



**25% DESIGN PUBLIC HEARING**

**FEBRUARY 27, 2019**

**AT**

**CHELMSFORD TOWN HALL – ROOM 205  
50 BILLERICA ROAD**

**CHELMSFORD, MASSACHUSETTS**

**7:00 PM**

**FOR THE PROPOSED**

**BOSTON ROAD (ROUTE 4) AND CONCORD ROAD INTERSECTION  
IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT**

**PROJECT FILE NO. 608375**

**IN THE TOWN OF CHELMSFORD, MASSACHUSETTS**

**COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS  
MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
HIGHWAY DIVISION**

**THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS**  
**MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION – HIGHWAY DIVISION**  
**NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING**  
**Project File No. 608375**

A Design Public Hearing will be held by MassDOT to discuss the proposed Boston Road (Route 4) and Concord Road Intersection Improvements project in Chelmsford.

**WHERE: Chelmsford Town Hall, Room 205**  
**50 Billerica Road**  
**Chelmsford, MA 01842**

**WHEN: Wednesday February 27, 2019 @ 7:00PM**

**PURPOSE:** The purpose of this hearing is to provide the public with the opportunity to become fully acquainted with the proposed Boston Road (Route 4) and Concord Road Intersection Improvements project. All views and comments made at the hearing will be reviewed and considered to the maximum extent possible.

**PROPOSAL:** This project will make geometric improvements at the intersection of Boston Rd. (Route 4) and Concord Rd. to improve safety and operations. Also, this project will replace the existing culvert carrying Fairly Brook under the intersection. The project will reconstruct roadway pavement, sidewalks, and ADA accessible ramps. The project will also provide new signage, striping, drainage infrastructure, utility relocations, and new culvert headwalls on both the inlet and outlet. The proposed typical roadway cross-section will include 11-foot travel lanes with 5-foot bike lanes.

A secure right-of-way is necessary for this project. Acquisitions in fee and permanent or temporary easements may be required. The Town of Chelmsford 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: Highway Design, Project File No. 608375. 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 L. 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.





Figure 1. *Project Location Map*



## **Project Location**

The Town of Chelmsford is proposing geometric improvements at the intersection of Boston Road (Route 4) and Concord Road. The project limits also include proposed work at the intersection of Parker Road and Concord Road, as well as minor improvements at Rosemary Lane.

## **Purpose**

The two primary purposes for this project are to replace the existing culvert carrying Farley Brook under the intersection and to make geometric improvements at the intersection to increase safety. Additional work within the project area will include reconstruction of existing sidewalks and construction of new sidewalks to provide accessible ADA accommodations, and construction of 5-foot bicycle accommodating shoulders as part of MassDOT's Healthy Transportation Policy directive.

## **Existing Conditions**

Boston Road (Route 4) at Concord Road/Parker Road is an unsignalized intersection with four approaches. The Boston Road (Route 4) northbound and southbound approaches are approximately 24 feet wide. The Concord Road northeast approach is approximately 23 feet wide, and at its intersection with Boston Road (Route 4) it widens just enough to allow for two vehicles to wait at the stop line. The Parker Road eastbound approach is approximately 22 feet wide. No crosswalks are provided within the study area and wheel chair ramps are provided only at the north side of Rosemary Lane at its intersection with Concord Road.

The existing culvert carrying Farley Brook under the intersection is a 48" corrugated metal pipe. The pipe is in poor condition and existing water mains on Boston Road and Concord Road cut through the top of the culvert. The culvert inlet is off the southwest corner of the intersection of Rosemary Lane and Concord Road. The culvert outlets off the west side of Boston Road (Route 4).

## **Proposed Project**

The project proposes to reconfigure the geometry of the intersection by making Concord Road intersect Boston Road at a 90-degree angle, as well as reducing the size of the overall intersection. The proposed geometry will force vehicles to slow down as they take a right turn from Boston Road (Route 4) SB onto Concord Road. This will reduce speeds at the intersection and help to create gaps for vehicles exiting Concord Road. Travel lanes on Boston Road (Route 4) and Concord Road will be narrowed to 11 feet and will provide 5-foot bicycle accommodating shoulders. Scored concrete median islands are proposed on Boston Rd at the intersection. These medians, along with the narrower travel lanes will provide some traffic calming to help reduced speeds through the intersection.

This project proposes new sidewalks, ADA compliant ramps, crosswalks, signage, and striping along Boston Road (Route 4), Concord Road, and Parker Road. The intersection will receive new pavement and drainage improvements, including a replacement of the existing culvert and associated headwalls. There will also be utility pole relocations as part of this project.

**Project Schedule**

The project is currently at the 25% Design Stage. This project has been programmed in the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) for Federal Fiscal Year 2020. The design phase is anticipated to proceed with the 75%, 100%, and Final design submissions. Comments from this evening will be reviewed and considered to the maximum extents possible.

**Project Cost**

The estimated total contract cost for this project is approximately \$2,440,923. The project construction cost will be funded with a combination of monies from the Federal Highway Administration and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.



THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS  
MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
HIGHWAY DIVISION

Chelmsford, MA  
Boston Road (Route 4) and Concord Road Intersection Improvements  
Project File No. 608375

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: Highway Project Management Section, Project File No. 608375

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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Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Title: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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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  
Boston Road (Route 4) and Concord Road Intersection Improvements  
**CHELMSFORD**  
Project File No. 608375  
Attn: Highway Project Management Section

