



**DESIGN PUBLIC HEARING**

**APRIL 25, 2019**

**AT**

**BATES ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

**SALEM, MASSACHUSETTS**

**7:00 PM**

**FOR THE PROPOSED**

**Bates Elementary School - Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Project  
Project No. 608743  
Roadway Project Management**

**IN THE CITY OF SALEM, 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. 608743**

A Design Public Hearing will be held by MassDOT to discuss the proposed improvements to Bates Elementary School – Safe Routes to School (SRTS) project in the City of Salem, MA.

WHERE: Bates Elementary School  
53 Liberty Hill Avenue  
Salem, MA 01970

WHEN: Thursday, April 25, 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 Safe Routes to School – Bates Elementary School project in Salem, MA. All views and comments made at the hearing will be reviewed and considered to the maximum extent possible.

PROPOSAL: The project goals are to improve pedestrian access and safety in the Bates Elementary School area to encourage students to walk or bicycle to school. The project consists of the reconstruction of sidewalk within the neighborhood of the Bates Elementary School in Salem and realignment of the Liberty Hill Avenue and Appleton Street intersection. The proposed work includes cement concrete sidewalks, wheelchair ramps and driveways, rapid flashing beacons, flashing school zone beacons, signs and pavement markings, and minor drainage improvements.

A secure right-of-way is necessary for this project. Acquisitions in fee and permanent or temporary easements may be required. The City of Salem 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: Roadway Project Management, Project File No. 608743. 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.

## **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.

# PROJECT LOCATION MAP

## Bates Elementary School - Safe Routes to School MassDOT Project File No. 608743



Length of Project: 0.453 miles

## **BATES ELEMENTARY SCHOOL - SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL (SRTS) PROJECT SALEM, MASSACHUSETTS**

### Project Location and Purpose

The project is located in the northwest corner of the City of Salem. The project goals are to improve pedestrian access and safety in the Bates Elementary School area to encourage students to walk or bicycle to school. The project consists of the reconstruction of sidewalk within the neighborhood of the Bates Elementary School in Salem and realignment of the Liberty Hill Avenue and Appleton Street intersection. The project is 0.45 miles long and incorporates improvements along Liberty Hill Avenue, Appleton Street, and Nursery Street.

### Project Improvements

The proposed work includes cement concrete sidewalks, wheelchair ramps and driveways, rapid flashing beacons, signs and pavement markings, minor drainage improvements and flashing school zone beacons.

### Land Acquisition

No permanent acquisitions are needed to implement the associated improvements for this project. It is anticipated that permanent easements and temporary construction easements will be required to reconstruct sidewalk, curb ramps and to accommodate grading. MassDOT's policy regarding land acquisitions will be discussed at the meetings.

### Traffic Management

All roadways in the project area will remain open to residents during construction. Occasional short traffic disruptions may occur but every effort will be made to minimize inconvenience. Pedestrian and vehicular access to abutting properties will be maintained throughout construction.

### Project Schedule

The design plans displayed at the meeting are at the preliminary design level. Comments made at this public hearing will be incorporated to the maximum extent feasible when finalizing design. This project has been programmed on the Statewide Transportation Improvement Project (STIP) list as part of the Safe Routes to School Infrastructure Program utilizing FY20 funds for MassDOT to advertise for bids in Winter of 2019/2020. Construction is anticipated to begin in Summer of 2020 and be completed in Fall of 2020.

### Cost

The project construction cost is currently estimated at \$218,857.00.

THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS  
MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
HIGHWAY DIVISION

FEDERAL AID PROJECT

Salem, MA  
Bates Elementary School - Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Project  
Project File No. 608743

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

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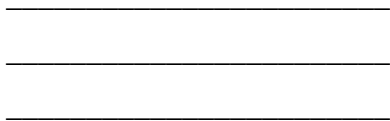
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Patricia A. Leavenworth, P.E.  
Chief Engineer  
MassDOT – Highway Division  
10 Park Plaza  
Boston, MA 02116-3973

RE: Public Hearing  
BATES ELEMENTARY SCHOOL - SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL (SRTS) PROJECT  
**SALEM, MASSACHUSETTS**  
Project File No. 608743  
Roadway Project Management

