



**DESIGN PUBLIC HEARING**

**FEBRUARY 7, 2019**

**AT**

**JOHN ZON COMMUNITY CENTER MEETING ROOM  
35 PLEASANT STREET**

**GREENFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS**

**7:00 PM**

**FOR THE PROPOSED**

**RECONSTRUCTION OF WISDOM WAY,  
FROM 480-FT. EAST OF PETTY PLAIN ROAD TO MILL STREET  
Project No. 608724  
MassDOT Roadway Project Management Section**

**IN THE CITY OF GREENFIELD, 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. 608724**

A Design Public Hearing will be held by MassDOT to discuss the proposed reconstruction of Wisdom Way, from 480-ft. east of Petty Plain Road to Mill Street in the City of Greenfield.

WHERE: John Zon Community Center Meeting Room,  
35 Pleasant Street,  
Greenfield, MA 01031

WHEN: Thursday, February 7, 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 project for reconstructing Wisdom Way. All views and comments made at the hearing will be reviewed and considered to the maximum extent possible.

PROPOSAL: The proposed project, 0.43 miles in length, consists of: reconstructing retaining walls, making drainage repairs, creating new wheelchair ramps, reconstructing sidewalks, applying pavement markings, furnishing new signage, and creating a new shared use path.

A secure right-of-way is necessary for this project. Acquisitions in fee and permanent or temporary easements may be required. The City of Greenfield 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. 608724. 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.

**LOCUS MAP**  
**(To be inserted)**

## **PROPOSED SCOPE OF WORK**

This project will provide improvements to a 0.43 mile segment of Town-owned Wisdom Way in Greenfield, Massachusetts. The project begins 150 feet southwest of the Franklin County Fairgrounds entrance and ends at the intersection of Mill Street and Power Court. Wisdom Way is functionally classified as an Urban Collector. Wisdom Way serves as the main entrance to the County's largest fairground which serves as a major economic generator for the region. The project area along Wisdom Way is less than a mile from Main Street and Bank Row in downtown Greenfield in which a number of places of assembly, Greenfield Energy Park, and the John Olver Transit Station/Greenfield Train station are located. The Town of Greenfield Transfer Station is also accessed from Wisdom Way.

The goal of this project is to improve bicycle and pedestrian facilities as well as replace a failing retaining wall that is supporting the roadway. Under current conditions, Wisdom Way lacks safe pedestrian infrastructure which is a significant concern due to the usage during fair events as well as general service to high density residential complexes and connections to downtown Greenfield. The roadway has additional safety concerns relating to on-going slope failures on the northern embankment. These failures consist of undermining of the roadway base, retaining wall blow-out/scour, guardrail deformations, and significant pavement distress due to damaged/collapsed drainage pipes.

According to the Greenfield Downtown Master Plan (2003), the "Downtown Crossroads" located at the intersection of Main Street and River Road and adjacent areas shall be the main area to promote open space and connections, to restore and redevelop the core commercial downtown, and have the potential for the Main Street/Green River Loop and Green River Walkway Extension. Additionally, pedestrian and bicycle friendly elements are proposed to be implemented that will provide a safe space for alternative modes of travel. According to the Sustainable Greenfield publication (2014), it is one of Greenfield's Sustainable Economic Development Strategies to "Ensure downtown is safe, easy to get to, accessible, and pedestrian/bicycle friendly."

The proposed improvements included with this project are summarized below:

- Re-alignment and reconstruction of Wisdom Way to improve safety concerns including the failing retaining wall system.
- Creation of a 10 foot multi-use path along Wisdom Way to improve to provide pedestrian and bicycle accommodation from the Fairgrounds to River/Mill Street and downtown Greenfield area.
- Replace old drainage pipes and update existing stormwater management system to prevent future subbase failures under the pavement and seepage through the retaining wall.
- Relocation/replacement of short segments of water/sewer lines due to roadway re-alignment and slope stability improvements
- Replacement of the existing retaining wall to provide a long term solution and eliminates the need for annual repairs.
- Update traffic signage and roadway pavement markings
- 5' bike lanes on River/Mill Street
- Pedestrian flashing beacon for realigned crossing of Wisdom way at River Street.





THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS  
MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
HIGHWAY DIVISION

FEDERAL AID PROJECT

GREENFIELD, MA  
RECONSTRUCTION OF WISDOM WAY,  
FROM 480-FT. EAST OF PETTY PLAIN ROAD TO MILL STREET  
Project File No. 608724

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

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

RE: Public Hearing  
RECONSTRUCTION OF WISDOM WAY,  
GREENFIELD  
Project File No. 608724  
Roadway Project Management; Room 6340

