



CITY of BEVERLY
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 15, 2022

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Permanent Closure of the Hall-Whitaker Drawbridge Effective This Friday, June 17

BEVERLY - The Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) will permanently close the Hall-Whitaker drawbridge to vehicular traffic based on recent bridge inspections and ratings reports. Traffic will be detoured as outlined in the MassDOT Advisory dated June 15, 2022.

MassDOT met with City officials last Friday, June 10th to announce that the condition of the Hall-Whitaker drawbridge had deteriorated in a manner to warrant potential closure and to follow up with next steps. Continued evaluation over the weekend and early this week led state officials to conclude that the bridge must close permanently. Sidewalks on both sides of the bridge can remain open to pedestrians and bicycles. At the present time, the swing span will continue to operate for marine traffic; however, MassDOT is evaluating the feasibility of a reduced opening schedule.

The City of Beverly has been working with the state to monitor the viability of the Hall-Whitaker drawbridge for many years and advocate for its replacement. Late last year with the passage of the federal Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) the state announced the Hall-Whitaker Bridge will be replaced along with many others. The project is currently under design. The City of Beverly will work tirelessly with our state partners to shorten the timeline for design, permitting and construction.

A neighborhood meeting will be scheduled as soon as possible to discuss the Hall-Whitaker drawbridge replacement project and answer questions. We will publicize the date and time as soon as it is scheduled.

For questions, please contact mayorcahill@beverlyma.gov or 978-605-2333.