



DESIGN PUBLIC HEARING

AUGUST 21, 2018

AT

Adams Town Hall

8 Park Street

ADAMS, MASSACHUSETTS

6:30 PM

FOR THE PROPOSED

Route 8 Roadway Improvements Project

IN THE TOWN OF ADAMS, 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. 607328**

A Design Public Hearing will be held by MassDOT to discuss the proposed Route 8 Roadway Improvement Project in Adams, MA.

**WHERE: Adams Town Hall
 8 Park Street
 Adams, MA 01220**

WHEN: Tuesday, August 21, 2018 @ 6:30 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 along Route 8. 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 improvements on Route 8 (Grove and Commercial Street) beginning 1,500-feet south of Leonard Street and ending 500-feet north of Liberty Street, or approximately 0.94 miles. The roadway will be rehabilitated to include new pavement, new sidewalks on both sides of the roadway, 5-foot bicycle lanes, and minor widening to improve the roadway alignment and accommodate on-street parking north of Prospect Street. Work is also proposed on the two bridges over the Hoosic River, including new or rehabilitated sidewalks and new parapet (barrier) walls over the southerly bridge just north of Leonard Street.

A secure right-of-way is necessary for this project. Acquisitions in fee and permanent or temporary easements may be required. The town 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. 607328. 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.

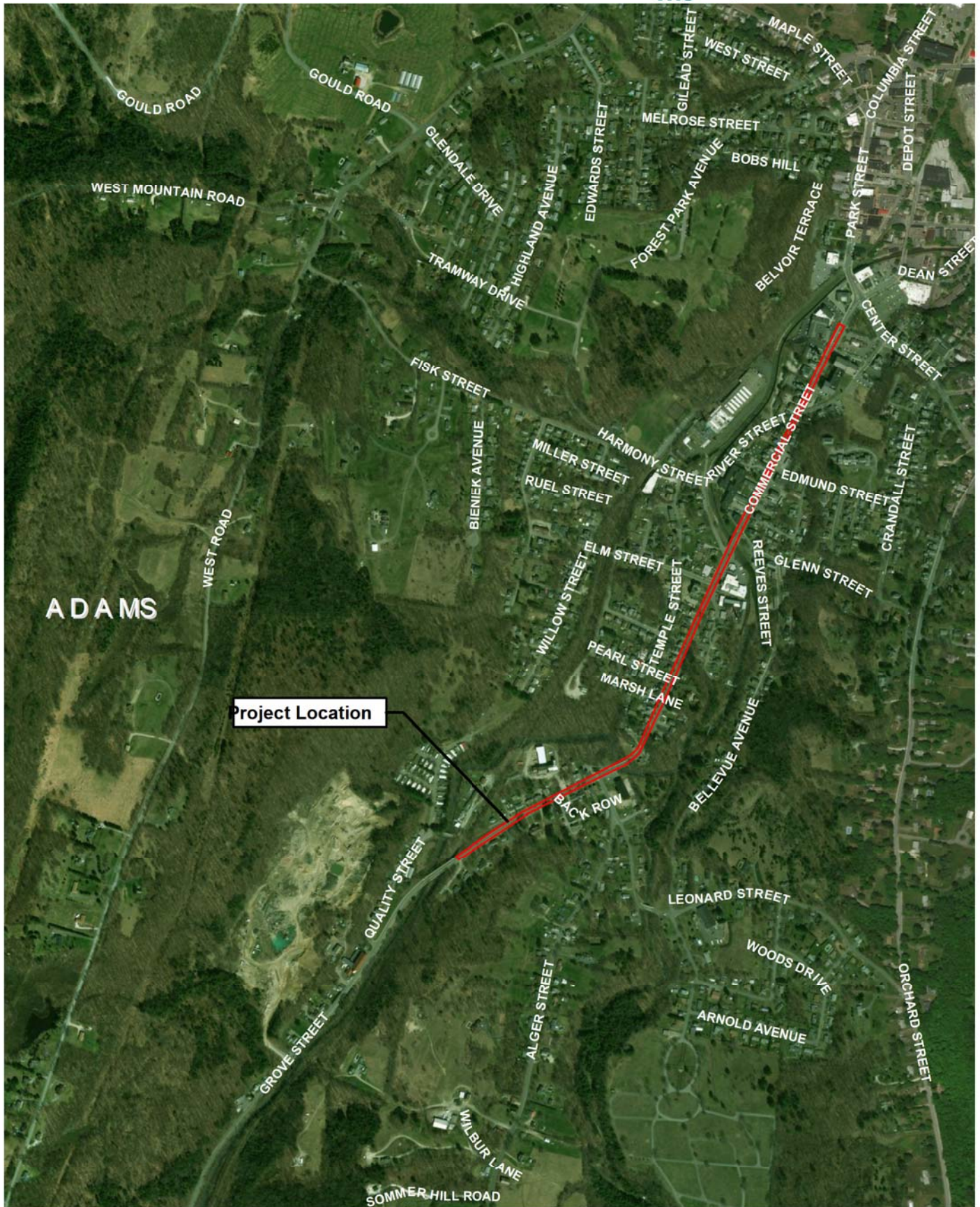
A Right of Entry is a document that is signed by the owner. It allows the Contractor to perform certain types of work on the owner's land. The work is usually minor in nature and frequently consists of loaming/seeding behind sidewalks, new driveway apron work, grading/sloping, and wetland protection,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



0 500 1000 2000 Feet

 Project Limits

**Pavement Rehabilitation &
Related Work on Route 8**

Adams, MA

Project Locus Map

Source Info: MassGIS

Project Description

The Massachusetts Department of Transportation – Highway Division (MassDOT) is proposing the reconstruction of the Route 8 corridor from just north of the State-owned bridge (A-04-001) over the Ashuwillticook Rail Trail/ Hoosic River (south of Grove Street Extension) to approximately 300-feet south of Park Street/ Center Street (Route 116). The project length is approximately 0.9-miles.

Proposed Improvements

The proposed project includes roadway improvements to Route 8, also known as Commercial Street and Grove Street. The project includes minor roadway widening provide new sidewalks on both sides of the roadway, 5-foot bicycle lanes, on-street parking (north of Prospect Street and on the westerly side of the roadway), and new pavement (full-depth roadway construction). The project will provide a new sidewalk on the easterly side of the corridor from approximately Prospect Street in the north to Leonard Street to the south; there is no sidewalk along the easterly side of the corridor today.

Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacons (RRFB) are proposed at three locations (Leonard Street, south of Edmunds Street, and north of Liberty Street). A Your Speed Ahead sign is proposed south of Plunkett Lane. New signage, pavement markings, wheelchair ramps, and new walls on the bridge over the Hoosic River north of Leonard Street are proposed.

Existing Conditions

Route 8 is classified as an “Urban Principal Arterial” and is part of the National Highway System (NHS) network. All side streets that intersect within the project limits are Local Roadways owned and maintained by the Town of Adams. Route 8 is also owned and maintained by the Town of Adams except for three (3) bridges (A-04-001, A-04-003 and A-04-005) over the Hoosic River and/ or Ashuwillticook Rail Trail. The meandering Hoosic River passes under the Route 8 project limits at these three bridges, while bridge A-004-001 passes over the rail trail and the river. Bridge A-004-001 is not included in the project limits.

Right of Way Impacts

There are several properties that require permanent easements for utilities (guy wires or utility pole relocations), sidewalks, and other related work. Temporary construction easements are also required to reconstruct driveways and to accommodate grading for the construction of sidewalks.

Maintenance of Traffic During Construction

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 and maintain access to businesses and residential driveways.

Project Status – Project Schedule

This project has been programmed in the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) for Federal Fiscal Year 2020. The Plans on display this evening are at the 25% Design Stage (Preliminary Design Stage). Comments from this evening will be reviewed and considered to the maximum extent possible.

Project Construction Cost

The project construction cost will be funded with a combination of moneys from the Federal Highway Administration and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and is currently estimated at \$5.7 million.

THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
HIGHWAY DIVISION

FEDERAL AID PROJECT

Adams, MA
Route 8 Roadway Improvements project
Project File No. 607328

This sheet is provided for your comments. Your input is solicited and appreciated. Please return your sheet, with comments, to a staff member at the meeting, or mail to:

Patricia A. Leavenworth, P.E., Chief Engineer
MassDOT – Highway Division
10 Park Plaza, Boston, MA 02116-3973
Attn: Roadway Project Management Section

The final date for receipt of written statements and exhibits for inclusion into the official hearing transcript will be ten (10) days after the Public Hearing.

PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT LEGIBLY.

Name: _____ Title: _____

Organization: _____

Address: _____

Please Fold and Tape



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
Route 8 Roadway Improvements project.
ADAMS
Project File No. 607328
Roadway Project Management

