



DESIGN PUBLIC HEARING

Thursday, May 24, 2018

AT

**CHICOPEE PUBLIC LIBRARY – COMMUNITY ROOM
449 FRONT STREET**

CHICOPEE, MASSACHUSETTS

7:00 PM

**FOR THE PROPOSED
Route 33 Traffic Signal Upgrades and Intersection Improvements
Project No. 607736
Roadway Project Management**

IN THE CITY OF CHICOPEE AND SOUTH HADLEY, 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. 607736

A Design Public Hearing will be held by MassDOT to discuss the proposed Route 33 Traffic Signal Upgrade project in Chicopee and South Hadley, MA.

WHERE: **Chicopee Public Library - Community Room**
 449 Front Street
 Chicopee, MA 01013

WHEN: **Thursday, May 24, 2018 @ 7:00 PM**

PURPOSE: The purpose of this hearing is to provide the public with the opportunity to become fully acquainted with the proposed traffic signal upgrade project. All views and comments made at the hearing will be reviewed and considered to the maximum extent possible.

PROPOSAL: This project is a traffic signal upgrade project along Route 33 (Memorial Drive) from Fuller Road (in Chicopee) to Abbey Street (in South Hadley) with a full replacement at twelve intersections and partial replacement at one intersection (at Chicopee Marketplace). In addition to traffic signal timing and phasing upgrades (to improve traffic flow), minor geometric improvements (turn lanes are being added) are proposed at three of the intersections (Pendleton Avenue, Fairview Shopping Plaza, and New Ludlow Road). Sidewalks and accessibility ramps are being replaced or added where necessary, within the limits of the traffic signals. The following intersections are included, which have been identified as high crash locations: Fuller Road, Aldi Shopping Center, I-90 Exit 5, Chicopee Marketplace North Drive, Westover Road/ Granby Road, Pendleton Avenue, Irene Street/ Jamrog Street, Streiber Drive, Fairview Shopping Plaza, James Street, Britton Street, New Ludlow Road, and Abbey Street. Bicycle accommodations consist of a usable shoulder have been provided in accordance with applicable design guides.

A secure right-of-way is necessary for this project. Acquisitions in fee and permanent or temporary easements may be required. The Commonwealth of Massachusetts 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. 607736. 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.

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.

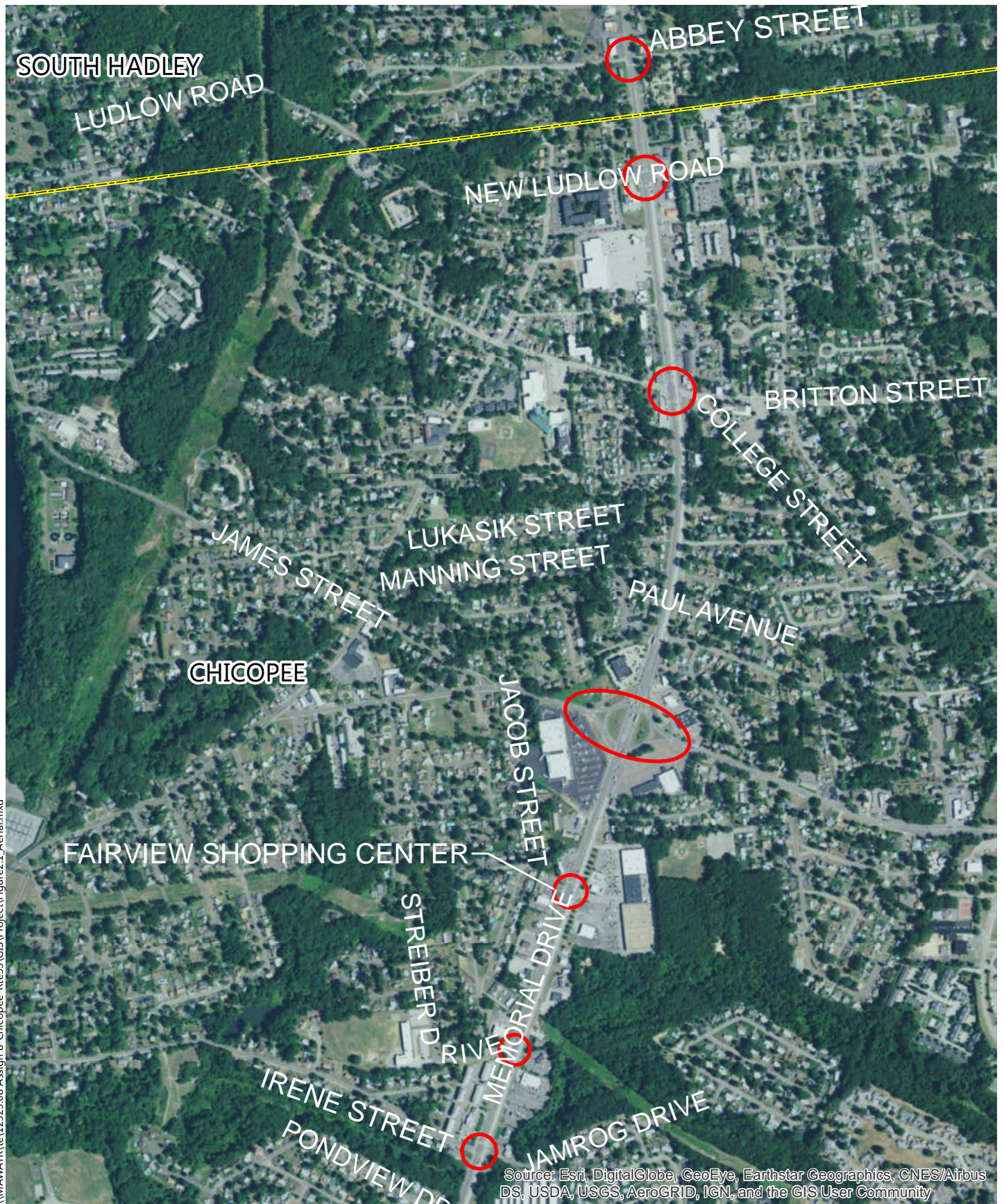
4. WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO MY HOUSE?

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.

\\MAWATRI\te\12529.08 Assign 8-Chicopee-Rte33\GIS\Project\Figure2.1_Aerial.mxd



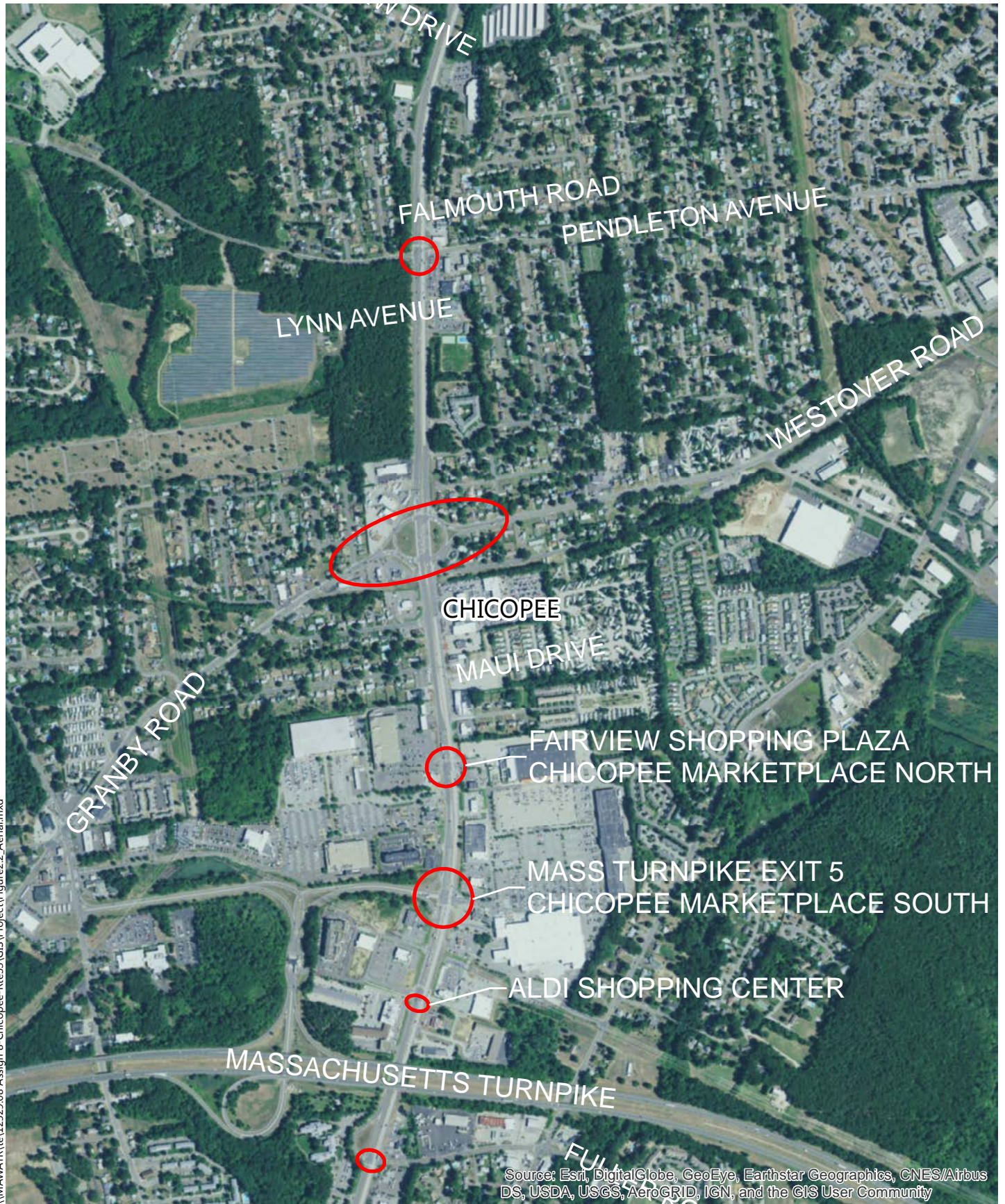
- Legend**
- Project Locations
 - Municipal Boundary

**Signal & Intersection Improvements
Along Route 33 (Memorial Drive)**

Chicopee, Massachusetts

Project Location Map

\\MAWATRI\te\12529.08 Assign 8-Chicopee-Rte33\GIS\Project\Figure2.2_Aerial.mxd



Source: Esri, DigitalGlobe, GeoEye, Earthstar Geographics, CNES/Airbus DS, USDA, USGS, AeroGRID, IGN, and the GIS User Community



Legend
 Project Locations

**Signal & Intersection Improvements
 Along Route 33 (Memorial Drive)**

Chicopee, Massachusetts

Project Location Map

Traffic Signal Improvement Project Memorial Drive (Route 33) Chicopee, MA

PROJECT LOCATION

The project is located along a 3.3-mile segment of the Memorial Drive (Route 33) corridor in Chicopee and South Hadley, Massachusetts. The project begins in South Hadley north of the Chicopee/ South Hadley town line at the Abbey Street/ Route 33 intersection and continues south to the Fuller Road/ Route 33 intersection in Chicopee. Thirteen traffic signals are proposed to be improved as part of this project. The 13 intersections are as follows:

1. Abbey Street at Route 33 (South Hadley);
2. New Ludlow Road at Route 33;
3. Britton Street at Route 33;
4. James Street at Route 33;
5. McDonalds/ Fairview Shopping Center at Route 33;
6. Streiber Drive at Route 33;
7. Irene Street & Jamrog Drive at Route 33;
8. Pendleton Avenue at Route 33;
9. Westover Road & Granby Road at Route 33;
10. Fairview Shopping Plaza & Chicopee Marketplace North Driveway at Route 33;
11. Massachusetts Turnpike Exit 5 & Chicopee Marketplace South Driveway at Route 33;
12. Aldi Shopping Center at Route 33; and
13. Fuller Road at Route 33.

PROJECT PURPOSE

The purpose of this project is to improve traffic flow through traffic signal optimization and pedestrian connectivity/ accessibility by providing sidewalks and crosswalks. More specifically, the proposed improvements include the installation of new traffic signals and equipment at thirteen intersections. Upgrades associated with construction of the new traffic signals include: new signal equipment (signal supports, signal heads, traffic controller and cabinet foundations), emergency vehicle preemption, and optimized signal timing and phasing. Work will also include upgrades to adjacent wheelchair ramps, sidewalks and crosswalks to make them ADA/ AAB compliant. The intersection at New Ludlow Road will include additional left-turn lanes on the side street. Finally work at the Aldi Shopping Center intersection consists of upgrading existing signal equipment to integrate signal timing with the rest of the corridor and the traffic signal equipment is not proposed to be replaced. New curbing is proposed in areas where sidewalks and wheelchair ramps are being reconstructed and are adjacent to the curb. New pavement markings are also proposed within the limit of work.

PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS

The proposed improvements are as follows:

- Provide traffic signal upgrades to the latest technology and standards.
- Provide geometric alignment improvements on New Ludlow Road at Route 33 by adding left-turn lanes on each approach to the side street.
- Pavement markings and signage will be improved within the project area. Markings and Signage will follow the latest standards.

- Crosswalks will be provided on all four legs for 12 of the traffic signals to improve pedestrian safety.
- All pedestrian ramps within the project area will be ADA accessible.
- Where curbing is modified, or the roadway is widened, and there are drainage structures present; drainage improvements will be made to prevent roadway ponding and improve downstream flooding issues.
- Relocate utility poles in areas of widening, new sidewalk, and traffic signal mast arm locations

TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT

Memorial Drive (Route 33) will remain open to traffic throughout construction. Given the multilane cross section of the corridor, at least one lane in each direction is anticipated to be provided during construction. 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. Sidewalks will be maintained on one side of the road throughout construction.

RIGHT OF WAY IMPACTS

The proposed improvements will require temporary easements and land acquisition affecting approximately twenty-eight (28) parcels. Property acquisition is necessary to accommodate roadway widening, sidewalk construction, utility pole relocations and traffic signal equipment and mast arm foundations.

PROJECT COST

The preliminary construction cost of this project at this design stage is approximately \$5,800,000.

PROJECT SCHEDULE

The design plans presented this evening represent the 25% design plans. The design is expected to be complete and advertised in late 2019. Construction is anticipated to begin in 2020.

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 33 Traffic Signal Upgrades and Intersection Improvements
CHICOPEE AND SOUTH HADLEY
Project File No. 607736
Roadway Project Management