



Fore River Bridge Replacement Project

The Fore River Bridge: today's bridge is an ACROW-span temporary bridge which, in 2002, replaced a severely deteriorated though widely recognized bascule bridge dating from 1936. Today's temporary bridge carries approximately 32,000 vehicles every week day along Route 3A across the Fore River between Quincy and Weymouth.

The Replacement: the new bridge will be a steel vertical lift bridge consisting of six approach spans and a single movable span between two towers. Built on the same alignment as the demolished 1936 bridge, the new structure will provide motorists a straight path across the Fore River with two eastbound and two westbound lanes. ADA-compliant sidewalks and bicycle accommodation shoulders will make crossing the bridge a much more pleasant experience for pedestrians and cyclists. A 60-foot vertical clearance in the closed position will reduce the number of traffic disrupting bridge openings experienced by motorists while better serving the Fore River's Designated Port Area.

Project History: in 2009, MassDOT launched a 3-year planning process to determine how best to replace the current temporary bridge before it reached the end of its useful lifespan. This process culminated in the selection of a steel vertical lift bridge and a design/build team headed by White-Skanska JV to construct it.

Project Goal: the speedy and cost-effective replacement of the current temporary bridge so that this important link in a major regional artery can continue to carry traffic safely and efficiently.

Project Cost: \$244 million funded through the Accelerated Bridge Program (ABP).

Project Timeline:

- Notice to proceed: August, 2012
- Site preparation and design completion – no peak hour lane restrictions: fall 2012 -fall 2013
- Phase 1 construction – no peak hour lane restrictions: spring 2013 - spring 2015
- Phase 2 construction – lane restrictions to connect new bridge with existing approaches: summer 2015.
- Phase 3 construction – all lanes open, completion of in-water pier protection system, completion of sidewalks and removal of temporary bridge: fall 2015-fall 2016.

A New Approach: to reduce the disruption and timeframe associated with this project, MassDOT is using a design/build approach in which the same project team is responsible for final design and construction. This approach allows a project to be completed faster and at less cost to the Commonwealth. Innovative construction techniques are a hallmark of the ABP.

Keeping The South Shore Moving: much of the replacement Fore River Bridge can be built "off-line," that is without impacting traffic on the temporary bridge. Lane reductions are scheduled for 2015 when weekday travel volumes typically drop. The reduction will take place with significant advance warning to the community and coordination with the abutting municipalities and MBTA.

Keeping the Fore River Open: MassDOT understands the Fore River's role as a working river which hosts significant commercial maritime traffic and the MBTA's ferry boat service; the design/build team will coordinate with the United States Coast Guard and marine units of Quincy and Weymouth to ensure that water traffic is impacted as little as possible.

Public Outreach: MassDOT is committed to effective public involvement. We invite you to learn more about the project by visiting our project website at www.mass.gov/massdot/forerivebridge. This website allows you to sign up for e-mail alerts regarding the project, read about the progress of work and submit your comments or questions to the project team. You may also contact Donald Dailey by telephone at 857-368-8902 or by email at donny.dailey@state.ma.us.

If you have immediate questions or concerns regarding a specific construction activity at the Fore River Bridge site, we invite you to call 617-504-2924. This telephone number is operated by a member of the White-Skanska design/build team and is live at all times when construction activities are underway.

