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# Mass Ave Rehab Will Be Delayed

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The long-awaited Massachusetts Avenue reconstruction project will go out to bid almost two months later than expected because the city still needs con-

sent from abutters whose properties the work would affect.

The city must also finalize designs for the \$11.4 million rehab, more than five years in the making, which promises restoration of the roadway and sidewalks, new street lighting, land-

scaping and updated traffic signal equipment.

The Massachusetts Highway Department was scheduled to advertise the project for construction by Friday, June 6, but has pushed the date back to Saturday,

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## Mass Ave Rehab

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July 26 to allow the city more time to complete designs and to obtain permission from neighbors who might have contractors walking, or working, on their land, said Adam Hurtubise of the state Executive Office of Transportation.

Abutters might see their steps reset, entrance walks reconstructed, coal chute covers adjusted or sidewalks redone, city engineer Para Jayasinghe wrote in a letter to neighbors.

Neighbors generally support the rehab, and the Chester Square Neighborhood Association partly timed its restoration of the twin parks split by Mass Ave. to coincide with the larger project there.

"The city is actively working with the community to finalize the design phase of this project so it can be advertised for construction this summer," Jayasinghe said in a statement. "The city and the community is very excited to see this

project come to fruition, bringing the desired improvements to the abutting community."

The city is expected to complete the design portion of the project within a week, and then it will hand the reins over to the state for the construction phase.

The work, which will span from Albany to St. Botolph Streets, is expected to begin in late fall and last 36 months, Hurtubise said.

It is needed to "improve safety for motorists, bicyclists and pedestrians along the corridor and to upgrade traffic signals," he said, and will include creating left-turn lanes at each intersection that has a traffic light, to keep traffic flowing more efficiently.

The proposed plan, which has been presented to the neighborhood associations near Mass Ave., calls for some lost parking during construction and some permanently lost spots to accommodate longer bus lanes, Hurtubise said, though it retains parking on both sides of the street.