Willimansett Bridge project running on time, and on budget

By Kaitlin Goslee Published: March 31, 2015, 7:44 am Updated: March 31, 2015, 8:16 am

HOLYOKE, Mass. (WWLP)– Four years after the Willimansett Bridge construction project began, a completion date is set for July 2015.

Businesses on both sides of the bridge, in Holyoke and in Chicopee, are looking forward to the completion of this long time Willimansett Bridge construction project.

The bridge first closed for extensive repairs in 2011, but work came to a halt when the construction company hired to do the job went bankrupt. In June 2014, a new construction company, Northern Construction Service, was brought in.

The Massachusetts Department of Transportation told 22News that now, the bridge is expected to be ready to use in just three months.
Adam Tebaldi, who owns the Napa Auto Parts store on the Holyoke side of the bridge, told 22News that getting rid of the lengthy detour in place now to get from Holyoke to Chicopee will be a big relief for area business owners.

“It has certainly affected our cost of doing business. It takes a lot more fuel to deliver to customers that are really right on the other side of the bridge, and as everybody knows, gas has not been cheap these last few years,” Tebaldi said.

Tebaldi also told 22News that the re-opening of the bridge does come with some concerns. His store is located at the intersection of North Canal Street and Cabot Street, in Holyoke. He said he’s concerned that the intersection isn’t ready for all that traffic.

He says he has asked City Council members to consider putting grant money toward cleaning up the intersection, to make it more welcoming once the bridge does reopened.

“We’re hoping to see if we can do something with that to try and see if we can get that prettied up a little bit, so obviously that when the bridge is open and people start coming over that they’re driving into something nice,” Tebaldi said.

This week, MassDOT representatives say the bridge work is running both on schedule and was not delayed by any of this winter’s snow or cold. They also told 22News the project is running on its $19.3 million budget.

State Representative Joseph Wagner (D-Chicopee) told 22News that the bridge is expected to be finished sometime around 4th of July weekend.