



**DESIGN PUBLIC HEARING**

**FEBRUARY 26, 2019**

**AT**

**BELLINGHAM MUNICIPAL CENTER - ARCAND ROOM**

**BELLINGHAM, MASSACHUSETTS**

**7:00 PM**

**FOR THE PROPOSED**

**SOUTH MAIN STREET RECONSTRUCTION PROJECT**

**Roadway Project Management Section**

**IN THE TOWN OF BELLINGHAM, 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. 608887**

A Design Public Hearing will be held by MassDOT to discuss the proposed South Main Street Reconstruction Project in Bellingham, MA.

WHERE: Bellingham Municipal Center, Arcand Meeting Room  
10 Mechanic Street  
Bellingham, MA 02019

WHEN: Tuesday, February 26, 2019 @ 7:00PM

PURPOSE: The purpose of this hearing is to provide the public with the opportunity to become fully acquainted with the proposed South Main Street Reconstruction 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 roadway reconstruction along South Main Street (Route 126) from Douglas Drive to Mechanic Street (Route 140), including roadway reconstruction and resurfacing; reconstruction of sidewalks and wheelchair ramps; updating of the traffic signals at the intersection of South Main Street and Blackstone Street; new signs and pavement markings; and drainage system improvements. Bicycle accommodations consisting of a minimum five foot bicycle lane in each direction 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 Town of Bellingham 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. 608887. 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](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.

## **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?

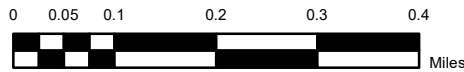
In the event that donations are not considered, or completed, every effort will be made to ensure that an equitable value is awarded. Municipal and/or outside appraisers will complete an appraisal. Consideration is given to the type of rights needed, whether in fee, permanent or temporary easements. 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.



**BELLINGHAM, MA**  
**ROUTE 126 CORRIDOR**



**FIGURE 1. LOCUS MAP**



**REHABILITATION AND RELATED WORK ON SOUTH MAIN STREET (ROUTE 126)**  
**FROM DOUGLAS DRIVE TO ROUTE 140**  
**BELLINGHAM, MA**

**SCOPE OF WORK**

The improvement goal for this project is to rehabilitate the South Main Street corridor from Douglas Drive to just south of Mechanic Street (Route 140) by upgrading pedestrian and bicycle facilities throughout the corridor, reconstructing the pavement, updating signage and pavement striping, and replacing and upgrading the stormwater drainage system.

*Pedestrian and Bicycle Facilities*

There is at least one sidewalk present throughout the majority of the existing South Main Street corridor within the project limits. This project will improve upon the existing pedestrian facilities by closing the gaps in this sidewalk and adding a sidewalk to the opposite side of the roadway throughout the project limits. Sidewalks and wheelchair ramps will be provided according to ADA/AAB accessibility standards. Existing sidewalks will be reconstructed and existing curbing that has deteriorated will be replaced. The roadway will be widened to provide five-foot wide shoulders/bicycle lanes where practical to improve the mobility and safety of all roadway users.

*Pavement Rehabilitation*

One of the primary goals of this project is to rehabilitate the existing deteriorated pavement with Full Depth Reclamation. This will involve pulverizing the existing pavement, excavating, widening, regrading, and paving new asphalt with adequate thickness based on the traffic volumes and loads.

*Drainage Improvements*

The existing drainage system is largely antiquated with shallow sump structures and old concrete or clay pipe. Existing pipe and damaged drainage structures will be replaced with reinforced concrete pipe and new deep dump catch basins which are better at treating stormwater runoff. The practicality of installing more stormwater treatment devices (i.e. drainage basin, rain garden, outlet sediment traps, etc.) is being evaluated as a part of this project.

*Easy Street & Douglas Drive Intersection Improvements*

Accident research has shown that making left turns from South Main Street onto Easy Street and Douglas Street has been a safety issue. In addition, private residential development between Easy Street and Center Street is expected to significantly increase traffic volumes at these two intersections. For these reasons, it is proposed to add a southbound left turn lane on South Main Street onto Easy Street and Douglas Drive. The left turn lanes will prevent through traffic from rear ending left turning vehicles and will alleviate congestion at these intersections due to future traffic demand.

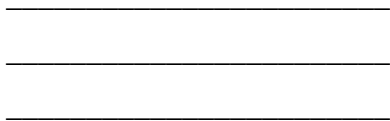
*Safety Improvements*

New signage and thermoplastic pavement markings will be installed as a part of this project. Sight distance at all intersections and all crosswalks will be evaluated and improved upon where possible. Radii at all intersections will be evaluated and improved to effectively accommodate the anticipated types of vehicles using the intersection.





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  
South Main Street Reconstruction Project  
**BELLINGHAM**  
Project File No. 608887  
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