



Route 79/Braga Bridge Improvements Project *Fall 2015 Construction Update*

The Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) is pleased to provide this update on progress for the Route 79/Braga Bridge Improvements Project. The new Davol Street Bridge is now open to one lane of travel in each direction, reconnecting the major north/south artery of Route 79/138 and marking a milestone for the project. The new bridge connects Route 79/138 between Central Street and Anawan/Pocasset Streets where the new Anawan Street Bridge is also now open. The new Anawan Street Bridge reconnects a major east/west route from the Waterfront District to City Hall. Additionally, the Water Street Connector was opened to two-way traffic from Gates of the City/Water Street to Routes 79/138 (Broadway).



Structural steel being set in place for the new on-ramp from I-195 WB to Route 79 NB.

Barletta Heavy/O&G JV, the design/build (D/B) joint venture for the project, demolished the last two elevated bridges of the old viaduct – the on-ramps to I-195 east and westbound over Pocasset Street and Exit 5 – and is constructing a single new elevated ramp that will connect I-195 westbound to Route 79 northbound over Central Street at Davol Street. Associated detours were implemented in July and will be in place through fall 2016. Please review the detours on our [Traffic Page](#).

The contractor has completed repair work on the high speed and middle lanes of I-195 east and westbound on the Braga Bridge. The final traffic shift to implement the next phase of work on the bridge was completed on November 14, and the high speed and middle lanes are now being used for travel. The right lane is currently closed for use as a work zone. The contractor is also continuing painting and structural repairs on the bridge.

Progress/Work Completed (since June 2015):

- Demolished last two elevated bridges (on-ramps to I-195 east and westbound).
- Installed private utilities, including National Grid electric, Liberty gas, Comcast, and Verizon.
- Installed new drain and sewer lines along the project corridor.

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- Upgraded City of Fall River water lines for domestic and fire protection supply.
- Opened new Davol Street Bridge to one lane of travel in each direction.
- Opened new Anawan Street Bridge connecting the Waterfront District with City Hall via Pocasset Street.
- Finished Stage 2 and Stage 3 Braga Bridge work on high speed and middle lanes on I-195 east and westbound.
- Installed new retaining wall and fence in the Waterfront District Plaza.



Looking south over the new Davol Street Bridge, which is now open to one lane of travel in each direction.

Ongoing/Upcoming Work:

- Continue installing elevated ramp connecting I-195 westbound to Route 79 northbound.
- Continue painting and structural steel repairs on the Braga Bridge.
- Complete Stage 1 Braga Bridge work in the right and breakdown lanes east and westbound.
- Continue design and installation of the new Waterfront District Plaza, including plantings, salvaged stone seating, and a decorative fence.
- Continue construction of three new bridges over Pocasset, one over I-195, and one over Central Street at Davol Street.
- Additional on-going work includes drainage, paving, street lights, railing, fencing, curbing, sidewalks, and traffic signals.



Steel fence being installed for the Waterfront District Plaza.

Please visit the [project website](#) to sign up for email alerts and updates, and to learn more about this important project. Check out the [Route 79/Braga Bridge Flickr album](#) for more progress photos!

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.