



DESIGN PUBLIC HEARING

DECEMBER 11, 2018

AT

**TEWKSBURY TOWN HALL, IN THE MAIN HALL
1009 MAIN STREET, TEWKSBURY, MA 01876**

7:00 PM

FOR THE PROPOSED

**ANDOVER STREET (ROUTE 133) & RIVER ROAD INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS
PROJECT NO. 609038
ROADWAY PROJECT MANAGEMENT SECTION**

IN THE TOWN OF TEWKSBURY AND CITY OF LOWELL, MASSACHUSETTS

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

**JONATHAN L. 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. 609038

A Design Public Hearing will be held by MassDOT to discuss the proposed Intersection Improvements at Andover Street, (Route 133) and River Road project in **Tewksbury & Lowell, MA.**

WHERE: Tewksbury Town Hall, in the Main Hall
1009 Main Street
Tewksbury, MA 01876

WHEN: Tuesday, December 11, 2018 @ 7:00PM

PURPOSE: The purpose of this hearing is to provide the public with the opportunity to become fully acquainted with the proposed Intersection Improvements at Andover Street, (Route 133) and River Road 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 improvements to intersection safety, access and capacity, pedestrian facilities, bicycle accommodations and roadway rehabilitation. The proposed improvements include the installation of a fully-actuated traffic signal; re-alignment of the north and south intersection approaches; minor widening of Andover St to provide a 4-lane cross section west of the intersection, a 3-lane cross section east of the intersection, bicycle lanes and sidewalks on both sides have been provided in accordance with applicable design guides.

A secure right-of-way is necessary for this project. Acquisitions in fee and permanent or temporary easements may be required. The **Town and City** 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. **609038**. 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 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 or City 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 DESCRIPTION

PROJECT LOCATION AND PURPOSE

The Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) and the Town of Tewksbury are proposing roadway and intersection improvement for the intersection of Andover Street (Route 133) and River Road in Tewksbury and Lowell. The improvements will extend approximately 1,900' along Andover Street and 500' along River Road. The proposed project is primarily intended to improve the safety and operational deficiencies regarding the geometry of the intersection, which causes conflicting turning movements, multi-modal accommodations and vehicle delays.

PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS

The project includes the following roadway and intersection improvements at the intersection of Andover Street (Route 133) and River Road:

- Installation of a fully-actuated traffic signal at the intersection of Andover Street (Route 133) at River Road with video vehicular and bicycle detection and pedestrian signal infrastructure;
- Realignment of the River Road southbound approach to provide an angle of intersection with Andover Street closer to 90-degrees;
- Relocation of the Rite Aid driveway to align opposite River Road at the intersection;
- Construction or reconstruction of sidewalks with ADA/AAB-compliant wheelchair ramps at the signalized intersection and at the unsignalized intersections of Andover Street with Dancause Road, Wetherbee Avenue, Burnham Road, Havilah Street, and Merrimack Meadows Lane;
- Minor widening along Andover Street to accommodate an auxiliary lane westbound for approximately 1,500 feet through the project limits;
- Minor widening along River Road to accommodate truck turning movements and extend the dedicated turn lanes;
- Application of new pavement markings and installation of new signage within the project limits;
- Provision of an exclusive left-turn lane on the Andover Street eastbound approach;
- Stormwater drainage system modifications within the project limits; and
- Pavement repairs and rehabilitation on Andover Street and pavement resurfacing of River Road within the project limits.

TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT

During typical construction operations, all roadways in the project area will remain open to residents and other traffic. Occasional short traffic disruptions and travel lane/shoulder closures may occur, but every effort will be made to minimize inconvenience to the travelling public and abutting residents and businesses. Pedestrian and vehicular access to abutting properties will be maintained throughout construction.

RIGHT OF WAY IMPACTS

Temporary construction easements will be required for minor grading impacts to lawns, driveways, and walkways and to restore impacts to adjacent properties. Permanent easements will also be required from a number of abutting properties to accommodate relocated utilities, traffic signal equipment, and minor widening at the northeast corner of the intersection of Andover Street (Route 133) and River Road. The Town of Tewksbury and City of Lowell will be responsible for securing all necessary easements in their respective communities.

PROJECT COST

The current estimate of the total construction cost of this project is approximately \$2.6 million.

PROJECT SCHEDULE

The design plans on display are at the preliminary design stage. Comments made at this Public Hearing will be incorporated into the project's final design documents to the maximum extent feasible. This project is not currently programmed for construction funding, so the start date of construction is not known at this time.

THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
HIGHWAY DIVISION

FEDERAL AID PROJECT

TEWKSBURY & LOWELL, MA
ANDOVER STREET & RIVER ROAD INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS
Project File No. 609038

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.

Name: _____ Title: _____

Organization: _____

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
Andover Street (Route 133) and River Road
Intersection Improvement Project
Tewksbury & Lowell, Massachusetts
Project File No. 609038
Roadway Project Management

