



**DESIGN PUBLIC HEARING**

**APRIL 25, 2019**

**AT**

**Amherst Town Hall**

**Amherst, MASSACHUSETTS**

**7:00 PM**

**FOR THE PROPOSED**

**Routes 9 & 116 Improvements Project (from University Drive to South Pleasant Street)  
Project No. 608084**

**Roadway Project Management Section**

**IN THE TOWN OF AMHERST, 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. 608084**

A Design Public Hearing will be held by MassDOT to discuss the proposed Routes 9 & 116 Improvement project (from University Drive to South Pleasant Street) in Amherst, MA

WHERE: Amherst Town Hall  
4 Boltwood Ave  
Amherst, MA 01002

WHEN: Thursday, April 25, 2019 @ 7:00 PM

PURPOSE: The purpose of this hearing is to provide the public with the opportunity to become fully acquainted with the proposed Routes 9 & 116 (Northampton Road) Improvement 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 improving access and safety for bicyclists and pedestrians along Northampton Road. The work includes roadway widening and resurfacing to construct 5' bicycle lanes and new sidewalks on both sides. New ADA compliant wheelchair ramps, crosswalks and pedestrian signals will also be installed.

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. 608084. Such submissions will also be accepted at the hearing. Mailed statements and exhibits intended for inclusion in the public hearing transcript must be postmarked no later than ten (10) business days after this Public Hearing. Project inquiries may be emailed to [dot.feedback.highway@state.ma.us](mailto: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](mailto: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.

# AMHERST- IMPROVEMENTS & RELATED WORK ON ROUTES 9 & 116 (#608084)



### Legend

- Project Limits
- Top\_200\_Crash\_Cluster\_2011\_2013\_DRAFT
- HSIP\_Eligible\_Crash\_Clusters\_2011-2013
- HSIP\_Eligible\_Pedestrian\_Crash\_Clusters\_2004-2013
- HSIP\_Eligible\_Bicycle\_Crash\_Clusters\_2004-2013
- Marsh/Bog
- Wooded marsh
- Cranberry Bog
- Salt Marsh
- Open Water
- Reservoir (with PWSID)
- Tidal Flats
- Beach/Dune
- Shoreline
- Hydrologic Connection
- Mean Low Water Line
- Wetland Limit
- Closure Line

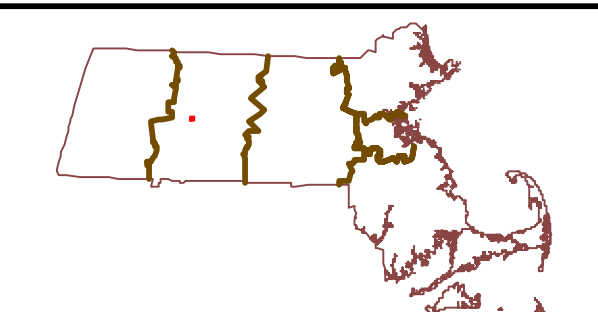
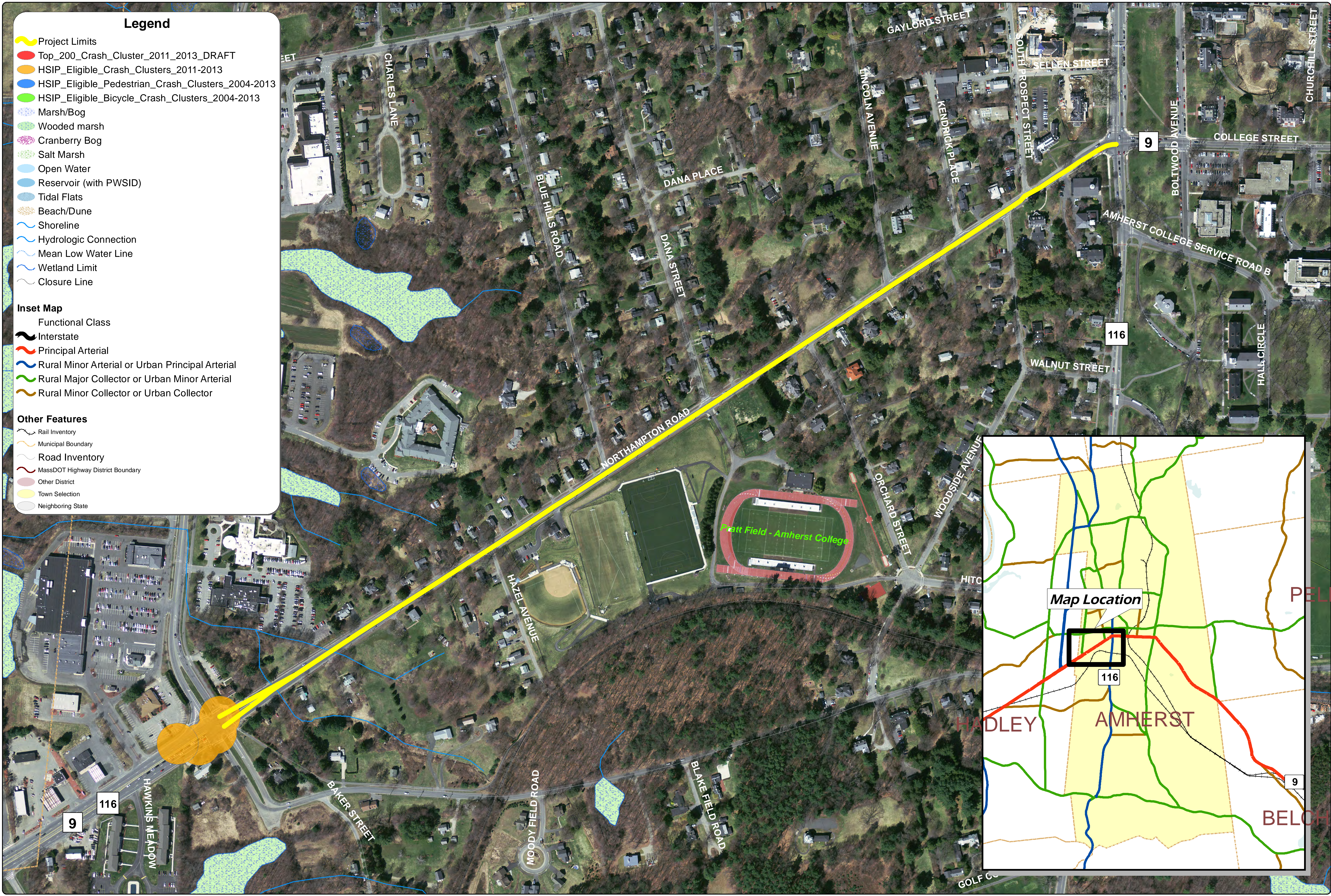
### Inset Map

Functional Class

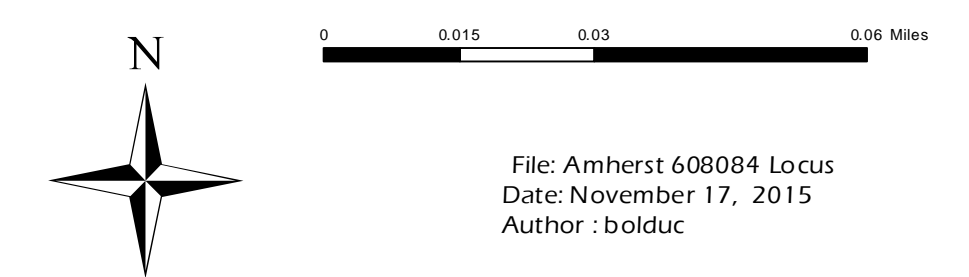
- Interstate
- Principal Arterial
- Rural Minor Arterial or Urban Principal Arterial
- Rural Major Collector or Urban Minor Arterial
- Rural Minor Collector or Urban Collector

### Other Features

- Rail Inventory
- Municipal Boundary
- Road Inventory
- MassDOT Highway District Boundary
- Other District
- Town Selection
- Neighboring State



Data Sources:  
 Roads: 1:5,000 Massachusetts Road Inventory Centerline File: Year-end 2013. Rails: 1:5,000 Massachusetts Rail Inventory Centerline File: Year-end 2013. Transportation assets: Planning maintained files.  
 Boundary layers: MassGIS 1:5,000 maintained files. Ponds, streams and other environmental layers: MassGIS 1:5,000 maintained files.  
 Note:  
 This map was produced by the Office of Transportation Planning. The Federal Highway Administration provided funding for the production of this map through the State Planning and Research Program.  
 The location of the boundaries and features shown on this map are approximate and are intended for planning purposes only. This map is not intended to be used for survey, engineering or legal purposes.  
 For more information call: (857) 368-9800



File: Amherst 608084 Locus  
 Date: November 17, 2015  
 Author: boiduc

## **PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

This project consists of the reconstruction and improvements of approximately 0.8 miles of Route 9/116 (Northampton Road) in the Town of Amherst. The work will begin at the intersection between Route 9/116 and University Drive and continue north, terminating at the intersection between Route 9/116 and South Pleasant Street (Route 116). The intent of the project is to reconstruct the roadway and create a “Complete Streets” corridor, providing safe and accessible accommodations for all users including pedestrians and bicyclists.

The project improvements include 11’ travel lanes with 5’ bicycle lanes and 5.5’ sidewalks on both sides of the roadway. A 3’ grass strip will provide a buffer between the roadway and the sidewalks. Additional pedestrian accommodations include ADA (American Disability Act) compliant ramps throughout the corridor, new pedestrian signals at the intersection with University Drive and at the intersection with South Pleasant Street, and two new crosswalks crossing Route 9/116 at Hazel Avenue and at Orchard Street with pedestrian activated warning devices. Additional improvements include pavement reconstruction, new traffic signage, new pavement markings, improved drainage and utility relocations.

The goals of the project are to provide bicycle accommodations, increase walkability by providing accessible pedestrian routes, improve the safety of bicyclists and pedestrians, resurface the existing roadway, and improve safety at the intersection of Route 9 and University Drive.

THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS  
MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
HIGHWAY DIVISION

FEDERAL AID PROJECT

Amherst, MA  
Routes 9 & 116 Improvements Project (from University Drive to South Pleasant Street)  
Project File No. 608084

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: \_\_\_\_\_

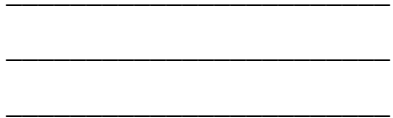
Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

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  
**Routes 9 & 116 Improvements Project**  
**Amherst**  
Project File No. 608084  
Roadway Project Management Section

