

Maura Healey, Governor  
Kimberley Driscoll, Lieutenant Governor  
Gina Fiandaca, Secretary & CEO  
Jonathan L. Gulliver, Highway Administrator



May 31, 2023

The Honorable Edward J. Kennedy  
Massachusetts State Senator  
24 Beacon Street, Room 513  
Boston, MA 02133

The Honorable Rodney Elliott  
Massachusetts State Representative  
24 Beacon Street, Room 26  
Boston, MA 02133

The Honorable Vanna Howard  
Massachusetts State Representative  
24 Beacon Street, Room 33  
Boston, MA 02133

Dear Senator Kennedy, Representative Elliott and Representative Howard:

Secretary Fiandaca asked me to reply to your letter regarding the wearing surface on the Rourke Bridge over the Merrimack River in Lowell.

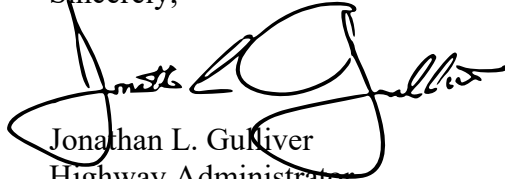
In Spring 2022, the Highway Division's District 4 office began working design consultant HNTB Corporation and representatives from Acrow, who fabricated the temporary bridge, to develop design plans and specifications for repairs to address specific deficiencies noted in the most recent bridge inspections. MassDOT completed an initial scope of repairs to the structural bracing for the bridge towers last fall. The remaining elements of the plan include replacing identified lateral supports on the underside of the bridge and replacing or refurbishing the bridge deck panels and the wearing surface that is attached to them.

Many of the bridge components are proprietary and have longer lead times for fabrication. To shorten the time associated with the repair project, MassDOT procured a large quantity of new deck panels and lateral supports last year while the formal design progressed. This will allow the work to proceed sequentially as the existing deck panels need to be shipped off-site to have the wearing surface refurbished. Once the design is complete, MassDOT will solicit pricing proposals from contractors having active bridge maintenance or bridge construction contracts within District 4 to perform the work. To minimize traffic impacts, the work is expected to be completed at night, with general traffic being detoured. The plan will include provisions to maintain access across the bridge for emergency vehicles while the work occurs.

MassDOT appreciates your continued interest in this regionally important asset and is undertaking these repairs to ensure the temporary bridge remains safe throughout the duration of the planning, design, and construction of its replacement.

If you have any follow up questions regarding this matter, please contact District 4 Highway Director Paul Stedman at (857) 368-4010 or [paul.stedman@dot.state.ma.us](mailto:paul.stedman@dot.state.ma.us).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jonathan L. Gulliver". The signature is stylized and cursive, with the first name "Jonathan" and last name "Gulliver" clearly legible. The signature is written over the printed name and title below it.

Jonathan L. Gulliver  
Highway Administrator