



DESIGN PUBLIC HEARING

THURSDAY, APRIL 18, 2019

AT

HADLEY TOWN HALL, ROOM 203

HADLEY, MASSACHUSETTS

6:00 PM

FOR THE PROPOSED

**Bay Road (Route 47) Bridge Replacement project
over Fort River
Project No. 608460
Bridge No. H-01-005
Bridge Project Management**

IN THE TOWN OF HADLEY, 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. 608460

A Design Public Hearing will be held by MassDOT to discuss the proposed Bay Road (Route 47) Bridge Replacement project over Fort River in Hadley, MA.

WHERE: Hadley Town Hall, Room 203
100 Middle Street
Hadley, MA 01035

WHEN: Thursday, April 18, 2019 at 6:00 PM

PURPOSE: The purpose of this hearing is to provide the public with the opportunity to become fully acquainted with the proposed Bay Road (Route 47) Bridge Replacement 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 the complete replacement of the Bay Road Bridge over Fort River. Other improvements include utility pole and overhead wire relocation; upgrade of local water main; bridge approach work; erosion control; and other miscellaneous work. Bicycle accommodations consisting of a usable shoulder have been provided in accordance with applicable design guides. Construction of the bridge will occur in two stages, with traffic being maintained with a one-way alternating pattern for both stages controlled with temporary traffic signals.

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: Bridge Project Management, Project File No. 608460. 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

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). 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?

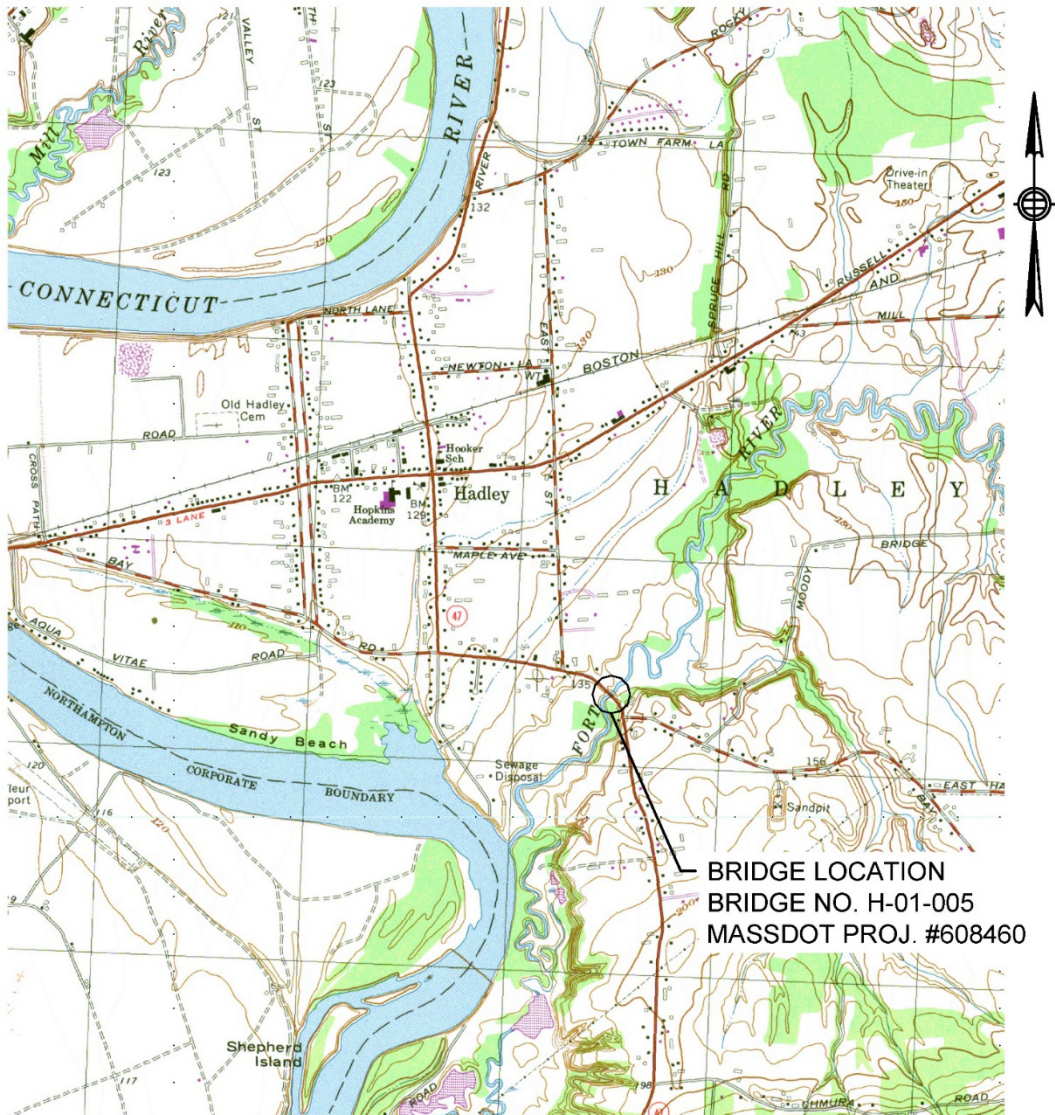
No. If, after the figure established as market value has been offered to the owner, the owner feels he or she is not being offered a fair price, he or she has the right, within three years, to appeal to the courts. Pending a court decision, he or she can be paid on a "pro-tanto" basis (or "for the time 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.



LOCUS MAP

The purpose of this project is to replace the existing Bay Road (Route 47) Bridge which spans over the Fort River in Hadley, MA.

The project includes the complete replacement of the Bridge. Other improvements include utility pole and overhead wire relocation; upgrade of local water main; bridge approach work; erosion control; and other miscellaneous work. Bicycle accommodations consisting of a usable shoulder have been provided in accordance with applicable design guides. Bay Road is not a designated bicycle route. However, the proposed bridge cross section includes 5' shoulders in both directions for future bicycle accommodation.

The bridge structure will be widened so as to accommodate the wider shoulders, resulting in minor widening. The proposed bridge structure will be entirely within public ROW, however temporary easements will be required in order to reconstruct the slopes at the four bridge quadrants to match back into the existing ground.

Construction will occur in two stages, with traffic being maintained with a one-way alternating pattern for both stages controlled with temporary traffic signals.

The first stage will close the west half of the bridge. Vehicles will be controlled by temporary traffic signals in a one-way alternating pattern within an 11' minimum width travel lane. Pedestrian access will be maintained via the existing walk on the east side of the bridge. During this stage a temporary pedestrian bridge will be constructed located off the existing bridge to the west for use during stage two. A new 12" water line will be installed located on the west side of the bridge and activated prior to stage two construction. Stage one will also relocate two (2) adjacent utility poles to their proposed permanent locations to the west of the proposed bridge.

The second stage will close the east half of the bridge with traffic being moved to the newly constructed west half, continuing with the one-way alternating pattern at all times and maintaining an 11'-6" minimum width travel lane. The east half of the proposed bridge will be built in place, including roadway widening and a new sidewalk. Pedestrians will be moved to the newly constructed temporary pedestrian bridge. No utility work will be required during the second construction stage.

During both stages, no vehicular or pedestrian detour routes are anticipated and bicyclists will be instructed via temporary signs to walk bikes over the bridge using the pedestrian routes.

Address: _____

Please Fold and Tape

Please Place

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

RE: Public Hearing
Bay Road (Route 47) Bridge Replacement project over Fort River
HADLEY
Project File No. 608460
Bridge Project Management

