



**VIRTUAL DESIGN PUBLIC HEARING**

**April 25, 2023**

**6:30 PM**

**FOR THE PROPOSED**

**Cranberry Highway (Route 28) / Mill Pond Dam over Agawam River  
Project No. 606352  
Project Management**

**IN THE TOWN OF WAREHAM, MASSACHUSETTS**

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

**JONATHAN GULLIVER  
HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATOR**

**CARRIE E. LAVALLEE, P.E.  
CHIEF ENGINEER**

**THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS**  
**MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION – HIGHWAY DIVISION**  
**NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING**  
**Project File No. 606352**

A Live Virtual Design Public Hearing will be hosted on the MassDOT website below to present the design for the proposed replacement of Mill Pond Dam, Bridge No. W-06-020(8M1) project in Wareham, MA.

WHEN: 6:30 PM, April 25, 2023

**PURPOSE:** The purpose of this hearing is to provide the public with the opportunity to become fully acquainted with the proposed replacement of Mill Pond Dam (Cranberry Highway Route 6 westbound and State Route 28 northbound) over the Agawam River project. All views and comments submitted in response to the hearing will be reviewed and considered to the maximum extent possible.

**PROPOSAL:** The proposed project consists of reconstructing Mill Pond Dam to increase its capacity to pass larger storm flows. Additionally, the fish ladder will be replaced with a pool and weir type fish passage that will improve the migration ability for aquatic wildlife through the dam. The proposed project would replace the existing box culvert spillway with an arched crest spillway which directs flow under an approximately 50-foot span superstructure. Roadway improvements include two ADA compliant sidewalks and a bicycle lane on the north side of the roadway.

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

Project inquiries, written statements and other exhibits regarding the proposed undertaking may be submitted to Carrie E. Lavalley, P.E., Chief Engineer, via e-mail to [MassDOTProjectManagement@dot.state.ma.us](mailto:MassDOTProjectManagement@dot.state.ma.us) or via US Mail to Suite 7550, 10 Park Plaza, Boston, MA 02116, Attention: **Project Management, Project File No. 606352**. Statements and exhibits intended for inclusion in the public hearing transcript must be emailed or postmarked no later than ten (10) business days (14 calendar days) after the hearing is hosted on the MassDOT website listed below.

This hearing is accessible to people with disabilities. MassDOT provides reasonable accommodations and/or language assistance free of charge upon request (e.g interpreters in American Sign Language and languages other than English, live captioning, videos, assistive listening devices and alternate material formats), as available. For accommodation or language assistance, please contact MassDOT's Chief Diversity and Civil Rights Officer by phone (857-368-8580), TTD/TTY at (857) 266-0603, fax (857) 368-0602 or by email ([MassDOT.CivilRights@dot.state.ma.us](mailto:MassDOT.CivilRights@dot.state.ma.us)). Requests should be made as soon as possible and prior to the hearing, and for more difficult to arrange services including sign-language, CART or language translation or interpretation, requests should be made at least ten business days before the hearing.

This Live Virtual Design Public Hearing or a cancellation announcement will be hosted on the internet at [www.mass.gov/massdot-highway-design-public-hearings](http://www.mass.gov/massdot-highway-design-public-hearings).

JONATHAN GULLIVER  
HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATOR

CARRIE E. LAVALLEE, 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,

Carrie E. Lavalley, P.E.  
Acting 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 CONCERNS

Your Municipality is responsible for securing the right of way for this project. If your property, or a portion of it, must be acquired by the Municipality 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. 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.

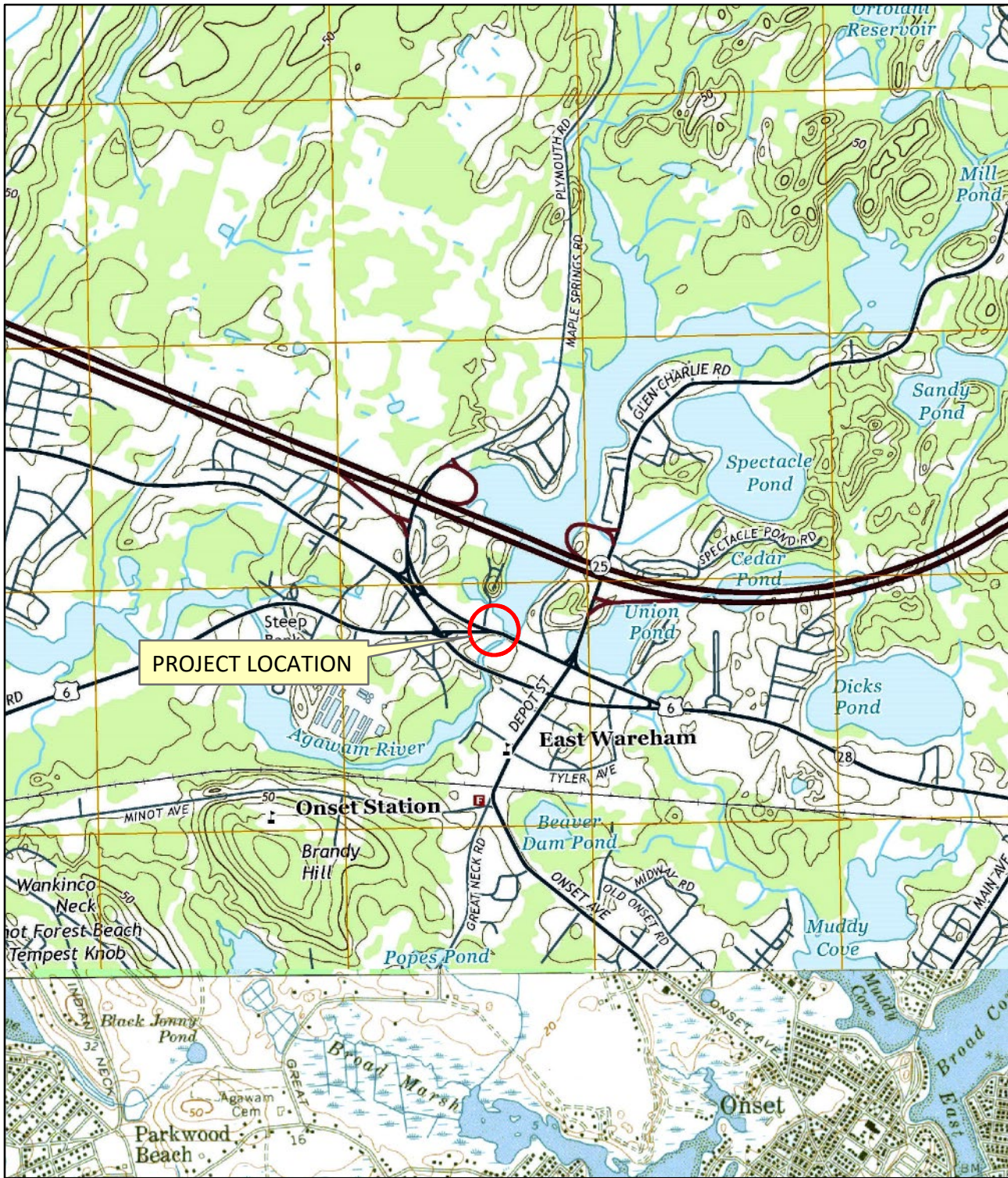
A Right of Entry is a document that is signed by the owner. It allows the Contractor to perform certain types of work on the owner's land. The work is usually minor in nature and frequently consists of loaming/seeding behind sidewalks, new driveway apron work, grading/sloping, and wetland protection,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



**SITE LOCATION MAP**

SCALE: 1"=2,000'

**8 BLACKSTONE VALLEY PLACE  
LINCOLN, RI 02865  
(401) 334-4100**



**10 LINCOLN ROAD, SUITE 210  
FOXBORO, MA 02035  
(508) 543-1755**

PARE PROJECT NO.14199.

DECEMBER 2021

**FIGURE 1**

**MILL POND DAM/BRIDGE REPLACEMENT  
WAREHAM, MA**

MassDOT Project No. 606352

**Wareham, Massachusetts**  
**Route 6 WB & 28 NB (Cranberry Highway) Over Agawam River**  
**Bridge No. W-06-020 (CCV)**

**Purpose of the Project**

The purpose of this project is to reconstruct Mill Pond Dam and Fish Ladder to increase its capacity to pass greater flows, up to one half of the probable maximum flood, and improve the migration ability for aquatic wildlife through the dam.

**Project Location and Limits**

The proposed project will impact Route 6 WB and Route 28 NB where it meets the Agawam River and crosses over Mill Pond Dam, with Mill Pond Dam being to the north of the roadway. The project begins approximately 500 feet east of the existing dam and ends approximately 400 feet west of the existing dam.

**Features of the Project**

The proposed project would replace the existing box culvert spillway with an arched crest spillway which directs flow under an approximately 50-foot span superstructure consisting of a reinforced concrete deck supported by rolled steel beams. The spillway will have an auxiliary outlet to the east of the spillway that can be used to lower the pond level in the case of large storms or maintenance of the dam and its structures. Additionally, the fish ladder will be replaced with a pool and weir type fish passage that will start in the downstream area where the existing fish ladder and training walls are located and continue under the bridge and over the spillway into Agawam Mill Pond.

**Land Acquisition (Right of Way Impacts)**

Permanent takings by the Commonwealth are anticipated in the upstream pond and fishway areas, as well as the downstream area where the proposed fish ladder will be constructed. Additionally, temporary easements will be required to access the project area during construction. MassDOT will be working with property owners impacted by the takings and easements.

**Maintenance of Traffic During Construction**

The bridge will be open to pedestrian and vehicular traffic during construction. To limit the impact to the travelling public construction will be completed in phases. All phases of construction will maintain two lanes of vehicular traffic, except for the first phase which will have one lane for vehicular traffic. During the first phase, construction is anticipated to be completed outside of the

summer peak traffic months to limit the impact to travelers. Message boards and information on social media and local news outlets will provide warnings weeks in advance of any changes to traffic patterns so local traffic can be prepared for the change and adjust travel routes.

### **Environmental and Historical Impacts**

The existing historic fish ladder has a high mortality rate due to false attraction caused by using the auxiliary spillway, and vulnerability to predators in the upper portion of the fishway. A more effective fish ladder will be constructed which will increase the mobility of the marine life through the dam, positively impacting marine animal and vegetation species in the area. Stones from the existing fish ladder will be used to construct the proposed fish ladder to maintain the historic aesthetics of the area. Informational boards will be placed in upstream and downstream areas with environmental and historic facts about the fishway and the Agawam River.

### **Project Status and Schedule**

The project is at the preliminary design phase with final design to begin this summer. The project is anticipated to be advertised in Fall 2024 and will take 36 to 48 months to complete.

### **Project Cost**

The total construction cost estimate of the project is approximately \$20 million.



**INSERT PROJECT QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS HERE**

THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS  
MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
HIGHWAY DIVISION

FEDERAL AID PROJECT

Wareham, MA  
Cranberry Highway (Route 28) Mill Pond Dam over Agawam River  
Project File No. 606352

This sheet is provided for your comments. Your input is solicited and appreciated. You may e-mail comments directly to [MassDOTProjectManagement@dot.state.ma.us](mailto:MassDOTProjectManagement@dot.state.ma.us) or you may mail this sheet with any additional comments to:

Carrie E. Lavalley, P.E., Chief Engineer  
MassDOT – Highway Division  
10 Park Plaza, Boston, MA 02116-3973  
Attn: Project Management

Statements and exhibits intended for inclusion in the public hearing transcript must be emailed or postmarked no later than ten (10) business days after the hearing.

**PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT LEGIBLY.**

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

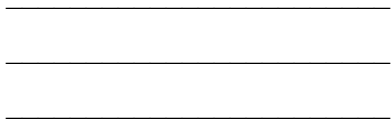
Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

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

---

Please Fold and Tape



Please Place  
Appropriate  
Postage Here

Carrie E. Lavalley, P.E.  
Chief Engineer  
MassDOT – Highway Division  
10 Park Plaza  
Boston, MA 02116-3973

RE: Virtual Public Hearing  
Cranberry Highway (Route 28) Mill Pond Dam over Agawam River  
TOWN OF WAREHAM  
Project File No. 606352  
Attn: Project Management

