

Route 79/Braga Bridge Improvements Project August 2014 Update: Stage 1A Construction



The Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) is pleased to provide this update on the Route 79/Braga Bridge Improvements Project. Detours for through traffic on Route 79/138 are in place into fall 2015. Signs indicate detour routes. Local access is maintained at all times to the Fall River waterfront and area businesses and attractions for vehicles, bicyclists and pedestrians. Visit the [website](#) for a [description](#) of the detour routes and to view [maps](#).

Barletta Heavy/O&G JV, the design/build (D/B) joint venture for the project, has completed demolition of the elevated Route 79 viaduct and is constructing the new Water Street Connector. Other accomplishments and ongoing and upcoming activities are outlined below. The contractor is continuing painting and structural repairs on the Braga Bridge carrying Interstate 195 (I-195) over the Taunton River. The I-195 eastbound and westbound outside lanes and shoulders are currently closed for use as work zones and staging activities taking place under the bridge.

As part of the D/B process, the team's lead designer, VHB, and its consultants are advancing the design for future stages of the project. An update public information meeting is planned for late fall 2014. Sign up on the [website](#) to receive email advisories and notices.



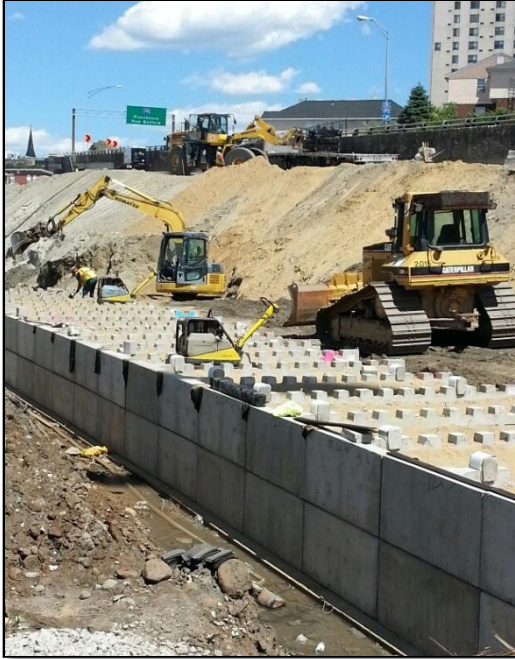
Water Street Connector Span 1 structural steel installed

Progress/Work Completed:

- Demolished north and southbound Route 79 elevated viaduct
- Installed piles for the Water Street Connector bridge foundations
- Installed new drain and sewer lines along the project corridor
- Installed private utilities, including National Grid electric, Liberty gas, Comcast and Verizon
- Upgraded City of Fall River water lines for domestic and fire protection supply

Ongoing/Upcoming Work:

- Improvements north of Central Street for new southbound Davol Street and southbound Route 79, including:
 - public utilities – storm drainage, water lines, and fire hydrants
 - private utilities – electric, telephone, and cable TV conduits and gas lines
 - street lights
 - sidewalks, curbs, and paving



Construction of retaining wall along Route 79/138 southbound and Broadway Extension

- Pier and foundation installation on new Davol Street bridge, which will connect Route 79/138 between Central Street and Anawan Street
- Open new Water Street Connector and portions of Route 79/138 to traffic south of Anawan Street
- Installation of structural steel for new Davol Street bridge
- Continue painting and structural steel repairs on Braga Bridge

Please visit the [website](#) to sign up for email alerts and updates and to learn more about this important project. For more information or to report an issue or concern, please contact the project team by phone at 781-774-0441 or by email to route79project@state.ma.us.