This summer, UMass Boston will begin the transformation of University Drive from a one-way road to a tree-lined, two-way street with wide sidewalks and bike paths that will beautify our campus.

The work is part of the university’s three-year Utility Corridor and Roadway Relocation (UCRR) project, which will move campus utilities from the garage under the plaza into new modern utility corridors beneath the reconfigured roadway.

University Drive South, which runs alongside Savin Hill Cove, will close to traffic in early summer, for more than a year, while this portion of the utility and roadway construction is underway.

The remainder of University Drive will become a two-way road during this time. Commuters traveling to the campus, the John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum, and the Massachusetts Archives will use this road.

“This project will continue the critical work of renewing our campus, making it more welcoming, more efficient, and easier to navigate,” said Ellen O’Connor, vice chancellor for administration and finance. “There will be inconveniences in the short term, but we’re working hard to make this transition as smooth as possible.”

The UCRR project began last spring, with the installation of a new chiller and boiler and major upgrades to the university’s central utility plant. It is expected to conclude in late 2016.

Crews are constructing new corridors to house 17 miles of underground piping and duct banks, which will provide reliable,
Celebrating Our Progress and Pursuing New Opportunities

It’s been a year of milestones for the University of Massachusetts Boston: the 10th anniversary of the construction of our Campus Center, the 40th anniversary of our campus’s location on Columbia Point, and the 50th anniversary of the university’s establishment. We’ve also passed a lot of milestones in the growth, expansion, and renovation of our campus: the completion of the steel frame of the General Academic Building No. 1, the selection of a designer for the GAB No. 2, the replacement of the roof of Healey Library after damage from Superstorm Sandy. And we’re anticipating one very important milestone this fall when the doors of the Integrated Sciences Complex open.

To reach each of these milestones, we’ve been relying heavily on our campus community, friends and neighbors in civic associations, neighborhood organizations, and local businesses for their buy-in and forbearance with our expansion. I’m grateful that our community understands why, at 50 years, we need to continue to grow and change to match the quality of our students. Since the planning stages of our campus master plan for construction, we’ve sought and received input from our community members—and we will continue to do so throughout our planning and building.

I was especially glad to have the opportunity to welcome our friends and neighbors to campus on April 9 for discussions, presentations, and a question-and-answer session. Our community relations and administration and finance staff members gave more than 50 guests status updates on our current projects, provided information on what’s ahead this summer and fall, and solicited input on our plans for the future.

For those who were not able to attend the meeting April 9, I hope that this bulletin will help you to stay current on our progress, projects, and plans. Your feedback is always welcomed at construction@umb.edu.

Chancellor J. Keith Motley

Two-way Traffic Ahead (continued from page 1)

redundant utility services to all campus facilities. The project will allow the university to remove the plaza and its substructure to create a central quadrangle and a greener, more inviting campus.

In addition, a new University Drive North will be built to connect with Mt. Vernon Street.

Access Changes and Closures

The student-only South Lot and Lot A, near the Massachusetts Archives, will close in early summer as crews work on University Drive South. The 1,300-space UMass Boston Bayside Lot, however, will be open year-round. Parking Lot C will also close later this summer. The South Lot will not reopen as a parking lot, and it will be elevated in preparation for a future use.

The Fox Point Pavilion and docks will be accessible via the HarborWalk. The Quinn Roadway, between the Integrated Sciences Complex and the Healey Library, will also close. Emergency access to the plaza and all buildings will always be maintained.

Vice Chancellor O’Connor said “subsequent communications will outline other specific plans. Please contact Customer Service or me with questions or concerns.”

Getting Here: Overcoming Transportation Challenges

All visitors and members of our university community should allow extra time when traveling to campus, particularly during the transition period in early summer and during the first weeks of the fall semester in September.

Commuters are encouraged to use public transportation and the free UMass Boston shuttle buses when traveling to campus. The Hubway bike-sharing stations are open for spring, summer, and fall seasons. Stations at the JFK/UMass MBTA station and the Campus Center allow a great opportunity to bike to campus and take advantage of the beautiful HarborWalk. The train station is also a 15-minute walk from campus.

If you drive to campus, please consider using the expansive Bayside Lot on Mt. Vernon Street. Route 3 shuttle buses run every 5–7 minutes from Bayside to the Clark Athletic Center and Campus Center. For more information about parking and transportation, click on the Getting Here tab on the UMass Boston website.

Chancellor J. Keith Motley
Environmental permitting is nearly complete for the HarborWalk Improvements and Shoreline Stabilization project, and a contractor will be selected soon. Work on the nine-month project will begin this summer.

The project will restore and stabilize the 800-foot stretch of the HarborWalk on the north side of campus between the John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum and the Harbor Point apartments. The new stretch will feature benches, lighting, gathering spaces, native plants, interpretive signs with historical narratives, and an area to display artwork.

Crews will create a temporary detour route for the HarborWalk while it is under construction (see map above). The detour will lead HarborWalk users off the waterfront onto a walkway just beyond the Harbor Point apartments. The walkway will enter campus at Mt. Vernon Street, proceeding toward University Drive north and passing in front of the Massachusetts State Archives, before rejoining the HarborWalk.

Bourne Engineering has designed the new section of the HarborWalk for the UMass Building Authority.
The Future Takes Shape at UMass Boston
1. An ironworker installs structural steel for the newest classroom building, General Academic Building No. 1 (GAB No.1). 2. The Integrated Sciences Complex (ISC) glass “geode,” or hub, is now complete. 3. Inside the ISC, a welder works in the new atrium. 4. One of more than 80 ISC research laboratories is being outfitted with state-of-the-art equipment. 5. The new structural steel frame for the 190,000-square-foot GAB No. 1 is in place. 6, 7. Utility work is well under way on campus. 8, 9. Visitors to the Edward M. Kennedy Institute for the United States Senate will be able to see a scale replica of the Senate chamber when the museum opens to the public in March 2015.
The Integrated Sciences Complex project has created more than 900 jobs.

The Integrated Sciences Complex (ISC) construction has met or exceeded the targets for minority, women, and Boston-resident employees set by UMass Boston’s Project Labor Agreement. The construction workforce on the ISC project is made up of 10 percent women, 32 percent minorities, and 49 percent Boston residents.

Susan Moir, director of UMass Boston’s Labor Resource Center, moderated a panel this spring on strategies for getting more women into the construction trades. Moir told attendees at the Labor Breakfast Seminar Series that the number of women working on all four UMass Boston construction jobs is now above 9 percent.

Mukiya Baker-Gomez, manager of compliance for UMass Boston’s Integrated Sciences Complex, says the Division of Capital Asset Management and Maintenance is working diligently to make sure that the policies put in place for the ISC are used across the commonwealth.

Samilys Rodriguez, the compliance officer for Suffolk Construction and another member of the panel, talked about partnerships with academic institutions as one way to get more women into the trades. The Building Pathways Building Trades Pre-Apprenticeship Program, which is expanding from Massachusetts to New Hampshire, is another.

“We can’t do recruitment in the ways we’ve done recruitment before. We have to develop strategies, resources, systems. There has to be an infrastructure built in that pipeline,” Moir added.

Punch List

General Academic Building No. 2 Designer Chosen
The Division of Capital Asset Management and Maintenance and the university will be working with international architecture firm NBBJ to design General Academic Building No. 2 (GAB No. 2). Soon, the team will begin a site analysis to determine the best location for the building. Also on tap: The beginning of the building programming process, which will decide the features of GAB No. 2.

Healey Library Roof Replaced
The first phase of waterproofing work on the Healey Library roof is nearly complete. The project began last fall, and crews returned this spring to do masonry work. Phase two plans are to put new roofs on six terraces and to rebuild and waterproof the walls surrounding them.

Clark Exterior Stairs Repaired
The Clark Athletic Center exterior stairs to the plaza have been repaired in a two-month project. The stairs, which were closed last year, will be reopened in time for thousands of graduates to walk to the Campus Center lawn to receive their degrees at UMass Boston’s 46th commencement on Friday, May 30.
Final Beam Raised on UMass Boston’s Newest Academic Building

UMass Boston celebrated a milestone in its ongoing campus development on May 2 when Local 7 ironworkers raised the final steel beam for General Academic Building No. 1, the newest classroom building on campus.

Massachusetts Senate President Therese Murray joined Chancellor J. Keith Motley on April 30 for a “topping off” ceremony, along with UMass Trustee Alyce Lee (pictured below), UMass Building Authority Chairman Phil Johnston, and interim Executive Director Patricia Filippone. The beam raising was delayed two days by rainy weather.

“The new building will allow our students to reach new heights of creativity, exploration, collaboration, and discovery,” Motley told a large crowd in the Campus Center terrace. “Next year, it’ll be the launching point for a lot of dreams.”

The four-story, 190,000-square-foot building is set to open in fall 2015. The GAB No. 1 will feature nearly 2,000 seats in general-purpose classrooms, along with teaching laboratories, art and performance studios, a theater, and a 150-seat recital hall.

Representatives of Wilson Architects and Gilbane Building Company also helped UMass Boston celebrate this important milestone.

More than 1,000 students, staff, and community members signed the beam before it was raised. Those who couldn’t attend the ceremony were able to input their signature on the university website; the signatures were then printed on stickers and affixed to the beam.

“I just wanted to be able to leave my mark because I really like the campus, and I feel like the renovations they’re doing to the school are really positive,” said freshman Beverly Aka. 🇺🇸
“Topping Off” Marks Milestone in Campus Redevelopment

An ironworker secures the signed structural beam for General Academic Building No. 1 at the University of Massachusetts Boston. Learn more on page 7.