



**DESIGN PUBLIC HEARING**

**March 19, 2018**

**AT**

**ATTLEBORO PUBLIC LIBRARY  
BALFOUR ROOM  
74 NORTH MAIN STREET**

**ATTLEBORO, MASSACHUSETTS**

**6:00 PM**

**FOR THE PROPOSED**

**INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS AT ROUTE 1, ROUTE 1A, AND ROUTE 123  
Project No. 607339  
Roadway Project Management**

**IN THE CITY OF ATTLEBORO, 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. 607339**

A Design Public Hearing will be held by MassDOT to discuss the proposed Intersection Improvements at Route 1, Route 1A, and Route 123 in Attleboro.

**WHERE:     Attleboro Public Library**  
**Balfour Room**  
**74 North Main Street**  
**Attleboro, MA 02703**

**WHEN:     Monday, March 19, 2018 at 6:00 PM**

**PURPOSE:** The purpose of this hearing is to provide the public with the opportunity to become fully acquainted with the proposed Intersection Improvements at Route 1, Route 1A, and Route 123. All views and comments made at the hearing will be reviewed and considered to the maximum extent possible.

**PROPOSAL:** The proposed project consists of roadway reconstruction, sidewalk installation and reconstruction, drainage modifications, and traffic signal upgrades. The work will improve roadway functionality and improve pedestrian and bicycle mobility.

A secure right-of-way is necessary for this project. Acquisitions in fee and permanent or temporary easements may be required. The Massachusetts Department of Transportation is 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. 607339. 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](mailto: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](mailto: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.

## **TO SAFEGUARD THE PROPERTY OWNER**

If your property, or a portion of it, must be acquired by the State for highway purposes in the interest of all people of the Commonwealth, your rights are fully protected under the law. Briefly, here are some of the answers to questions you might ask.

### **1. WHO CONTACTS ME?**

Representatives of the Right of Way Bureau of the Massachusetts Department of Transportation's Highway Division. They will explain the impacts and your rights as protected under Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 79.

### **2. WHAT IS A FAIR PRICE FOR MY PROPERTY?**

Every offer is made to ensure that an equitable value is awarded to you for the property, or to appraise the "damage" to the property as a result of the acquisition. MassDOT appraisers, independent appraisers, MassDOT "Review Appraisers" and a Real Estate Appraisal Review Board may all contribute in arriving at an award of damages. The State also pays a proportionate part of the real estate tax for the current year for fee takings, and interest from the date the property is acquired to the payment date, on all impacts.

### **3. MUST I ACCEPT THE DEPARTMENT'S OFFER?**

No. If, after the figure established as market value has been offered to the owner, the owner feels he or she is not being offered a fair price, he or she has the right, within three years, to appeal to the courts. Pending a court decision, he or she can be paid on a "pro-tanto" basis (or "for the time being") that in no way prejudices the court appeal.

### **4. WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO MY HOUSE?**

The owner will have the opportunity to buy back his or her house, provided he or she has a location to which it can be moved, and the proper permits for its removal. If the owner does not wish to repurchase, the house will be advertised for bids. The highest bidder, who must also have a location and permits for removal, will be awarded the house. Otherwise, the structure will be slated for demolition.

### **5. WHAT HAPPENS IF I MUST RELOCATE?**

In addition to the market value of the property, the Department pays certain relocation benefits for both owners and tenants of acquired residences and businesses who meet eligibility requirements. Assistance in relocation is also provided. Department brochures are available for details on these benefits.





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**MASSACHUSETTS HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT  
DESIGN PUBLIC HEARING**

**ATTLEBORO, MASSACHUSETTS  
INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS AT ROUTE 1, ROUTE 1A AND ROUTE 123**

**PROJECT FILE NO. 607339**

**PROJECT LOCATION**

The project primarily consists of traffic signal, roadway, and sidewalk improvements to Route 1 (Washington Street), Route 123 (Highland Avenue/Newport Avenue) and Route 1A (Newport Avenue/Newport Avenue Connector) in the western section of Attleboro. The project limits on Route 1 and Route 1A begin approximately nine hundred (900) feet south of Route 123 and end just north of the Route 1 and Route 1A intersection. The project limit on Route 123 begins three hundred (300) feet west of Route 1 (Washington Street) and ends three hundred and fifty feet (350) east of Route 1A (Newport Avenue/Newport Avenue Connector).

**PROJECT PURPOSE**

The proposed project improvements are planned to address both existing and future traffic congestion, safety concerns and to provide improved pedestrian and bicycle accommodations to the existing project area.

**SCOPE OF WORK**

Route 1 (Washington Street) at Route 123 (Highland Avenue) was identified by MassDOT as a Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) High Crash Locations. The crash cluster is an indication that the intersection is a high vehicle crash location within the Southeastern Regional Planning and Economic Development District (SRPEDD) boundaries. As a result of these crash clusters, a Roadway Safety Audit (RSA) was conducted to identify improvements needed at the intersection.

In addition, in 2010, MassDOT completed the *I-95 South Corridor Transportation Study*, which studied traffic operations and safety along I-95 and segments of Routes 1 and 1A, south of Route 128 to the Rhode Island border. The recommendations of this study were further evaluated by SRPEDD. SRPEDD's study (*Route 1 - Route 1A - Route 123 Intersection Study*, December 2012) focused solely on the Route 1/Route 123, Route 1A/Route 123, and Route 1/Route 1A intersections. The study's recommendations included:

- Implement access management techniques including the consolidation of driveways along Route 1 between Route 123 and Route 1A;
- Optimize traffic signal timings at all intersections;
- Evaluate/Increase the clearance times of the traffic signals;



- Continued maintenance of pavement markings and signage along Route 123 that notifies drivers of proper lane use.

This design project (MassDOT Project File Number 607339) accounts for the recommendations of the previous MassDOT and SRPEDD studies, RSA, and incorporates current MassDOT design practices for pedestrian and bicycle accommodations.

## **RIGHT OF WAY**

The proposed intersection improvements will require Right of Way (ROW) acquisitions in the form of temporary construction easements, permanent construction easements, and some permanent takings. MassDOT will be responsible for acquiring all necessary rights on affected property.

## **TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT**

During construction, the Contractor shall maintain and protect one lane of through traffic in each direction along Route 1, Route 1A and Route 123 and access to abutting properties shall be maintained from at least one access point. If temporary driveway closures are needed, the Contractor will be required to give abutting property owners 48 hours' notice. This includes vehicular and pedestrian access to all intersecting streets and driveways.

## **DRAINAGE**

The existing stormwater management system located within the project limits consists of a closed drainage system. The proposed improvements to the stormwater management system include specific Best Management Practice's (BMP's) to meet the DEP Stormwater Standards to the maximum extent practicable.

## **PROJECT SCHEDULE**

The design plans displayed at this meeting are at the 25% stage of completion. Comments made at this design hearing will be incorporated to the maximum extent feasible in the final design.

## **PROJECT COST**

The project construction cost is estimated to be approximately \$8.4 million and will be funded by Federal and State funds.



Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Please Fold and Tape



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Please Place  
Appropriate  
Postage Here

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

RE: Public Hearing  
INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS AT ROUTE 1, ROUTE 1A, AND ROUTE 123  
**ATTLEBORO**  
Project File No. 607339  
Roadway Project Management

