



DESIGN PUBLIC HEARING

March 19, 2019

AT

**LYNNFIELD MIDDLE SCHOOL
505 MAIN STREET
LYNNFIELD, MA 01940**

6:30 PM

FOR THE PROPOSED

**RAIL TRAIL EXTENSION, FROM THE GALVIN MIDDLE SCHOOL
TO LYNNFIELD / PEABODY TOWN-LINE**

**PROJECT NO. 607329
ROADWAY PROJECT MANAGEMENT SECTION**

IN THE TOWNS OF LYNNFIELD / WAKEFIELD, 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. 607329

A Design Public Hearing will be held by MassDOT to discuss the proposed *Rail Trail Extension, from the Galvin Middle School to the Lynnfield/Peabody Town Line* project in the towns of **Lynnfield/Wakefield, MA.**

WHERE: Lynnfield Middle School
505 Main Street
Lynnfield, MA 01940
WHEN: **Tuesday, March 19, 2019 @ 6:30 PM**

PURPOSE: The purpose of this hearing is to provide the public with the opportunity to become fully acquainted with the proposed Rail Trail Extension project within the towns of Lynnfield and Wakefield. All views and comments made at the hearing will be reviewed and considered to the maximum extent possible.

PROPOSAL: The proposed project consists of constructing a shared-use path for pedestrian and bicyclists along an abandoned railroad corridor, beginning at the Main Street/Bennett Street intersection in Wakefield and extending northerly through Lynnfield to the Peabody city-line. The proposed trail is approximately 4.4 miles long and consists of a 10 to 12-foot-wide asphalt surface for about 2/3 of its alignment and elevated boardwalk through the Reedy Meadow and low areas within the floodplain. The project also includes paved parking areas, safety improvements at roadway crossings, new signs and pavement markings and landscape enhancements.

A secure right-of-way is necessary for this project. Acquisitions in fee and permanent or temporary easements may be required. The towns of Lynnfield and Wakefield are 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. **607329**. 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.

RIGHT OF WAY ISSUES

A secure right of way is necessary for this project. Temporary construction easements may be required. Your municipalities are 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 municipalities 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.



PREPARED FOR:



MassDOT Project #607329
Lynnfield-Wakefield Rail Trail Extension

Design Public Hearing



NORTH

DATE:

MARCH 2019

PREPARED BY:

SCALE:

1"=3,000'

WORLDTECH
ENGINEERING
 300 TRADE CENTER, SUITE 5580
 WOBURN, MASSACHUSETTS 01801
 PHONE: 781.933.4800

PROJECT PURPOSE

The Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) Highway Division proposes to construct a shared-use path along an approximately 4.4 miles of an abandoned railroad corridor in the towns of Lynnfield and Wakefield. The project will improve safety of pedestrians and bicyclists in this area as users will have a dedicated recreational path independent of vehicular traffic.

The towns of Lynnfield and Wakefield intend to improve the conditions along this abandoned railroad, at the same time develop recreational opportunities and improve transportation between the two communities. The proposed Lynnfield-Wakefield shared-use trail will connect to the *Border to Boston Trail*, a 30-mile long rail trail linking eight Essex County communities once the segment in the City of Peabody is constructed. As envisioned, this trail will connect areas of cultural, economic, social, and natural significance along the multi-community corridor and provide a non-motorized transportation alternative for residents, workers, and tourists of all ages and abilities.

PROJECT LOCATION AND EXISTING CONDITIONS

The proposed trail project begins at the Galvin Middle School (~ intersection of Main Street and Bennett Street) in Wakefield, continues north along the abandoned railroad corridor for approximately 2.53 miles through Wakefield and about 1.82 miles through Lynnfield, and terminates at the Peabody city-line.

The site was once used by the Boston & Maine Railroad Company, and generally consists of abandoned steel tracks and wooden ties over stone ballast. Portions of the railroad bed within/in proximity to the Reedy Meadow experience flooding/ponding during weather events/seasonal rains. Heavy vegetation and overgrowth cover large portions of the corridor as the railroad line is no longer in use.

SCOPE OF WORK

The proposed trail generally consists of a 12-foot wide shared-use-path with a hot mix asphalt surface. The path narrows to 10 feet in the areas with close proximity/adjacent to sensitive environmental resources. The portion of the trail through the Reedy Meadow and low areas within the floodplain consists of elevated boardwalk. The proposed project includes access paths to local points of interest, public parking areas for path users, safety improvements at roadway crossings, new signs and pavement markings, and pedestrian and landscape enhancements.

Address: _____

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
Rail Trail Extension, from the Galvin Middle School to the Lynnfield / Peabody Town Line
LYNNFIELD/WAKEFIELD
Project File No. 607329
Roadway Project Management Section

