

U.S. Department of
Homeland Security

United States
Coast Guard



Commander
Northeast Coast Guard District

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Staff Symbol: dpb
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February 27, 2026

PUBLIC NOTICE D01-218-2026

MYSTIC RIVER BICYCLE/PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE

All interested parties are herein notified that the Commander, Northeast Coast Guard District, has received application materials dated December 12, 2025, from the Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) and Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) for approval of location and plans for the construction of a pedestrian bridge over a navigable waterway of the United States.

BRIDGE, WATERWAY AND LOCATION: Mystic River Bicycle and Pedestrian Bridge over the Mystic River, mile 1.6, between the cities Everett and Somerville, Middlesex County, Massachusetts.

CHARACTER OF WORK: The applicant will be constructing a new bicycle/pedestrian bridge. The Bridge will be approximately 780.17 feet long, approximately 60 feet high (measured from Mean High Water to the highest point of the arch structure), and approximately 20 feet wide. The Bridge's length is measured along the center line of the bridge between the abutments in the cities of Somerville and Everett, Massachusetts. This steel structure will be supported by three piers in the subtidal waters, two piers in the intertidal waters, and two abutments on filled tidelands (see Project Plans, Sheets 2 – 3). The Bridge will be illuminated to accommodate users at all hours as well as for navigation purposes.

The goal of the Project is to connect the Somerville and Everett communities, providing the missing link in a network of pedestrian and bicycle routes throughout the region. The Project will provide 24-hour pedestrian and bicycle access and connect over 25 miles of DCR parklands and trail networks on the east and west sides of the Mystic River, known as the Mystic River Greenway. The Project will ease the movement between various neighborhoods, commercial areas, public green spaces, and transportation modes. Another goal of the Project will be to provide bicycle and pedestrian access between the MBTA Assembly Orange Line Station and Everett. The Project will provide a new transit alternative within an extremely congested roadway network. The Project will also fulfill the goals and planning recommendations of local and state agencies and advocacy groups including DCR, the Cities of Everett and Somerville, and the Mystic River Watershed Association.

MINIMUM NAVIGATIONAL CLEARANCES: The proposed bridge will have clearances as described in the table below. These clearances match or exceed the clearances of the immediately adjacent Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority Railroad Bridge.

	Vertical	Horizontal
Proposed	30.0 feet at Mean High Water	205.30 feet between piers. 84-feet across the navigation channel (with a 30-foot vertical clearance).

Datum: Horizontal NAD83, Vertical NAVD88

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS:

The Coast Guard, as the lead Federal agency, has made a tentative determination that the bridge construction warrants a Categorical Exclusion for the purposes of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) because it satisfies criteria for such actions listed in the Coast Guard’s NEPA Implementing Instructions.

The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection issued a water quality certification in accordance with Section 401 of the Clean Water Act, as amended, for this project on December 12, 2025. 456 square feet of tidal wetlands are anticipated to be temporarily impacted, and 1022 square feet of tidal wetlands are anticipated to be permanently impacted by the Project.

The applicant made a determination that construction of the proposed Project is not anticipated to result in temporary or construction-related significant adverse effects related to the coastal zone, given that it would be consistent with Massachusetts Office of Coastal Zone Management (CZM) coastal program policies (e.g., to reduce threats related to coastal hazards). On June 13, 2025, the CZM determined an individual consistency review would not be required for the Project, and that coastal zone consistency review will be done as part of the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) permitting process.

Preliminary analysis found that the Project is not likely to affect significant historic or archeological resources as described in Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966. The Massachusetts State Historic Preservation Officer concurred with this finding on June 9, 2025.

The proposed pedestrian bridge is located in Mystic River approximately 750 feet downstream of the Amelia Earhart Dam. The crossed waterway is part of greater Boston Harbor, which is tidally influenced by the Atlantic Ocean. The 100-year (1% annual chance) flood elevation is approximately 10 feet according to FIRM Panel 25017C0439F. The elevation of the lowest steel member of the bridge over the channel is 35.13 feet. Elevations are referenced to NAVD 88 datum.

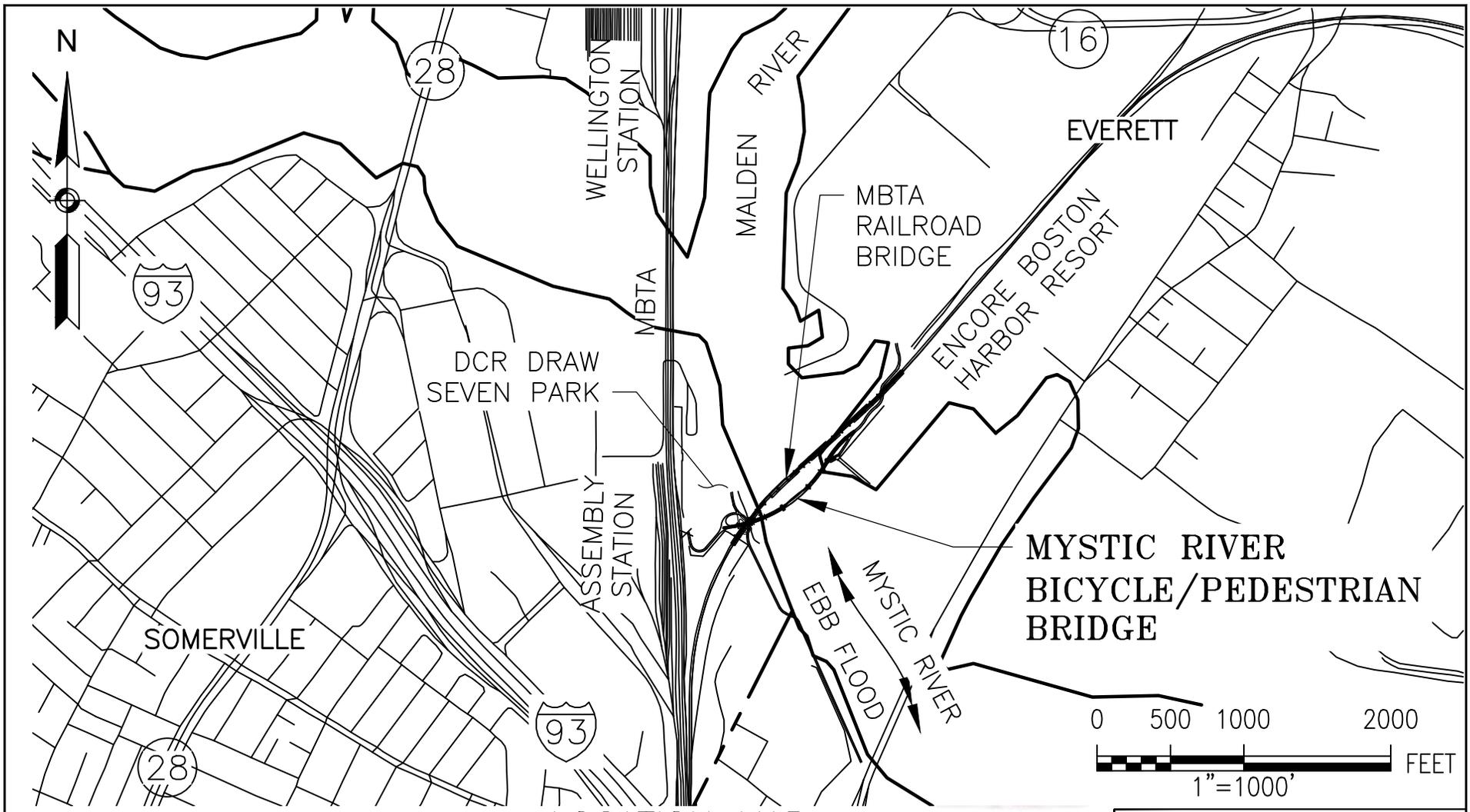
SOLICITATION OF COMMENTS:

Mariners are requested to comment on the proposed navigation clearances, placement of a bridge protective system and other navigational safety issues, including need for clearance gauges and extent of nighttime navigation to determine the need for bridge lighting.

Interested parties are requested to express their views, in writing, on the proposed bridge project including its possible environmental impacts, if any, giving sufficient detail to establish a clear understanding of the reasons for support of, or opposition to, the proposed work. Comments will be received for the record at the address noted in the header or via email (SMB-D1Boston-Bridges-PublicNotices@uscg.mil) through March 29, 2026.

Map of location and plans are attached.

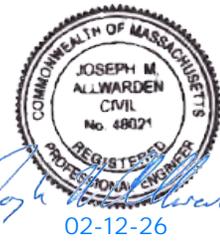
G. P. Hitchen
Bridge Program Manager
By direction of the Commander
Northeast Coast Guard District



LOCATION MAP



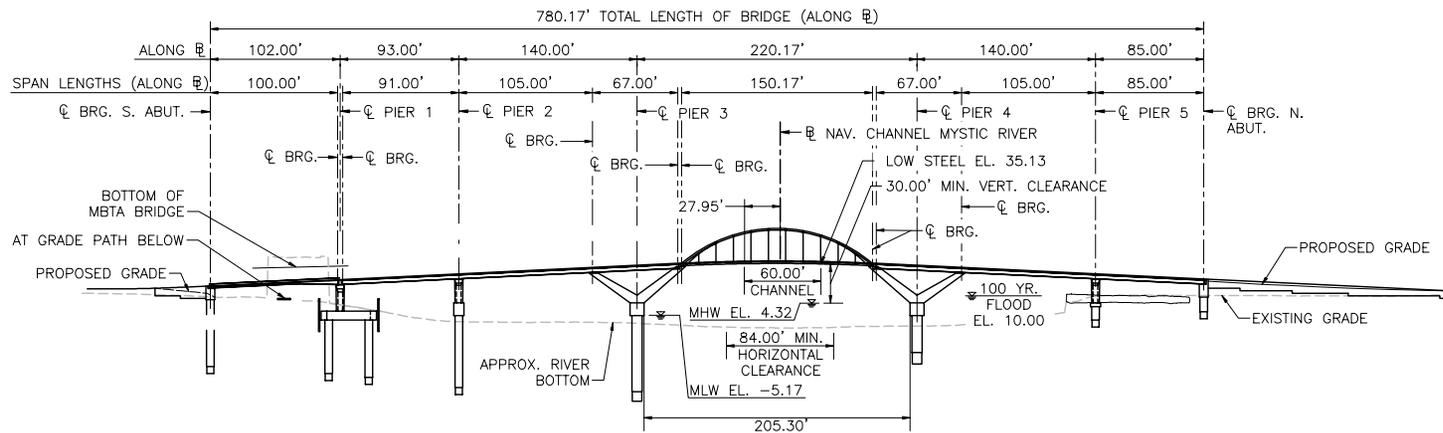
PROJECT LOCATION



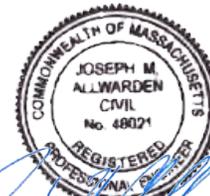
NOTES:

1. CONCEPTUAL PLANS UTILIZED TO OBTAIN COAST GUARD BRIDGE PERMIT.

<p>APPLICANT: MASSDOT</p>	
<p>MYSTIC RIVER BICYCLE/PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE</p> <p>CITIES OF SOMERVILLE/EVERETT MIDDLESEX COUNTY, MASSACHUSETTS MYSTIC RIVER – MILEPOINT 1.6</p>	
<p>CONSULTANT: AECOM</p>	<p>SHEET 1 OF 4</p>
<p>FEBRUARY 12, 2026</p>	

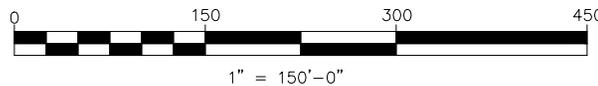


ELEVATION



NOTES:

1. ALL ELEVATIONS ARE BASED ON NAVD 1988.
2. CONCEPTUAL PLANS UTILIZED TO OBTAIN COAST GUARD BRIDGE PERMIT.



PIER 1 FILL VOLUME = 55 CY
SEAWALL FILL VOLUME = 75 CY

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**MYSTIC RIVER BICYCLE/
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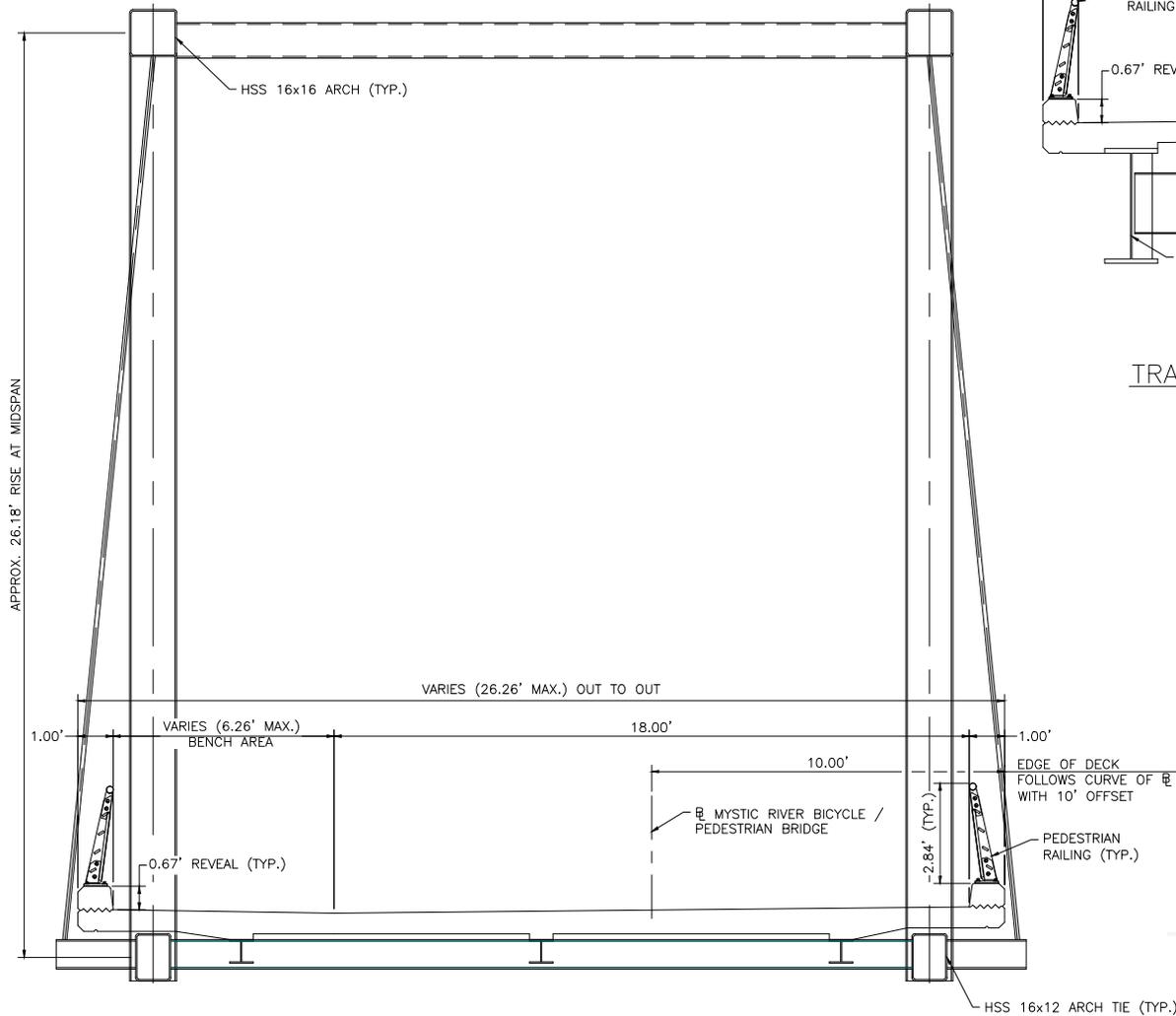
CITIES OF SOMERVILLE/EVERETT
MIDDLESEX COUNTY, MASSACHUSETTS
MYSTIC RIVER - MILEPOINT 1.6

CONSULTANT:

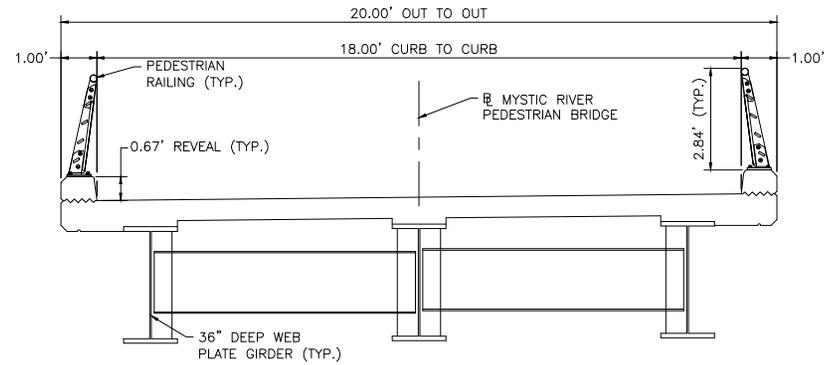
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SHEET 3 OF 4

FEBRUARY 12, 2026



TRANSVERSE SECTION - ARCH SPAN



TRANSVERSE SECTION - APPROACH SPANS

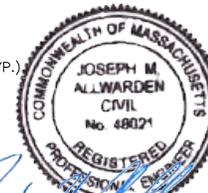
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CITIES OF SOMERVILLE/EVERETT
MIDDLESEX COUNTY, MASSACHUSETTS
MYSTIC RIVER - MILEPOINT 1.6



Joseph M. Allwarden
02-12-26



CONSULTANT:

AECOM

SHEET 4 OF 4

FEBRUARY 12, 2026