



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC UTILITIES

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING AND REQUEST FOR COMMENTS

D.P.U. 26-55

July 31, 2026

Investigation of the Department of Public Utilities, on its own motion, instituting a rulemaking pursuant to G.L. c. 160, § 136, G.L. c. 30A, § 2, and 220 CMR 2.00, to establish requirements for railroad safety, 220 CMR 157.00.

On July 31, 2026, the Department of Public Utilities ("Department") issued an Order instituting a rulemaking proceeding, pursuant to G.L. c. 160, § 136, G.L. c. 30A, § 2, and 220 CMR 2.00, proposing regulations to improve the safety of railroads. The Department docketed this matter as D.P.U. 26-55.

The Department proposes regulations to establish practical safety standards for Grade Crossings, overpass and underpass height waivers (collectively "height waivers"), application procedures for Grade Crossing creation, Modification, or closure, increased transparency, and improved compliance. A copy of the Department's Order Instituting Rulemaking and Proposed Regulations may be viewed on the Department's website as referenced below.

The Department will conduct a hybrid public hearing to receive comments on the rulemaking. The Department will conduct the public hearing in person at the Department's Boston office located at **One South Station, 3rd Floor, Boston, MA 02110**, on **Tuesday, September 22, 2026**, beginning at **2:00 p.m.** Simultaneously, the Department will conduct the public hearing using Zoom videoconferencing. Attendees can join by entering the link, <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82683288456>, from a computer, smartphone, or tablet. No prior software download is required. For audio-only access to the hearing, attendees can dial in at 1-646-558-8656 (not toll free) and then enter **ID# 826 8328 8456**. If you anticipate providing comments via Zoom during the public hearing, please send an email by Monday, September 21, 2026, to Kate.E.Timberlake@mass.gov with your name, email address, and mailing address, or leave a voicemail message by Monday, September 21, 2026, at 857-505-1119 with your name, telephone number, and mailing address. Individuals attending the in-person hearing will be asked to register at the hearing if they wish to provide public comment but may also register in advance using one of the methods listed above.

The Department will conduct an additional public hearing to receive comments on the rulemaking in person on **Wednesday, September 23, 2026**, beginning at 10:00 a.m. in Springfield, Massachusetts. The public hearing will be conducted at the **Springfield State Office Building, 3rd Floor Courtroom, 436 Dwight Street, Springfield, MA 01103**.

Individuals attending the in-person hearing will be asked to register at the hearing if they wish to provide public comment but may also register in advance using one of the methods listed above.

Alternatively, any person who desires to provide written comment on this matter may submit their comments to the Department no later than the close of business (5:00 p.m.) on Monday, September 21, 2026, and reply written comments no later than the close of business (5:00 p.m.) on Wednesday, September 30, 2026. All written comments should be submitted in electronic format by e-mail attachment to the Department to the following distribution list: dpu.efiling@mass.gov and Kate.E.Timberlake@mass.gov. The text of the email must specify: (1) the docket number of the proceeding (D.P.U. 26-55); (2) the name of the person, entity, or company submitting the filing; and (3) a brief descriptive title of the document. The e-mail must also include the name, title, e-mail, and telephone number of a person to contact in the event of questions about the filing. The electronic attachment file name should identify the document but should not exceed 50 characters in length.

All documents submitted in electronic format will be posted on the Department's website as soon as practicable. DPU will post docket materials on its website at: <https://eeaonline.eea.state.ma.us/dpu/fileroom/#/dashboard> (enter "26-55"). Please note that in the interest of transparency, any comments will be posted to our website as received and without redacting personal information, such as addresses, telephone number, or email addresses. As such, please consider the extent of information you wish to share when submitting comments. The Department strongly encourages public comments to be submitted by email. If, however, a member of the public is unable to send written comments by email, a paper copy may be sent to Peter A. Ray, Secretary, DPU, One South Station, 3rd Floor, Boston, Massachusetts, 02110.

A summary of the proposed regulations is available in Spanish, Portuguese, Chinese, Haitian Creole, Vietnamese or other languages upon request. Interpretation will be provided in Spanish, Portuguese, Chinese, Haitian Creole, Vietnamese, or other languages upon request. To request translation or interpretation in a language other than English, please contact Paralegal Specialist Kaylee Burgess at dpu.ej@mass.gov no later than Tuesday, September 15, 2026.

Reasonable accommodations for people with disabilities (e.g. Braille, large print, electronic files, audio format) are available upon request. To request an accommodation, please contact the Department's ADA coordinator at eeadiversity@mass.gov or 617-626-1282. In your communication, state the accommodation you need and why you need the accommodation. Provide contact information in case the coordinator needs more information. Please provide your request as soon as possible. The coordinator will consider but may not be able to fulfill late requests.

For further information regarding this Notice, please contact Kate Timberlake, Hearing Officer, Department of Public Utilities via e-mail at Kate.E.Timberlake@mass.gov.