

DAVIS PATH FOOTBRIDGE NEIGHBORHOOD UPDATE

May 6, 2020

The Town continues to coordinate closely with their consulting structural engineer, LiRo, and the MBTA to resolve the public safety issue posed by the Davis Path Footbridge. Following observations and sampling performed on April 10, 2020 LiRo recommended the Town immediately close the bridge until structural calculations could be performed to assess the structural integrity of one of the two main support girders. Structural calculations determined the girder has no analytical capacity to support its own weight and per LiRo's recommendation, the Town immediately closed the bridge, notified the MBTA, and has been working diligently since to develop an appropriate action plan.

The Town's last correspondence indicated there were three immediate options at our disposal to eliminate the potential safety hazard:

1. Structural reinforcement of the bridge and protective netting to protect the MBTA from spalling concrete until full replacement – No public access
2. Structural reinforcement of the bridge and protective netting to protect the MBTA from spalling concrete until full replacement– Public access
3. Demolition of the bridge structure

Please be advised latest concrete lab results indicate the footbridge is no longer a candidate for rehabilitation in the future nor temporary structural shoring/reinforcement. LiRo recommended the only immediate option presently is to demolish the span of the bridge over the tracks to eliminate risk to MBTA operations below.

The Town is working closely with the MBTA to coordinate demolition in a matter of weeks, hopefully to commence before the end of May. The Town will conduct an emergency procurement to enlist the services of an experienced contractor to demo the span safely and efficiently during planned MBTA shutdowns.

While the Town works through the logistics of the demo work, we are also considering the longer duration project to design and construct a replacement bridge. The plan for consideration will include the following three phases:

1. *Phase 1* – Immediate demolition of the bridge span maintaining the existing bridge abutments in-place.
2. *Phase 2* – Design and construction of a temporary bridge supported on the existing bridge abutments to restore pedestrian access.
3. *Phase 3* – Design and construction of a permanent replacement bridge.

Phase 1 includes development of contract specifications and plans for the demo work, which LiRo aims to complete within the next 2 weeks. The Town is working on getting MBTA approval to access their Right-of-Way to carry out the demo work tentatively planned for the end of the month. We anticipate a one-week duration to complete the demo work. Phase 2 will commence as soon as the demolition of the span is complete and safety is restored at the site. The temporary bridge included in Phase 2 will restore pedestrian access through the replacement design duration in Phase 3. The Town and LiRo are still developing timelines for the second phase. Phase 3 will likely take several years to come to fruition.

We appreciate your attention to these matters as well as your patience while the Town works to develop an immediate and long-term plan for this critical pedestrian link. We will keep the neighborhood apprised of all developments, including schedule, as we refine our timelines.