

River St./Western Ave. Bridge Reconstruction

public meeting

MA Dept. of Transportation (MassDOT)
Tuesday, March 9, 2010 @ 6:30 p.m.
Morse Elementary School, Cambridge

Q: What's happening?

The River St and Western Ave Bridge over the Charles River are being reconstructed and MassDOT wants your input.

Q: Why attend this meeting?

In addition to carrying motor vehicles, the bridge also need to serve bicyclists, transit riders and pedestrians. These bridges will not be reconstructed again for over 50 years, so getting it right is important.

Q: What are the options?

Improving conditions for bicycling and walking is a must. Status quo is not acceptable. The public must insist that space be reallocated to allow room for bicycle lanes and wider sidewalks.

Q: What else needs to be addressed?

The bridge approach intersections must be part of this redesign, particularly on the Boston side. MassDOT should explore continuing the Charles River Paths underneath the bridges in addition to street crossings. The construction contract should require solutions to warn rowers when the river route is obstructed.

Thank MassDOT for listening and considering these key suggestions to make Boston a more connected, livable city.

LivableStreets Rethinking urban transportation

LivableStreets Alliance is a non-profit organization that believes urban transportation has the power to make Boston a more connected, livable city.

MORE DETAILS >>

Key Points

to make at the meeting

Improving conditions for bicycling, walking and transit is a must. Encourage these and auto tie-ups will lessen. The status quo is not acceptable. The public must insist that space be reallocated to allow room for bicycle lanes and wider sidewalks. The city needs "Complete Streets" that are accessible for all users.

Make safety and traffic flow improvements

- Create eastbound bike lane on River St. Bridge
- Create westbound bike lane on Western Ave. Bridge
- Synchronize WALK signals and vehicle green to allow parallel walking with vehicles [concurrent]
- Give pedestrians a leading 3-5 second green, before drivers make right hand turn [Leading ped interval]
- consider bus queue jump lanes and/or signal prioritization

Simplify Mass Pike off-ramp/Soldiers Field Rd area

- Widen sidewalks, add crosswalks and ped signals
- Create solid and dashed bicycle lanes on Cambridge St. through the intersection to River St Bridge
- Clarify lane configurations, add striping, and retime signals to work better for all users
- Add crosswalks and signage across all Mass Pike on/off-ramps.

Improve Charles River path access

- Restripe crosswalks, adjust ped signals as needed
- Add crosswalk and pedestrian signal at River St Bridge/Boston path crossing
- Create bicycle connection from eastbound Western Ave. to Charles River Paths



Have a vision for the Charles River basin? We want to hear from you! Contact us to set up a presentation/discussion in your neighborhood.

LivableStreets Rethinking urban transportation

Citizen Information Handout prepared by
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