

Bridge Construction Creates Traffic Mess

Related To Story

Mass. Transportation Dept. Plans To Replace 14 Bridges On Weekends

POSTED: 3:44 pm EDT June 4, 2011

UPDATED: 4:33 pm EDT June 4, 2011

BOSTON -- A traffic plan to replace 14 crumbling bridges along Interstate 93 began this weekend.

The Massachusetts Department of Transportation started repairing the bridge over Riverside Avenue in Medford Friday night.



The \$98.1 million plan is part of a plan to repair crumbling bridges from Somerville to Stoneham without creating traffic gridlock.

Transportation Secretary Jeff Mullan said it all came about after two potholes formed in two days last August on a bridge.

"As we did soundings on other bridge decks going into Medford we realized those were failing as well," Mullan said.

State officials plan to have the 14 bridges replaced in the next 12-weekends.

During that time, I-93 in Medford will be reduced to four lanes, two in each direction. Traffic will cross onto one side of the highway to allow for the construction.

Each bridge will be prepared on Friday nights, beginning at 8 p.m. Work is expected to be completed by 5 a.m. Monday.

"It will certainly be inconvenient," Mullan said.

The construction was already causing headaches on Saturday. The traffic backup through the area caused a few motorists to run out of gas as they sat in gridlock, police said.

Motorists can go to the [Department of Transportation](#) web site for updated information on weekly construction sites.

Copyright 2011 by TheBostonChannel.com. All rights reserved. This material may not be published, broadcast, rewritten or redistributed.