

# FAST 14

## I-93 Rapid Bridge Replacement Project



### The 93 Fast 14 Project

This summer, the Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) will replace 14 deteriorated bridge superstructures on Interstate 93 in the city of Medford, MA. The superstructure replacements that are the core of the 93 Fast 14 project will take place on weekends in June, July and August (except for the 4th of July).

MassDOT has specific goals for the 93 Fast 14:

- Minimize the impact of the project on travelers and communities
- Reduce the construction duration as much as possible
- Use cutting-edge engineering and construction innovation to complete the work
- Communicate important project information and schedule updates with the public in a detailed and ongoing way

MassDOT is committed to providing safe and durable replacement bridges. The project has been developed by the Accelerated Bridge Program to result in the fewest construction-related impacts on traffic, businesses, residents and tourism.

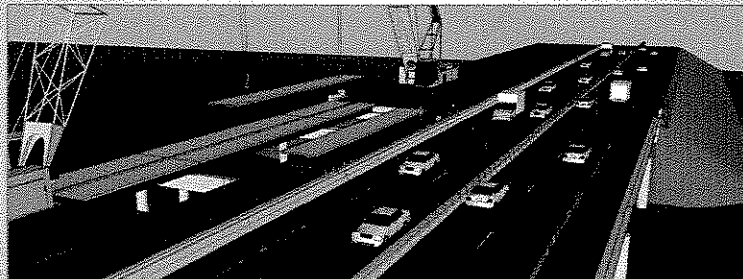
By building the bridges in sections, at locations away from the roadways, MassDOT is greatly reducing the duration of on-site construction. By erecting the bridges over weekends, MassDOT will not impact weekday rush-hour traffic. To lessen the impact on local communities, MassDOT is timing the work so that only one local street is impacted each weekend. MassDOT has also been working with emergency responders to ensure that emergency services operate without interruption throughout the project. The project team will also distribute the work schedule widely to advise visitors, residents and commuters on how to avoid delays and reach their destinations and businesses during construction.

### How Will It Work?

MassDOT's Accelerated Bridge Program has chosen an innovative approach to replacing the bridges that will expedite the work so that construction will be complete in 2011. Typically, this type of bridge replacement would take at least five years – the 93 Fast 14 will be complete in one year.

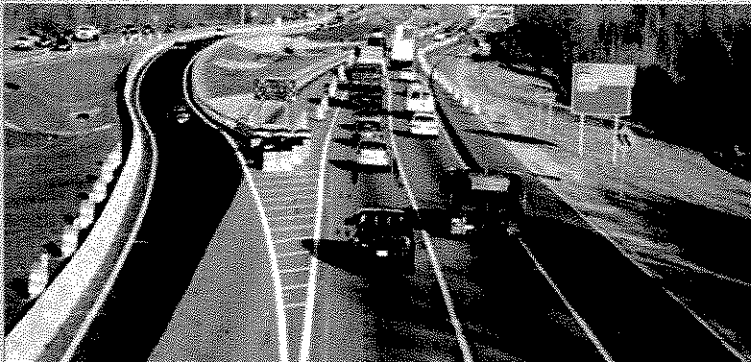
First, MassDOT's Accelerated Bridge Program streamlined its own processes and is using design-build to accelerate project development and procurement, enabling construction to begin quickly.

To minimize traffic impacts, MassDOT will use modular bridge technology, enabling much of the work to be performed off-site. Replacement units will be built, shipped to each location, and put into place using heavy lifting equipment.



*The replacement superstructures will be made of modular units which can be installed using cranes that lift them into position, as depicted above.*

The modular units will be installed in a short period of time, requiring brief, temporary traffic crossovers rather than long-term staged construction. The superstructure replacements will occur only on weekends. The crossovers will begin on Friday nights at 10:00 PM and end before 5:00 AM on Monday mornings.



*A typical traffic crossover.*

## Spreading the Word

Communication and partnerships will be essential ingredients in reducing construction-related impacts. MassDOT is beginning to execute a comprehensive plan to reach out to as many road users as possible. This communications strategy includes:

- Briefings for communities, business and tourism organizations
- Positioning variable message signs along all of the major intersecting roadways in the region to alert visitors to the work
- Using intelligent work zone systems, road signs and billboards to let people on the road know about the project
- Reaching out to traditional and new media outlets early and often to ensure coverage of the project
- Providing a comprehensive project website with detailed detour maps and construction information
- Asking website visitors to sign up for email updates and enable them to ask questions and make comments
- Information and services offered through MassRIDES, Mass MotorTrans and 511

The goal of these efforts is to inform travelers of multiple routes and means of transportation and deter "through traffic" not stopping in the work area or surrounding region to other routes, while encouraging commerce and tourism.

## Project Details and Timeline

The work area is on I-93 in the city of Medford, roughly between the Mystic River and The Middlesex Fells Reservation. Utility relocation work has already begun in preparation for bridge work. Repairs to the foundations and piers will begin during the winter/spring of 2011. The work will be scheduled so that there will be no impact on weekday rush hour traffic. The superstructure replacement and required traffic crossovers will occur on weekends between 6/1/2011 and 8/30/2011. The weekend work will begin after rush hour on Fridays. I-93 will be fully open to traffic by 5:00 AM on Monday mornings. Associated work will take place during routine weeknight construction hours between 8:00 PM and 5:00 AM. No work will occur on Memorial Day, Fourth of July weekend or Labor Day weekend. Some finish work will take place after September 1, 2011, including paving, lighting, and work on parapets and the median. MassDOT will complete all bridge replacements in 2011.

## How to Contact Us

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