



DESIGN PUBLIC HEARING

June 12, 2018

AT

Easton Town Hall – 1st Floor, Colleen Corona Board Room

EASTON, MASSACHUSETTS

6:00 PM

FOR THE PROPOSED

**Corridor Improvements along Depot Street (Route 123)
from Newell Circle to Washington Street (Route 138)
Project No. 607217**

Roadway Project Management Section

IN THE TOWN OF EASTON, 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. 607217

A Design Public Hearing will be held by MassDOT to discuss the proposed Corridor Improvements along Depot Street (Route 123) from Newell Circle to Washington Street (Route 138) project in Easton, MA.

WHERE: Easton Town Hall – 1st Floor, Colleen Corona Board Room
136 Elm Street
Easton, MA 02356

WHEN: Tuesday, June 12, 2018 @ 6:00 PM

PURPOSE: The purpose of this hearing is to provide the public with the opportunity to become fully acquainted with the proposed **Corridor Improvements along Depot Street (Route 123) from Newell Circle to Washington Street (Route 138)** project. All views and comments made at the hearing will be reviewed and considered to the maximum extent possible.

PROPOSAL: The proposed project consists of addressing deteriorated pavement and multi-modal accommodation through reconstruction of the roadway (minor widening) to provide bicycle accommodation in addition to reconstructed sidewalks and extensions. The project is 2 miles in length. A traffic signal is proposed at the Depot Street/Center Street/Porter Street intersection. The project also includes drainage system upgrades and new pavements markings and signs.

A secure right-of-way is necessary for this project. Acquisitions in fee and permanent or temporary easements may be required. The **Town of Easton** 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. **607217**. 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.

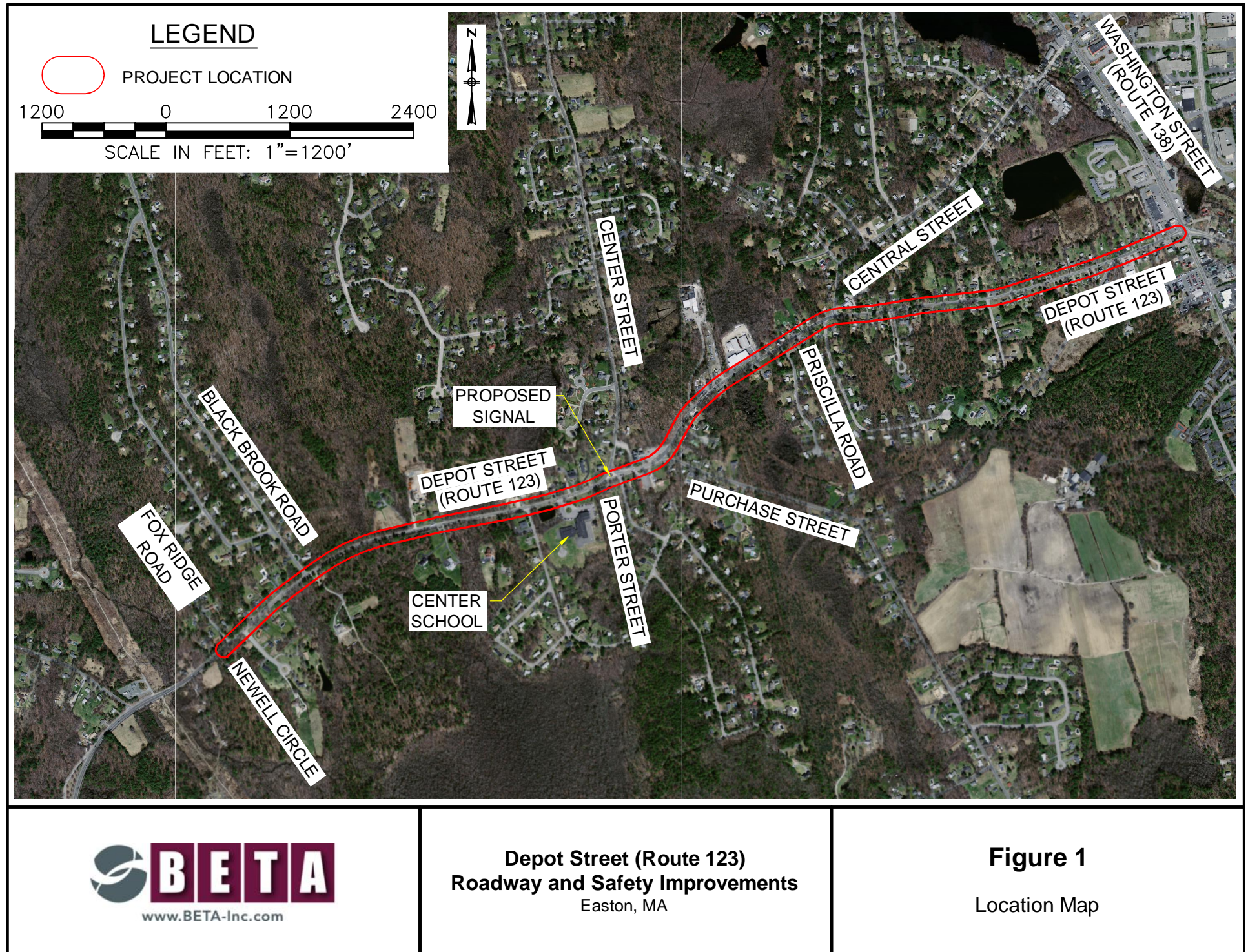
A Right of Entry is a document that is signed by the owner. It allows the Contractor to perform certain types of work on the owner's land. The work is usually minor in nature and frequently consists of loaming/seeding behind sidewalks, new driveway apron work, grading/sloping, and wetland protection,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



Corridor Improvements along Depot Street (Route 123) from Newell Circle to Washington Street (Route 138) Easton, MA

PROJECT LOCATION

The project extends along Depot Street (Route 123) from Newell Circle to east of Washington Street (Route 138), a distance of approximately 2 miles. The project includes safety and operational improvements at the intersection of Depot Street, Center Street and Porter Street, as well as at the intersection of Depot Street, Central Street and Priscilla Road.

PROJECT PURPOSE

The purpose of this project is to reconstruct the roadway and to improve vehicular, pedestrian and bicycle safety and provide efficient traffic operations in the corridor. Proposed improvements include roadway widening and pavement rehabilitation, bicycle accommodations, sidewalk reconstruction, installation of a new traffic signal at one location, and new signs and pavement markings. The project also includes significant drainage improvements, possible detention basins and utility pole relocation. The Town of Easton is planning to replace a water main along the corridor in advance of and in conjunction with the proposed roadway work. The project aims to continue and extend roadway rehabilitation completed in 2007 along Depot Street between the Five Corners intersection and Newell Circle.

Safety improvements along Depot Street have been a goal of the Town of Easton as identified in the *Easton State Numbered Routes Study* conducted by Old Colony Planning Council (OCPC) in August 2007. The report specifically identified the need for geometric improvements at the intersections of Depot Street with Center Street and Central Street.

PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS

The Depot Street corridor has potential physical and operational deficiencies which require improvements for safe and efficient vehicular, bicycle, and pedestrian use. The proposed improvements will address these potential deficiencies. Based on examination of existing conditions, deficiencies, future traffic volumes, and discussions with State and City officials, the following proposed improvements were developed to address the existing deficiencies.

- Provide uniform 32-foot width for Depot Street within the project limits. This will be striped for an 11-foot travel lane and a five-foot shoulder in each direction.
- Provide an additional lane for eastbound left turning vehicles at Black Brook Road, Center Street and Central Street.
- Provide an additional lane for westbound left turning vehicles at the Center School.
- Provide a defined right-turn lane for southbound vehicles on Central Street. This will include a channelizing island and new striping.
- Realign Center Street and Porter Street to align opposite one another and perpendicular to Depot Street.
- Install new traffic signal at Depot Street, Center Street and Porter Street, including full actuation with pedestrian indications and pushbuttons.

- Incorporate relocation of the Easton Civil War Monument to the northwest corner of the realigned intersection of Depot Street, Center Street and Porter Street, including enhanced pedestrian accommodations surrounding the relocated monument.
- Provide a minimum 5'-6" paved sidewalk along the south side of Depot Street along the project length.
- Install granite curb adjacent to proposed sidewalk on the south side of Depot Street along the project length.
- Provide new ADA-compliant wheelchair ramps at all intersections.
- Upgrade existing crosswalk crossing Depot Street at Center Street and Porter Street, and provide a new crosswalk across Depot Street at Central Street.
- Provide new enclosed drainage system throughout the corridor. Adjust existing system and structures, as necessary, to address drainage concerns and implement proposed improvements.
- Provide new pavement markings and signs throughout project.
- Relocate utility poles at locations of roadway widening.

MAINTENANCE OF TRAFFIC DURING CONSTRUCTION

All roadways in the project area will remain open to traffic throughout construction. Construction will take place with both lanes of traffic on Depot Street maintained during peak periods, with the potential during non-peak times to reduce traffic to in a single lane with alternating traffic. Occasional short traffic disruptions may occur but every effort will be made to minimize inconvenience to the public. Pedestrian and vehicular access to abutting properties will be maintained at all times, except for brief periods of time of which abutters will be notified in advance.

RIGHT OF WAY IMPACTS

The proposed improvements will require land acquisition at approximately 127 locations. Property acquisition is necessary to accommodate roadway widening, sidewalk installation and snow storage. In addition, there will be temporary construction easements along the project corridor at all adjacent properties.

PROJECT COST

The preliminary construction cost of this project at this design stage is approximately \$6,100,000.

PROJECT SCHEDULE

The design plans presented this evening represent a revised 25% design plans. The project has been programmed in the Statewide Transportation Improvement Plan for Federal Fiscal Year 2020. Construction is anticipated into Spring of 2021.

Address: _____

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

RE: Public Hearing
Corridor Improvements along Depot Street (Route 123) from Newell Circle to Washington
Street (Route 138)
EASTON
Project File No. 607217
Roadway Project Management Section

