

Built in 1929 as Worcester Lunch Car #624, Buddy's Diner was relocated from Leominster to Somerville in 1951 and has operated there continuously for over 70 years. Although there is no definitive public list, it is thought to be one of about 20 historic diner cars still in use in Massachusetts. The structure is a single building LHD in Somerville (1989) and its MACRIS inventory update by MHC staff in 2010 indicates it is eligible for individual listing on the National Register.

BUDDY'S DINER SOMERVILLE



Resource at Risk

Buddy's Diner suffers from ongoing water and sewage damage caused by collapsed underground pipes that remain unrepaired. The infrastructure failure occurred during construction of the East Somerville Green Line Extension station, flooding the basement and forcing its immediate closure. Ongoing water and sewage leaks through damaged pipes threaten the building. The parties responsible, including the MBTA and utility agencies, remain in legal dispute with the owner, who has exhausted financial resources fighting for compensation and has lost her income stream due to the closure of her business, leaving no funds available for emergency repairs to stop the ongoing damage. (The nature of the sewer damage makes it ineligible for an insurance claim; the owner's lack of an income stream makes borrowing funds difficult.)

What's Happening Now

With support from East Somerville Main Streets, the owner has applied for a 2025/2026 CPA grant which would go toward emergency repairs and a professionally prepared conditions assessment. A presentation to the Somerville CPA staff and the CPC was scheduled for October 22.

In addition to the ongoing project and planning support from Main Streets, numerous recent letters of support for the 2025 CPA proposal highlight the diner's importance to the community and the need to secure outside funding. Support letters were received from: Somerville City Councilor At-Large, Kristen Strezo; Somerville City Councilor, Ward 1, Matt McLaughlin; City of Somerville Director of Economic Development, Rachel Nadkarni; City of Somerville Senior Planner for Woman & Minority Owned Business Support, Adriana Fernandes; East Somerville Main Streets Executive Director, Lindsay Allen; and various local residents and business owners.