekend (October 11-13, 2024), crews successfully demolished the outbound tracks of the South Elm St Bridge and the Old Georgetown Branch Bridge.

# Construction Progress Update, October 11

**Fri., October 11**

Demolition begins  
on Old  
Georgetown  
Branch Bridge  
(the track on the  
right)



# Construction Progress Update, October 12

**Sat., October 12**

Old Georgetown Branch Bridge is demolished. Demolition begins on South Elm Street Bridge outbound tracks (center)



# Construction Progress Update, October 13

**Sun., October 13**

South Elm Street Bridge outbound tracks are demolished. The inbound tracks (left) remain in single track operation.





# Construction Progress Update – Demolition Image



View of demolition  
of Georgetown  
Branch Bridge

# Construction Progress Update, Further Demolition



Oct 13, 2024 at 4:14:18 AM  
200-262 S Elm St  
Haverhill MA 01835  
United States

**View of demolition  
of outbound track  
of South Elm St.  
Bridge**

# Construction Progress Update, Micropiles

Nov 18, 2024 at 8:22:47 AM  
189 S Elm St  
Haverhill MA 01835  
United States



## November 2024

Crews nearing completion of installing micropiles to strengthen the existing abutments of the bridge.

# Construction Progress Update, Tiebacks

**January 2025**

Crews began installing tiebacks which will reinforce the retaining wall of the new bridge.



# What's Coming

---

- **Continuing this winter:** Crews will continue installing tiebacks and begin constructing abutment caps for the new bridge.
- **Coming Mid Spring 2025:** Crews will build temporary supports adjacent to the existing bridge and begin steel erection of the new bridge.
- **Coming in Late Spring/Early Summer 2025:** Crews will demolish the remaining inbound track of the South Elm St. Bridge and install the new bridge over the course of one weekend, known as the “48-hour outage”. During this time, Amtrak service will be replaced with shuttle service and vehicles will be detoured around the construction site. More details to come!

# We're on Track

---

- ✓ Prep work begins – May 2024
- ✓ Major construction begins – Late July 2024
- Bridge work completed – July 2025
- Substantial completion – Fall 2025

# Contact Us


Visit the project webpage: [MBTA.com/SouthElmBridge](https://www.mbta.com/SouthElmBridge) to:

- Sign up to receive email updates and meeting notices
- Check out any recently posted updates or documents

Contact us for questions and concerns:  
[SouthElmBridge@MBTA.com](mailto:SouthElmBridge@MBTA.com)

Home > Projects > South Elm Bridge Replacement

### South Elm Bridge Replacement



We're replacing the South Elm bridge which carries the [Haverhill Line](#) over South Elm Street between the [Bradford](#) and [Haverhill](#) stations. The current bridge was built in 1906, and replacement is necessary to extend its service life and bring it into a [State of Good Repair](#).


- ✓ Design contract awarded: 2019
- ★ Status: Construction began in July 2024
- ★ Budget: \$20.3 million
- ★ Projected completion: 2025

#### Building a Better T

As part of our \$9.6 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



#### Rail Bridge Replacements

*Project Webpage*