

DAVIS PATH FOOTBRIDGE NEIGHBORHOOD UPDATE
May 13, 2020

The Town continues to work diligently with LiRo Engineers and the MBTA to plan the emergency demolition of the Davis Path Footbridge. The Town's last correspondence presented a three-phase approach for the ultimate replacement of the Davis Path Footbridge:

Phase 1 – Immediate demolition of the bridge span maintaining the existing bridge abutments in-place.

Phase 2 – Design and construction of a temporary bridge supported on the existing bridge abutments to restore pedestrian access.

Phase 3 – Design and construction of a permanent replacement bridge.

The Town's highest priority is the completion of Phase 1 in a coordinated and timely manner to restore safety to the site. The first step is the installation of protective netting wrapped around the underside of the bridge to capture potential spalling concrete. The Town anticipates receiving price quotations for the netting work from qualified contractors by the close of the week. The intent is for this work to take place within a week's time of receiving pricing, subject to MBTA's approval of the Town's schedule. The netting and demolition work will likely need to be completed at night during an early access and/or weekend shutdown. The Town still aims to complete the demolition work at the end of May/early June.

Our consultant structural engineer, LiRo, continues to develop the contract documents for the emergency demolition. Since our last correspondence LiRo refined their conceptual design and approach to the demolition work and prepared preliminary plans and specifications for Town and MBTA review. LiRo and the Town will continue to coordinate the review of the documents with the MBTA to secure their approval as swiftly as possible.

The Town's HazMat vendor extracted samples of key bridge components this week to test for the presence of Asbestos before we proceed with the demolition. If asbestos is present in any of the bridge components, the demolition contractor will abate said materials safely and in accordance with all pertinent local, state, and federal requirements.

Considering the unforeseen nature of this emergency intervention, the Town must request a reserve fund transfer to fund the Phase 1 demolition work. The Town will seek approval of the reserve fund transfer from the Select Board and Advisory Committee this week.

Once the bridge span is demolished and the risk to MBTA operations below is eliminated, the Town will focus efforts on Phase 2 including the design and construction of a temporary bridge to restore pedestrian access. We cannot commit to a timeline for Phase 2 completion at this time.

Once again, 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 continue to keep the neighborhood apprised of all developments, including schedule, as we refine our timelines.