

Anderson Bridge Reconstruction

public meeting

MA Dept. of Transportation (MassDOT)
Tuesday, December 15, 2009 @ 7 p.m.
MLK School, 100 Putnam Avenue, Cambridge

Q: What's happening?

The Anderson Memorial Bridge will be reconstructed and MassDOT wants your input. Construction is expected to begin in Summer 2010.

Q: Why attend this meeting?

The bridge today is unsafe for bicyclists and too narrow for the high number of people walking across it every day. This bridge will not be reconstructed again for over 50 years, so getting it right is important.

Q: What are the options?

Improving conditions for bicycling and walking is a must. Status quo is not acceptable. The public must insist that either the bridge be widened or space be reallocated to allow room for "cycle tracks" or bicycle lanes, and wider sidewalks.

Q: What else needs to be addressed?

The intersections at the bridge approaches need to be addressed as part of this redesign. Also, MassDOT should explore having the river-bank paths to go under the bridge and across the intersections.

Be sure to thank MassDOT for taking the time to consider your input and considering these suggestions to make our cities healthier, safer, and better connected.

LivableStreets Rethinking urban transportation

Citizen Information Handout prepared by
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MORE DETAILS >>

Key Points

to make at the meeting

Improving conditions for bicycling and walking is a must. Status quo is not acceptable. The public must insist that either the bridge be widened or space be reallocated to allow room for "cycle tracks" or bicycle lanes, and wider sidewalks

Option 1: Widen the bridge:

- Would allow room for "cycle tracks" or bicycle lanes, and wider sidewalks.
- Widening is not in the current budget, so it is not currently under consideration.
- Initial analysis by structural engineers indicates that it is technically feasible to widen the bridge.
- Preliminary inquiries of historical preservation experts indicate that widening would not have adverse historical impact.
- The expansion of the Harvard-Allston campus will cause a significant increase in demand for walking, biking, and transit trips. Therefore, it is prudent to plan for the future now. It would be a waste of taxpayer dollars to reconstruct the bridge now without widening it, only to reconstruct it again in 10 years. MassDOT and Harvard University should negotiate this issue before a final decision is made.

Option 2: Reallocate space:

- A design with three vehicle lanes would allow for space for bicycle lanes as well as slightly widened sidewalks.
- In order for this to work, intersections at Soldiers Field Road and at Memorial Drive need to be redesigned, as does North Harvard and JFK streets.
- Preliminary analysis shows that the three lane concept can work, but the exact configuration of the intersections still needs to be worked out.

Thank MassDOT for listening and considering these key suggestions to make Boston a more connected, livable city.

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LivableStreets Alliance is a non-profit organization that believes urban transportation has the power to make Boston a more connected, livable city.

COME EXPRESS YOUR VIEWS!