



# **Broadway Bridge Closure Management Plan**

City of Somerville

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Beginning March 22, 2019, the Broadway bridge between Ball Square and Magoun Square will close for Green Line Extension construction. This will be the first and the longest in a series of GLX bridge closures planned throughout 2019 and 2020. The Broadway bridge is expected to be closed for approximately one full year, reopening around March 2020. All motor vehicle, bicycle, and pedestrian traffic will be detoured for the duration of the closure. Multiple MBTA bus routes will also be rerouted.

Since the summer of 2018, City staff have been working with the MBTA and its contractor, GLX Constructors (GLX-C), to prepare operational plans to protect public safety and minimize quality-of-life impacts to neighbors and the broader community during this bridge closure. Key components of those plans are outlined below.

Please note: All plans are designed to be adaptive and are subject to change. Officials will be onsite daily to monitor the area, collect data, and implement any necessary adjustments quickly and effectively.

For more information about this project, please visit [www.mass.gov/GLX](http://www.mass.gov/GLX). If you have questions or concerns related to construction, please call the 24/7 GLX hotline at 1-855-GLX-INFO (4636) or email [info@glxinfo.com](mailto:info@glxinfo.com). As always, in an emergency, call 911.

## Attachments:

1. Motor Vehicle Detour Map
2. Bicycle/Pedestrian Detour Map
3. MBTA Route 80 Detour Map
4. MBTA Route 89 Detour Map - Longer Clarendon Hill Variant
5. MBTA Route 89 Detour Map - Shorter Davis Sq. Variant
6. 2019 Motor Vehicle Traffic Detours (Broadway, Washington St., and Medford St.)



## Public Safety

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- Lt. Mitsakis of the Somerville Police Department (SPD) has been assigned as the Public Safety Incident Commander for the full length of the project to address any issues that arise on a real-time basis.
- The SPD will deploy at least 16 officers to the Broadway bridge region between 6 a.m. and 8 p.m. during the initial roll-out period (approximately two weeks) and will evaluate conditions and deploy as needed going forward.
- At least one officer will be stationed on each side of the Broadway bridge 24 hours a day.
- Additional on-duty officers will enforce speed and traffic regulations on interior neighborhood streets.
- As needed, on-duty officers will include bicycle patrols staffed by community police officers overseen by Sgt. Shackelford to provide additional navigation of closure sites, among other needs.
- The SPD will add additional security cameras to the area that will feed into mobile incident command laptops to provide SPD Incident Command real-time oversight of the area while in the field or at HQ.
- The SPD will check in with Constituent Services several times a day initially post-closure, and as as-needed thereafter, to ensure major constituent concerns are quickly addressed directly in the field.
- The Somerville Fire Department (SFD) has updated mutual-aid partnerships with fire departments in the Cities of Medford, Cambridge, and Arlington to ensure response times are not compromised.
- At the beginning of the closure, the SFD will utilize a two-person roving unit during high-traffic hours to quickly respond to emergencies in the area.
- The SPD and SFD have established a coordination plan to clear Cedar St. for emergency vehicles during peak traffic hours.
- Cataldo Ambulance Service will have ambulances stationed on both eastern and western sides of the Broadway bridge during peak traffic hours.

## Traffic Calming & Interventions

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- New 20-mph safety zones have been implemented in Ball Square and East Somerville in preparation for GLX bridge closures. Increased police patrols will prioritize enforcement.



- Traffic signal timing will be adjusted at multiple intersections to facilitate traffic flow, including Broadway/Cedar St. and Cedar St./Highland Ave.
- Flex posts will be used at strategic locations to reduce vehicle turn radii (and therefore speeds).
- The City intends to extend No Parking zones at several intersections, including on Morrison Ave. at Josephine Ave., Highland Rd., Pearson Ave., and Boston Ave.; on Cedar St. at Morrison Ave.; and on College Ave. at Morrison Ave. Doing so will provide better visibility for cars coming off of side streets.
- The City will provide a free shuttle service to transport constituents from one side of the bridge to the other. Service is expected to begin within the first two weeks after the bridge closes. Shuttle vehicles will accommodate between 14 and 20 passengers, and service will be offered weekdays between 7 a.m. and 7 p.m. The route is under final review. All shuttle-related information can be found on the City's GLX web page, [somerillema.gov/GLX](http://somerillema.gov/GLX).
- Supplemental pavement markings for traffic calming will be installed during the spring and summer.
- Traffic volumes and speeds will be monitored regularly and evaluated against baseline data for 15 locations in the region.

## **Regional Outreach & Detour Enforcement**

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- Uniformed Somerville Police officers, MBTA Transit Police, and detail officers from other communities will be stationed at key local intersections along the bridge detour routes to enforce the detour and prevent motorists from using inappropriate neighborhood cut-through routes.
- In an effort to reduce regional cut-through traffic, the GLX team has sent targeted communications through their Reboot Your Commute campaign to 96 neighboring cities and towns, 84 media outlets, 29 hospitals and medical facilities, 26 colleges and universities, and large employers in the area to encourage motorists who travel through Somerville to seek alternate routes.
- Digital billboards on Route 16, I-93, I-95, and the Mass Pike will alert regional motorists to the Broadway bridge closure.
- GLX Constructors will deploy about 20 large-scale advance detour signs in and around Somerville, with particular emphasis on intercepting motorists at regionally significant roadways and intersections such as Medford Square, Porter Square, Sullivan Square, and Wellington Circle.



- The Somerville Police Department will also deploy several electronic sign boards throughout Somerville in the weeks prior to the closure and throughout the project.

## **Data Collection, Analysis, & Real-Time Response**

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- The City is using an external vendor to collect speed and traffic counts at 15 locations.
- They will perform regular and repeated intake and analysis to quantify changing patterns of cut-through motor vehicle traffic.
- Additionally, staff in Transportation & Infrastructure and Engineering will be measuring traffic queues and interviewing stationed Police officers the first few weeks of the closure.
- City of Somerville staff will be in neighborhoods in high-visibility uniforms collecting data and monitoring traffic flow.
- Variable message boards supplied by UASI will count cars and speed.
- This data collection will inform the implementation of any potential needed changes and allow the City and the GLX team to remain responsive to ongoing needs as they arise.

## **Trash Collection, Street Sweeping, & Snow Removal**

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- DPW staff are coordinating with the City's trash, recycling, and yard waste vendors to minimize impacts in advance of the closures, including by delaying collection times in high-traffic neighborhoods until after rush hour.
- Trash and recycling collection is expected to continue on its usual weekly schedule, but pickup will likely take longer to complete each day.
- Street sweeping schedules are being similarly adjusted within their existing posted times. Additional sweepers will be deployed to speed sweeping, and sweeping routes during existing posted times are being adjusted to reduce sweeping in high-traffic neighborhoods during rush hour.
- Targeted plowing plans and responsive plowing readiness plans are in preparation to enable needed additional removals if necessary to maintain safety and travel in impacted areas.
- DPW will monitor all operations post-closure and implement additional interventions where necessary.



## Parking

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- The Traffic and Parking Department has added some signage along the closure route and has reviewed existing signage in affected neighborhoods to ensure all are clearly marked and easily visible.
- Some meters in Magoun Sq. will be temporarily decommissioned for the duration of the closure to accommodate MBTA bus diversions.
- No Parking zones may be extended at several intersections, including on Morrison Ave. at Josephine Ave., Highland Rd., Pearson Ave., and Boston Ave.; on Cedar St. at Morrison Ave.; and on College Ave. at Morrison Ave. to provide better visibility for cars coming off of side streets.
- Parking Control Officer (PCO) hours will be adjusted to support access and impact mitigation for schools, adjacent neighborhoods, and closure areas.

## Local Business Support

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- City and GLX staff have connected directly with businesses in Magoun Square, Ball Square, and Powder House Square to notify them of upcoming detours and to work through specific concerns.
- In advance of the GLX bridge closures, the Office of Economic Development launched a new technical assistance program that provides funding for construction-affected businesses to access expert business coaching.
- The Office of Economic Development and the Somerville Arts Council are pursuing strategies for establishing events and festivals in affected neighborhoods. The Office of Economic Development, Ball Square Business Association, and local organizations hosted the well-attended A Ball for Squares event in Fall 2018.
- The Economic Development and Communications departments, along with DPW, are preparing banners for business districts affected by construction, and have established the #Loyal2Local social media and communications campaign and the new @SomervilleBusinesses Instagram account to increase visibility and encourage residents to patronize their local businesses during construction.
- The Communications Department and the Mayor's Office are making use of—and will continue to use—all other outreach channels and opportunities to urge the community to support and patronize affected businesses and business districts during this period.



## **School Safety and Coordination**

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- Somerville Police will monitor traffic daily near impacted schools and walk high-traffic routes traveled by parents and students to ensure there are no impediments to travel and the routes are safe.
- School principals and Somerville Police have identified high-priority crosswalks that may be staffed with additional crossing guards.
- The district has created an Operations Leadership Taskforce to support schools and departments that will be affected. This team will include representatives from Communications, Finance, Food Service, Out of School Time, Transportation, Technology, DPW, and Student Services. The School Committee will be kept informed as this project progresses.
- Somerville Public Schools staff attend weekly construction and outreach meetings with state and city officials to remain informed of project changes and plan joint communications.
- City staff have presented at PTA Council meetings, and the district has had representation at all GLX community meetings to better understand student and parent concerns, questions, and feedback.
- The district administration has updated all principals on a monthly basis about key construction impacts so they can share information and answer questions for families.
- The City will share an informational one-sheet in English, Spanish, Portuguese, and Haitian-Creole with staff at all schools.

## **Communications & Community Engagement, including Constituent Services**

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- The City's Communications Department has been and will continue to increase its outreach across all channels using a variety of methods, including Mayoral announcements and messages, media announcements, dedicated webpages, social media, video/TV, physical signage, canvassing, and community meetings, as well as a range of print and digital outreach from flyers and info sheets to e-newsletters.
- Communications staff will continue to manage the [construction@somervillema.gov](mailto:construction@somervillema.gov) email address and coordinate with Constituent



Services, the Community Working Group, and the GLX Stakeholder Engagement team to track and resolve constituent concerns during construction.

- Constituent Services will check in with SPD several times a day initially post-closure, and as as-needed moving forward, to ensure major constituent concerns are addressed directly in the field.
- Constituent Services staff are being prepared with relevant information and referral protocols and will promote information via on-hold "barge-in" messages and in-app messaging via the 311 app.
- To provide transparency to the City on request resolution, Constituent Services is coordinating on the backend with GLX Team members to develop protocols to track constituent requests made directly to or routed to GLX.
- Multiple notices have been sent and will be sent through the City's alert system, both citywide and to impacted neighborhoods, prior to each bridge closure or significant detour update. All significant notices are and will be sent in four languages to dedicated language alert lists. To support this effort, additional efforts to promote alert signups have been underway and will continue throughout construction.
- Weekly construction updates and announcements are provided in the Construction Update newsletter and on the City's GLX website, and high-priority items are repeated in the weekly City general e-newsletter.
- City staff have provided informational one-sheets and letters for door-to-door canvassing and targeted outreach to businesses, the school community, and SomerViva: Office of Immigrant Affairs partners.
- The City has hosted three public meetings to date related to GLX bridge closures.
- City staff have filmed TV segments about construction with City Cable TV and the Somerville Media Center.
- Communications will coordinate info tables at block parties and street festivals throughout 2019, which City and GLX reps will staff. In 2018, Communications coordinated outreach and tabling at 16 events and tallied more than 2,200 constituent interactions.
- Communications is working in close collaboration with the GLX team to support their extensive outreach efforts. In addition to previously mentioned outreach, the GLX team has installed sandwich boards around Ball Square and has begun to distribute doorhangers to abutters prior to the Broadway bridge closure.



## Motor Vehicle Detour

### Broadway Bridge at Ball Square

Closed March 2019 to March 2020\*

#### Broadway Detour Routes

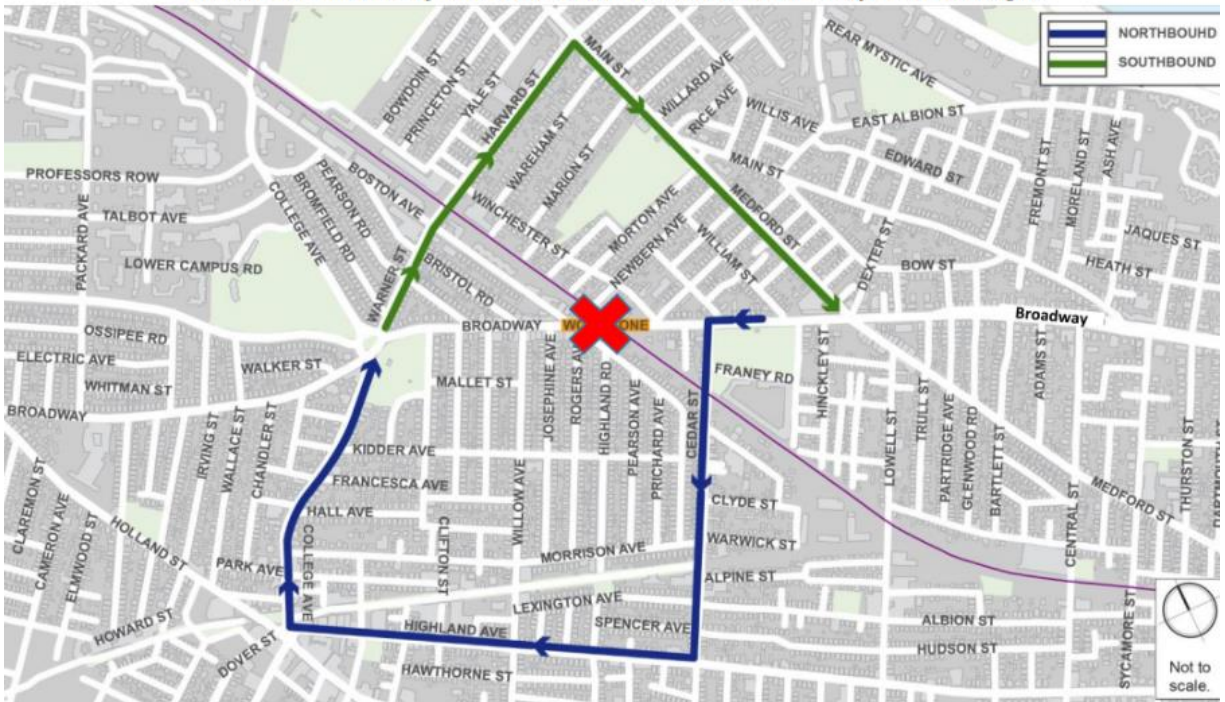
##### For Vehicular Traffic headed north/west

- Broadway to LEFT on Cedar St.
- RIGHT onto Highland Avenue
- RIGHT onto College Avenue
- At traffic circle, 5<sup>th</sup> exit onto Broadway

##### For Vehicular Traffic headed south/east

- Broadway to traffic circle at Powder House Square
- 3<sup>rd</sup> exit onto Warner Street
- STRAIGHT onto Harvard Street
- RIGHT onto Main Street
- Continue onto Medford Street
- LEFT on Broadway

\*Due to the nature of construction, all schedules are subject to change.







## Cyclist & Pedestrian Detour

### Broadway Bridge at Ball Square

Closed March 2019 to March 2020\*

#### Broadway Pedestrian/Bike Detour Routes

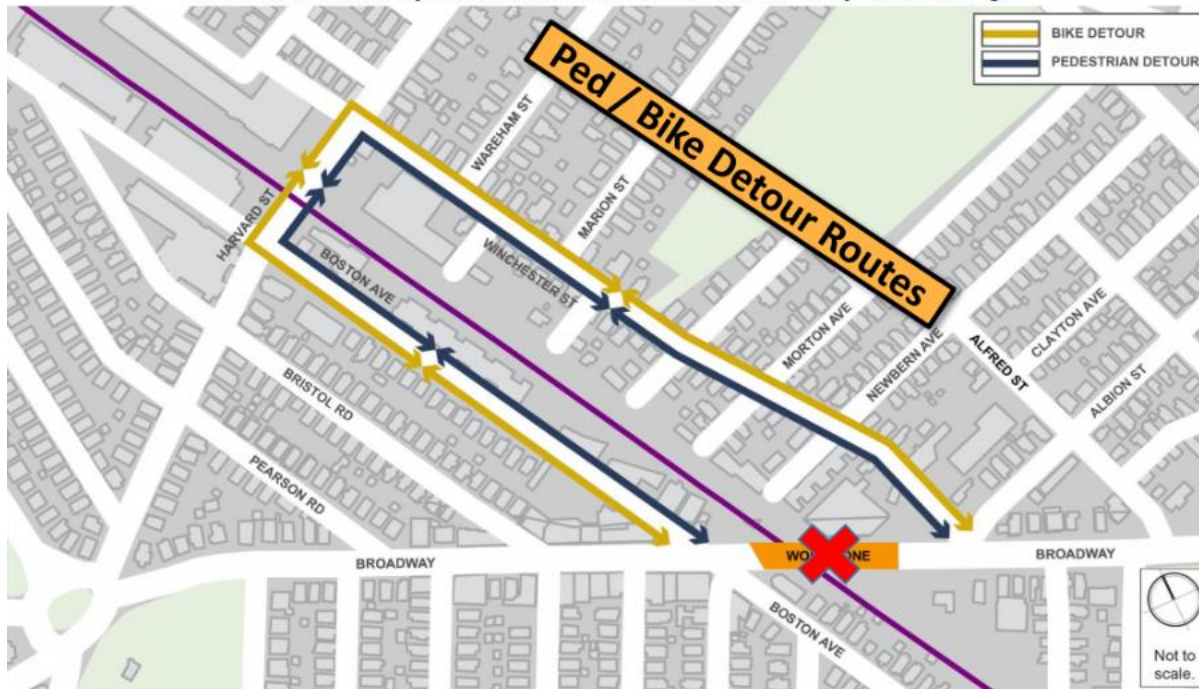
##### For Pedestrian / Bike Traffic headed north/west

- Broadway to RIGHT on Winchester St.
- LEFT onto Harvard Street
- LEFT onto Boston Avenue to Ball Sq.

##### For Pedestrian / Bike Traffic headed south/east

- Broadway to LEFT on Boston Ave
- RIGHT on Harvard St.
- RIGHT on Winchester St. to Broadway

\*Due to the nature of construction, all schedules are subject to change.

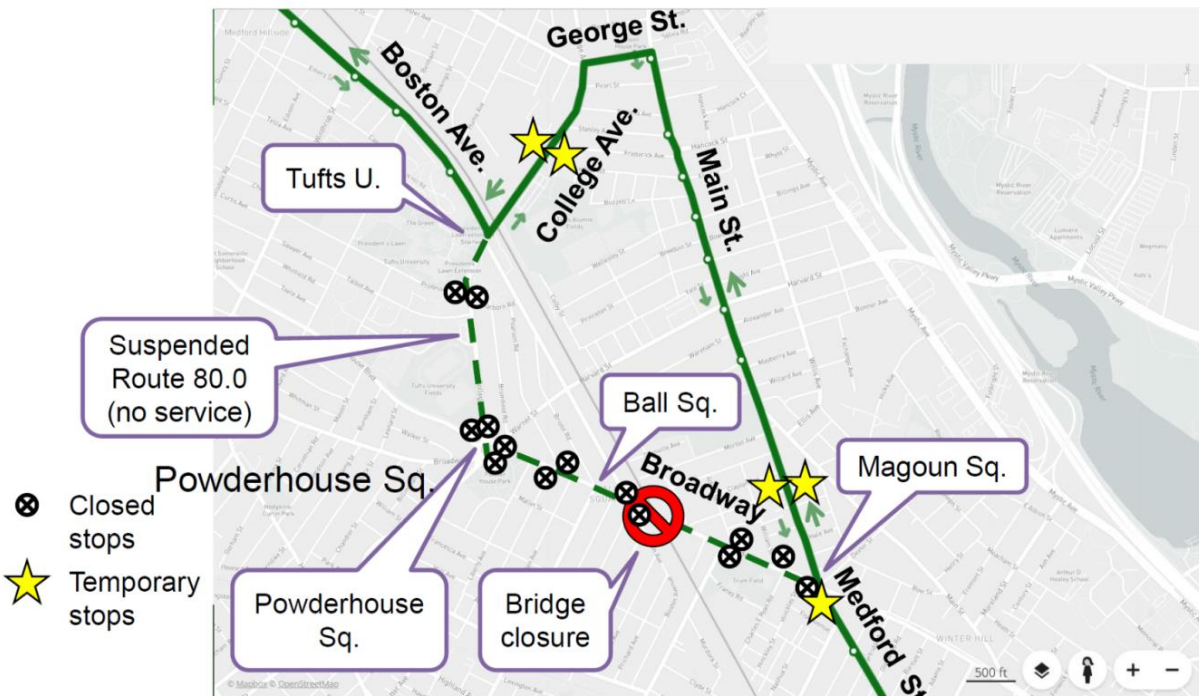




## MBTA Bus Route 80 Diversion

### Route 80.4: Arlington Center – Lechmere

Diversion via College Ave., George St., Main St., and Medford St.





## MBTA Bus Route 89 Diversion – Longer Clarendon Hill Variant

### Route 89.5: Clarendon Hill – Sullivan (long variant)

Diversion via Holland St., Davis, Highland Ave., and Cedar St.





## MBTA Route 89 Diversion – Shorter Davis Sq. Variant

### Route 89.6: Davis – Sullivan (short variant) Diversion via Highland Ave. and Cedar St.

