



CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS
MAYOR'S OFFICE OF STRATEGIC PLANNING & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
KATJANA BALLANTYNE
MAYOR

BRAD RAWSON
DIRECTOR

THOMAS GALLIGANI
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Date: March 18, 2025
To: Public Health and Public Safety Committee
From: Brad Rawson, Director of Mobility, OSPCD
RE: Item #25-0086 – That the Director of Mobility update the Ward 1 City Councilor on the status of the Kensington Connector

Dear Members of the Public Health and Public Safety Committee,

The following information from the Mobility Division is being provided to the members of the Public Health and Public Safety Committee in response to the above referenced item.

Thank you for the opportunity to update you on the status of the state-owned Kensington Connector. The City continues our collaboration with MassDOT regarding traffic safety and placemaking efforts at this location.

Regarding traffic safety, MassDOT will begin a construction project in 2025 that will include scope to rebuild the approach to the Kensington Connector from the East Somerville side. The sidewalk along Mystic Avenue southbound behind Stop & Shop will be widened, reducing the crossing distance of the first crosswalk headed toward Assembly Square. This work is part of a much larger MassDOT project, and we anticipate it being completed in 2026.

Accessibility and placemaking improvements are also underway at the Assembly Square approach to the Kensington Connector. The private development at 74 Middlesex Avenue is required to construct a new shared use path from Middlesex Avenue to Mystic Avenue northbound, as well as a substantial public plaza adjacent to this path. This construction work is scheduled to be completed in 2025.

Regarding placemaking and public art underneath the Interstate 93 viaduct, we do not have a substantial update at this time. A different MassDOT construction project is performing major structural work on the viaduct above the Kensington Connector. This construction is scheduled to run through the end of 2025 and represents a major conflict with any public art or lighting elements that the City may wish to design and install on the state-owned land. Staff will continue to monitor this issue and will update the Ward 1 Councilor as we learn more.

Please let the IGA team know if there are any further questions on any of the above information.

Thank you,

Brad Rawson
Director of Mobility, OSPCD

