

DESIGN PUBLIC HEARING

January 10, 2018

AT

**LAWRENCE MEMORIAL HALL
2 JABISH STREET
SELECTMAN'S MEETING ROOM, FIRST FLOOR
BELCHERTOWN, MASSACHUSETTS**

7:00 PM

FOR THE PROPOSED

**Reconstruction of State Street – Maple Street (Route 202/21)
Project No. 608412**

Roadway Project Management

**IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF
BELCHERTOWN, MASSACHUSETTS**

**COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
HIGHWAY DIVISION**

**JONATHAN GULLIVER
HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATOR**

**PATRICIA A. LEAVENWORTH, P.E.
CHIEF ENGINEER**

THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION – HIGHWAY DIVISION
NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING
Project File No. 608412

A Design Public Hearing will be held by MassDOT to discuss the proposed Reconstruction of State Street – Maple Street (Route 202/21) in Belchertown, MA.

WHERE: **Lawrence Memorial Hall**
 2 Jabish Street
 Selectman’s Meeting Room, First Floor
 Belchertown, MA 01007

WHEN: **Wednesday, January 10, 2018 @ 7:00 PM**

PURPOSE: The purpose of this hearing is to provide the public with the opportunity to become fully acquainted with the proposed roadway improvement project. All views and comments made at the hearing will be reviewed and considered to the maximum extent possible.

PROPOSAL: The project is approximately 1.17-miles from just west of the Turkey Hill Road (Route 21) intersection to just south of the South Main Street (Route 181) intersection. The improvements include: reconstruction and rehabilitation of the existing pavement, including minor widening, modifications to utilities including the drainage system and utility poles, bicycle accommodations including 5-foot shoulders, construction of new sidewalks, wheelchair ramps and crosswalks to improve pedestrian connectivity. New pavement markings and signs are proposed. New turn lanes are being installed at the Turkey Hill intersection, the municipal/school entrances along State Street and at the Stadler Street/Front Street intersection. The existing flashing beacon at the Stadler Street/Front Street intersection is being replaced with a fully operational traffic signal system. A new traffic signal system will also be installed at the Turkey Hill Road/State Street intersection.

A secure right-of-way is necessary for this project. Acquisitions in fee and permanent or temporary easements may be required. The Commonwealth of Mass. and the town are responsible for acquiring all needed rights in private or public lands. MassDOT’s policy concerning land acquisitions will be discussed at this hearing.

Written views received by MassDOT subsequent to the date of this notice and up to five (5) days prior to the date of the hearing shall be displayed for public inspection and copying at the time and date listed above. Plans will be on display one-half hour before the hearing begins, with an engineer in attendance to answer questions regarding this project. A project handout will be made available on the MassDOT website listed below.

Written statements and other exhibits in place of, or in addition to, oral statements made at the Public Hearing regarding the proposed undertaking are to be submitted to Patricia A. Leavenworth, P.E., Chief Engineer, MassDOT, 10 Park Plaza, Boston, MA 02116, Attention: Roadway Project Management, Project File No. 608412. Such submissions will also be accepted at the hearing. Mailed statements and exhibits intended for inclusion in the public hearing transcript must be postmarked within ten (10) business days of this Public Hearing. Project inquiries may be emailed to dot.feedback.highway@state.ma.us

This location is accessible to people with disabilities. MassDOT provides reasonable accommodations and/or language assistance free of charge upon request (including but not limited to interpreters in American Sign Language and languages other than English, open or closed captioning for videos, assistive listening devices and alternate material formats, such as audio tapes, Braille and large print), as available. For accommodation or language assistance, please contact MassDOT’s Chief Diversity and Civil Rights Officer by phone (857-368-8580), fax (857-368-0602), TTD/TTY (857-368-0603) or by email (MassDOT.CivilRights@dot.state.ma.us). Requests should be made as soon as possible prior to the meeting, and for more difficult to arrange services including sign-language, CART or language translation or interpretation, requests should be made at least ten (10) business days before the meeting.

In case of inclement weather, hearing cancellation announcements will be posted on the internet at <http://www.massdot.state.ma.us/Highway/>

JONATHAN GULLIVER
HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATOR

PATRICIA A. LEAVENWORTH, P.E.
CHIEF ENGINEER



Dear Concerned Citizen:

The Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) is committed to building and maintaining a transportation infrastructure that is both safe and efficient for all who use our roadways, bridges, bicycle facilities and pedestrian paths, while maintaining the integrity of the environment.

As part of the design process for this project, we are conducting this public hearing to explain the proposed improvements, listen to your comments and answer any questions you may have. At the conclusion of the hearing, MassDOT will review all of your comments and, where feasible, incorporate them into the design of the project.

We recognize that road and bridge construction can create inconveniences for the public. MassDOT places a great deal of emphasis on minimizing the temporary disruptive effects of construction.

MassDOT encourages input from local communities and values your opinions. Please be assured that we will undertake no project without addressing the concerns of the community.

Sincerely,

Patricia A Leavenworth, P. E.
Chief Engineer

WHAT IS A PUBLIC HEARING?

WHY A PUBLIC HEARING?

To provide an assured method whereby the Commonwealth of Massachusetts can furnish to the public information concerning the State's highway construction proposals, and to afford every interested resident of the area an opportunity to be heard on any proposed project. At the same time, the hearings afford the Commonwealth an additional opportunity to receive information from local sources which would be of value to the State in making its final decisions to what design should be advanced for development.

WHY NOT A VOTE ON HIGHWAY PLANS?

The hearings are not intended to be a popular referendum for the purpose of determining the nature of a proposed improvement by a majority of those present. They do not relieve the duly constituted officials of a State highway department of the necessity for making decisions in State highway matters for which they are charged with full responsibility.

WHAT DOES A PUBLIC HEARING ACCOMPLISH?

It is designed to ensure the opportunity for, or the availability of, a forum to provide factual information which is pertinent to the determination of the final alternative considered by the state to best serve the public interest, and on which improvement projects are proposed to be undertaken.

It is important that the people of the area express their views in regard to the proposal being presented, so that views can be properly recorded in the minutes of the meeting. These minutes will be carefully studied and taken into consideration in the determination of the final design.

RIGHT OF WAY ISSUES

A secure right of way is necessary for this project. Temporary construction easements may be required. Your municipality is responsible for acquiring all necessary rights in private or public lands. If your property is affected, your rights are fully protected under law.

1. REASON FOR PROJECT

The completion of this project will serve local needs. The proposed enhancement will also be in the interest of others in the greater community, and provide for the public good.

2. WHO CONTACTS ME?

Representatives of the municipality have already contacted or will contact you. They will explain the procedures used in acquiring any necessary rights in land.

3. WHAT ABOUT DONATIONS? WHAT IS A RIGHT OF ENTRY?

Town officials will often seek donations, of parcels, where permanent rights are required. This procedure will minimize the acquisition cost for your community.

A Right of Entry is a document that is signed by the owner. It allows the Contractor to perform certain types of work on the owner's land. The work is usually minor in nature and frequently consists of loaming/seeding behind sidewalks, new driveway apron work, grading/sloping, and wetland protection, etc. The rights granted are temporary in nature.

4. WHAT IS A FAIR PRICE FOR THE ACQUIRED PARCELS?

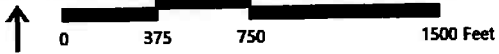
In the event that donations are not considered, or completed, every effort will be made to ensure that an equitable value is awarded. Municipal and/or outside appraisers will complete an appraisal. Consideration is given to the type of rights needed, whether in fee, permanent or temporary easements. The appraisal will be the basis for arriving at a fair price (for damages that result).

5. MUST I ACCEPT THE MUNICIPALITY OFFER?

No, if the owner feels that the offer is not fair the owner may petition the courts. This action does not stop or delay the acquisition. The action must occur within 3 years. The owner(s) may be paid pro tanto (for the time being). The pro tanto payment will not prejudice the court's final decision.



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Legend
Project Location

**Improvements & Related Work
on Routes 202 & 21**

Belchertown, Massachusetts
Figure 1- Aerial Locus

ROADWAY IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

PROJECT LOCATION

This project consists of roadway improvements to State Street and Maple Street (Route 202 & 21) in the Town of Belchertown from just west of the Turkey Hill (Route 21) intersection, to just west of the intersection of Main Street (Route 181) intersection. The project is approximately 1.17 miles and begins at the Eastern Hampshire District Court, approximately 1,080-feet west of the Turkey Hill intersection, and ends at the Beers and Story Funeral Home, approximately 300-feet west of the Belchertown Town Center.

PROJECT PURPOSE

The goals of this project are to enhance public safety, efficiency and accessibility throughout this corridor for vehicles, pedestrians and bicyclists. More specific objectives of this project are the following:

- Improve pedestrian accommodations with new sidewalks and ADA accessibility.
- Provide bicycle accommodations.
- Improve the roadway pavement condition.
- Improve drainage along the roadway.
- Provide designated left-turn lanes to improve access to municipal centers & schools along State Street and improve intersection operations.
- Improve intersection sight lines at the Maple Street intersection.
- Provide a new traffic signal at the intersections of Stadler Street/ Front Street and at Turkey Hill Rd.

PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS

The primary improvements proposed are as follows:

- Widening of the roadway to allow for 11-foot travel lanes, 10-foot turn lanes and 5-foot bicycle lanes between Turkey Hill Road and the Railroad Bridge.
- Minor widening of the roadway to allow for a consistent pavement cross section of 11-foot travel lanes and 5-foot bicycle lanes from the Railroad Bridge to just west of the Town center.
- Provide pedestrian crossings and include conduit for the installation of a future rapid flashing beacon (RRFB).
- Provide new school zone beacons, signage and pavement markings.
- Full depth reconstruction is proposed at the intersection of Maple Street to improve intersection sight distance with State Street.
- Provide new pavement markings and signage.
- Improve pedestrian connectivity and ADA accessibility by constructing new sidewalks and wheelchair ramps on both sides of the roadway for the majority of the project limits.

- Improvements to the drainage system include the installation of new deep sump catch basins and stone for pipe ends for energy dissipation and erosion control at existing outlets.
- Riprap and slope work to accommodate new sidewalk, guardrail and the proposed roadway improvements along the roadway.

TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT

All roadways and driveways in the project area will remain open to traffic throughout construction. At least one lane of traffic in each direction will be maintained; however, there could be instances where alternating traffic is proposed during off-peak commuter hours. Occasional short traffic disruptions may occur but every effort will be made to minimize inconvenience to the public.

RIGHT OF WAY IMPACTS

To accommodate improvements for the project the following is expected to be needed: Approximately 53 temporary easements for grading and the installation of sidewalks, reconstruction of driveways, and other construction activities. Approximately three (3) permanent easements for the construction of sidewalks, wheelchair ramps, and traffic signal equipment. Approximately ten (10) permanent public utility easement for the relocation of a utility pole or provide a guy wire support. Approximately three (3) drainage permanent easements for the construction of a stone for pipe ends. The municipality is responsible for securing all necessary easements.

PROJECT COST

The preliminary construction cost of this project at this design stage is approximately \$4.66 million.

PROJECT SCHEDULE

The design plans presented this evening are at the 25% design stage. The design is expected to be complete and advertised in the winter 2019. Construction is anticipated to begin in the year 2019/ 2020. The project is expected to be constructed over 18 months, comprising two construction seasons.

Please Fold and Tape

Please Place
Appropriate
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Patricia A. Leavenworth, P.E.
Chief Engineer
MassDOT – Highway Division
10 Park Plaza
Boston, MA 02116-3973

RE: Public Hearing
Roadway Reconstruction Project
BELCHERTOWN
Project File No. 608412
Roadway Project Management
