



**DESIGN PUBLIC HEARING**

**DECEMBER, 19, 2018**

**AT**

**THE MATTAPAN BRANCH – BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY  
1350 BLUE HILL AVENUE  
MATTAPAN, MA 02126**

**BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS**

**7:00 PM**

**FOR THE PROPOSED PROJECT FOR**

**INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS AT THE FOLLOWING  
THREE LOCATIONS: MORTON STREET AT HARVARD STREET;  
MORTON STREET AT BLUE HILL AVE;  
AND MORTON STREET AT COURTLAND ROAD & HAVELOCK STREET  
Project No. 608755  
Roadway Project Management Section**

**IN THE CITY OF BOSTON, 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. 608755**

A Design Public Hearing will be held by MassDOT to discuss the proposed intersection improvements at the following three intersections: Morton Street at Harvard Street; Morton Street at Blue Hill Ave; and Morton Street at Courtland Road & Havelock Street in the City of Boston.

**WHERE:** Mattapan Branch – Boston Public Library  
1350 Blue Hill Avenue  
Mattapan, MA 02126

**WHEN:** Wednesday, December 19, 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 project for safety improvements at the three intersections along Morton Street. All views and comments made at the hearing will be reviewed and considered to the maximum extent possible.

**PROPOSAL:** The intent of the proposed project is to address safety at these three high-crash locations. Work includes traffic signal upgrades; geometric improvements; sign replacements and upgrades; improved bicycle and pedestrian accessibility; and improved pavement markings.

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/meeting.

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. 608755. 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



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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.

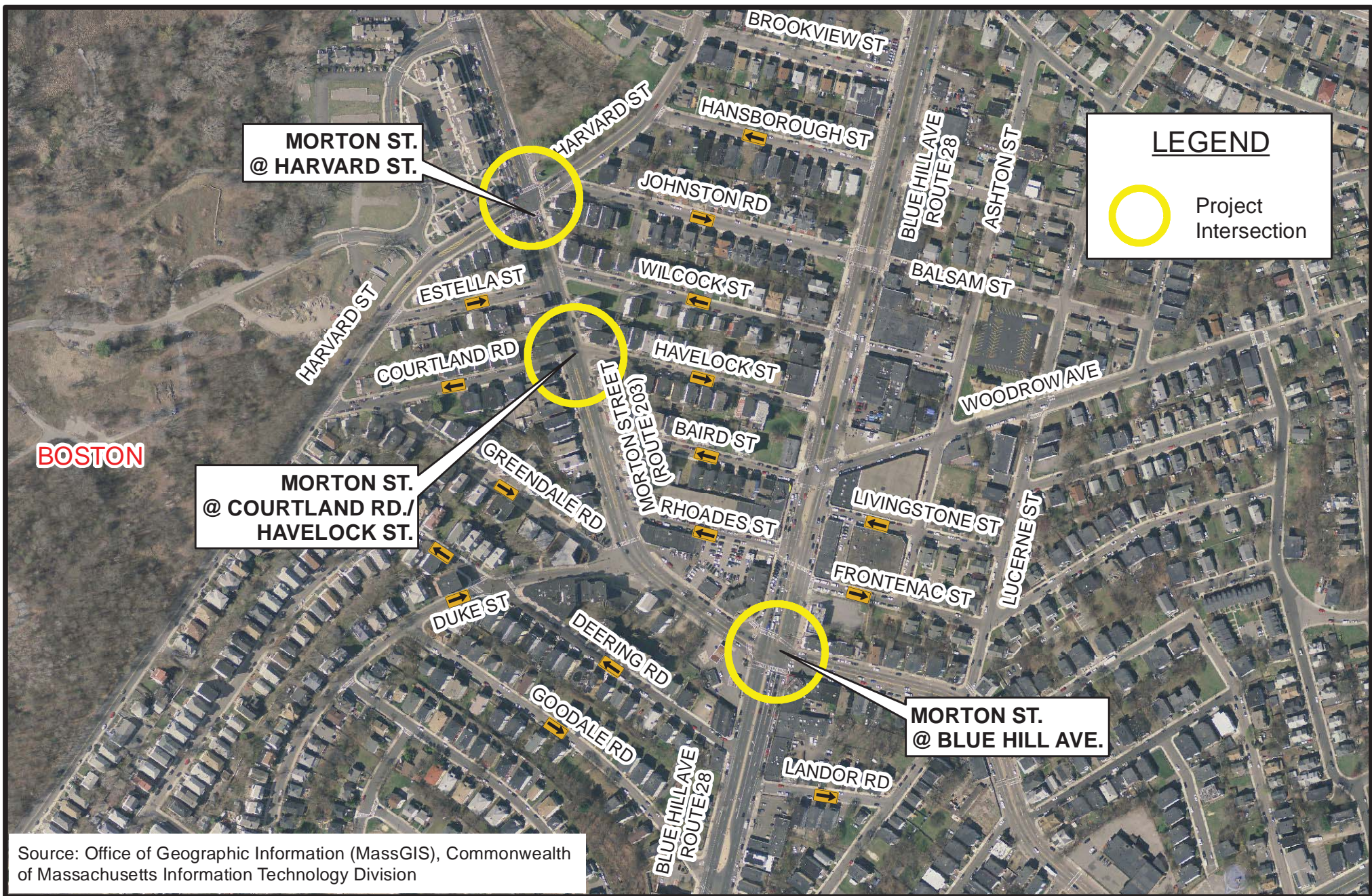
### **4. WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO MY HOUSE?**

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?**

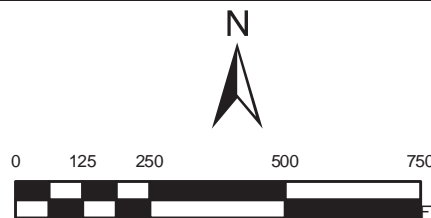
In addition to the market value of the property, the Department pays certain relocation benefits for both owners and tenants of acquired residences and businesses who meet eligibility requirements. Assistance in relocation is also provided. Department brochures are available for details on these benefits.





**CITY OF BOSTON, MA**

**MORTON STREET (ROUTE 203)  
INTERSECTIONS IMPROVEMENTS  
PROJECT ID: 608755**



**Figure 1. Locus Map**



## **PROPOSED SCOPE OF WORK**

### **INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS - MORTON STREET (ROUTE 203) AT BLUE HILL AVE, AT COURTLAND ROAD/HAVELOCK STREET, AND AT HARVARD STREET BOSTON, MA**

The Massachusetts Department of Transportation – Highway Division is proposing intersection improvements at three intersections along Morton Street (Route 203) in the Mattapan neighborhood of the City of Boston. The three intersections consist of:

- Morton Street (Route 203) at Blue Hill Avenue (Route 28)
- Morton Street (Route 203) at Courtland Road/ Havelock Street
- Morton Street (Route 203) at Harvard Street

#### **Purpose and Need**

The goal of this project is to make safety and traffic flow improvements at the three project intersections. Notably, the intersection of Morton Street and Harvard Street is on the MassDOT list of top 200 accident locations and the intersection of Morton Street and Courtland Road/ Havelock Street is also considered a high crash location. A Road Safety Audit, consisting of a meeting of State and local officials and subsequent report to evaluate the roadways deficiencies and safety issues, was held in 2012 for the three project intersections. The project intends to further evaluate and implement the findings and conclusions of the Road Safety Audit.

#### **Existing Conditions**

Morton Street (Route 203) within the vicinity of the project is a four lane generally north-south route that is classified as an urban principal arterial and under MassDOT jurisdiction. The corridor, which services approximately 27,000 vehicles per day, primarily provides access to the Mattapan and Dorchester neighborhoods of the City of Boston. Land use is composed primarily of multi-family residential properties along Morton Street. Multiple small commercial businesses are located at the intersection of Morton Street with Blue Hill Avenue. Station B-3 of the Boston Police Department is also located at the northwest corner of the Blue Hill Avenue intersection and a Mobil Gas Station on the southwest corner. Conservation open space associated with the Boston Nature Center and Wildlife Sanctuary occupies the northeast corner of the intersection of Morton Street with Harvard Street. The intersections of Morton Street with Blue Hill Avenue and with Harvard Street are both four way signalized intersections. Courtland Road and Havelock Street are both one way streets leading away from Morton Street that intersect Morton Street to form a four way intersection. There is no traffic control for any of the approaches at this intersection.

Parking is permitted on both sides of Morton Street and Blue Hill Avenue within the project limits. There are four bus stops located at the Blue Hill Avenue intersection and two located at the Harvard Street intersection that service the MBTA bus Routes #21, 28, 29, and 31.



## Proposed Improvements

Throughout the project, it is proposed to install new pavement markings and traffic signs, reconstruct existing concrete sidewalks and wheelchair ramps, and rehabilitate the existing pavement with a mill and overlay and sections of full depth repair for severe wheel path rutting. The followings sections discuss proposed traffic and safety improvements at each of the intersections. Minor drainage system alterations and street lighting pole relocations will be necessary as a result of the proposed curbing and roadway geometric modifications.

### *Morton Street (Route 203) at Blue Hill Avenue (Route 28)*

Improvements at this intersection center on making geometric modifications to improve pedestrian, bicycle and vehicle safety as well as replacing the traffic signal equipment which is outdated and in poor-fair condition. It is proposed to eliminate the existing channelized right turn lane on the northwest corner of the intersection and install pedestrian bump outs on the corners of the intersection to improve pedestrian crossing safety. The center island on the northern Blue Hill Avenue leg of the intersection will be widened from 4 feet to 6 – 8 feet to provide a safer pedestrian refuge. On Blue Hill Avenue, lane widths will be reduced from 12-14 feet to 11 feet, with the difference being dedicated to providing bicycle lanes with added buffers strips to further separate bicycles from vehicular traffic. The existing traffic signal equipment will be completely replaced, including new signal mast arms, signal posts, controller cabinet, conduit, and vehicle detection equipment. The sidewalk for the bus stops on the northeast and southwest corners along Blue Hill Ave. will be widened and a separated bike lane will be provided. The bus stop on the northeast corner along Morton Street will be combined with the bus stop 300 feet west of Blue Hill Avenue and will be moved to the northwest corner to allow for buses to more easily enter the travel lane.

### *Morton Street (Route 203) at Courtland Road/ Havelock Street*

Improvements at the Courtland Road/ Havelock Street intersection will consist of safety improvements to address the issue of collisions with left turning vehicles on Morton Street. It is proposed to remove the existing center medians along Morton Street from approximately Baird Street to Estella Street to provide for left turn lanes onto Courtland Road and Havelock Street. In addition, the northeast corner of Havelock Street will be redesigned to reduce the pedestrian crossing path across Havelock Street.

### *Morton Street (Route 203) at Harvard Street*

The major improvement at the Harvard Street intersection will be to remove the existing center median on Morton Street from approximately Estella Street north to the end of the existing median at the left turn lane at the intersection with West Main Street. This will allow for the installation of left turn lanes for traffic to more easily turn left onto Harvard Street and not impede the flow of thru-traffic on Morton Street. The existing traffic signal equipment will be completely replaced with new signal mast arms, signal posts, controller cabinet, conduit, and vehicle detection equipment. The existing bus stop on the northeast corner will be relocated slightly to the north to prevent stopped buses from encroaching into the existing crosswalks. The bus stop on the northwest corner will be relocated to the far side of the intersection to allow buses to more easily enter the travel lane.

THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS  
MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
HIGHWAY DIVISION

FEDERAL AID PROJECT

BOSTON, MA  
INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS MORTON STREET (ROUTE 203) AT BLUE HILL  
AVE, AT COURTLAND ROAD/HAVELOCK STREET, AND AT HARVARD STREET  
Project File No. 608755

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 – Room 6340

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.**

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

RE: Public Hearing  
INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS MORTON ST. (ROUTE 203) AT BLUE HILL AVE,  
AT COURTLAND RD/HAVELOCK ST., AND AT HARVARD ST.  
BOSTON  
Project File No. 608755  
Roadway Project Management – Room 6340

