Welcome!

I-495 / I-90 Interchange Improvements Project
Hopkinton, Westborough, Southborough | MassDOT #607977

Design Public Hearing
Published 07/09/2020
Agenda

• Welcome & Introduction
• 25% Design Public Hearing
• Project Overview
• Proposed Design
• Proposed Construction Approach
• Timeline & Next Steps
• Public Comments
MassDOT’s Highway Division

- Project Proponent - responsible for the NEPA/MEPA document and the design process

Federal Highway Administration

- Lead Federal Agency - responsible for oversight and NEPA compliance

HNTB

- Lead consultant for consultant team of Tetra Tech, Howard Stein Hudson, HMMH, and Green International
Design Public Hearing

- Formal presentation of project plans
- Provide information about construction approach
- Inform residents of anticipated Right of Way impacts and process
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Current Conditions

• Does not meet current and future traffic demands
  – Major crossroads for commuter traffic
  – Major weekend and summer travel route
  – Interchange traffic backs up onto the mainlines of I-495 and I-90

• Important piece of Commonwealth’s and region’s freight network
  – Approximately half of all trucks entering eastern MA use interchange
Safety

• High crash location with undesirable queuing and weaving distances

• Crash rates on I-495 within interchange is >2x statewide average

• Crash clusters located throughout the interchange

Note: Crashes are for the period of 2011-2015
“To improve safety and operational efficiency at the system interchange of these two nationally and regionally significant interstate highways.”
Improving the geometric deficiencies and eliminating weaving movements will achieve the goals of:

- Reducing crashes in the project area for all movements
- Reducing recurring congestion within the Interchange
- Reducing recurring queuing that currently extends from the Interchange onto the mainlines of I-90 and I-495
- Reducing travel time through the Interchange, especially on high-volume movements.
Public Engagement

• **Three rounds of public information meetings:**
  – Fall 2017
  – Fall 2018
  – Summer 2019

• **Proposed design was introduced to stakeholders during the second round of public outreach meetings**

• **Stakeholder/public/regulatory agency feedback identified the proposed design (Alternative C-2) as the Preferred Alternative**

• **Fall 2019 MEPA Public Meeting**
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Proposed Design II
Proposed Design III
Proposed Design V
Proposed Conditions (I-90 looking east)
I-90 (Looking West)

Proposed Conditions (I-90 looking west)
Proposed Conditions
Former Toll Plaza (Looking Northeast)

Proposed Conditions (looking northeast)
Fruit Street Bridge Replacement

- Required to accommodate interchange reconstruction
- Profile raised to improve vertical clearance
  - Improves existing sight lines
- Anticipated to be staged constructed with one lane alternating traffic
PROPOSED FRUIT STREET

- STACKED STONE WALL RELOCATED
- 47 TREES IMPACTED WITHIN TOWN ROW
- FULL BICYCLE ACCOMMODATION
- PEDESTRIAN ACCOMMODATION ON SOUTH SIDE
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Proposed Construction Approach

**• Design-Build Best Value procurement to:**
  – Short-list best qualified teams
  – Shorten project duration
  – Promote innovation by teaming the engineer and general contractor

**• MassDOT’s contract with the Design Builder will stipulate requirements for traffic management while also providing the DB flexibility to develop their own approach to staging**

**• Incentives/Disincentives:**
  – Ensures compliance with contract timelines
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Project Schedule

2017
- PURPOSE AND NEED
- PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT
- 2018
- REFINED ALTERNATIVES
- ALTERNATIVES ANALYSIS
- 2018
- RECOMMENDED PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE
- MEPA/NEPA
- BASE TECHNICAL CONCEPT DESIGN
- 2020
- PERMITTING
- BEST VALUE DESIGN-BUILD PROCUREMENT
- FINAL DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION (2022-2027)
- 2026/2027
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Comments on the proposed project must be submitted in writing by July 19, 2020.

- By Mail: Patricia A. Leavenworth, P.E., Chief Engineer
  MassDOT
  10 Park Plaza
  Boston, MA 02116,
  Attention: Highway Design Project File No. 607977

- By email comments to: 495-90Improvements@state.ma.us

Reference this project # 607977

(Must be postmark or email comments within 10 days of when webinar is published for inclusion in public hearing transcript)
Thank You

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