



VIRTUAL DESIGN PUBLIC HEARING

May 20, 2026

FOR THE PROPOSED

COTTAGE STREET SCHOOL IMPROVEMENTS (SAFE ROUTE TO SCHOOL)

Project No. 612889

Project Management

IN THE TOWN OF SHARON, MASSACHUSETTS

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

**JONATHAN GULLIVER
HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATOR**

**CARRIE E. LAVALLEE, P.E.
CHIEF ENGINEER**

THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION – HIGHWAY DIVISION
NOTICE OF A VIRTUAL DESIGN PUBLIC HEARING

Project Description: Sharon – Cottage Street School Improvements -Safe Route To School (SRTS)
Project File No. 612889

A Virtual Design Public Hearing will be hosted on the MassDOT website below to present the design for the proposed project in Sharon, MA.

WHEN: 7:00-8:00 PM, Wednesday, May 20, 2026

PURPOSE: The purpose of this hearing is to provide the public with the opportunity to become fully acquainted with the proposed project. All views and comments submitted in response to the hearing will be reviewed and considered to the maximum extent possible.

PROPOSAL: Cottage Street serves as an important corridor to the Cottage Street School. Currently, the roadway generally has gaps and discontinuities on the sidewalks along the eastern side of Cottage Street. The Safe Route to School (SRTS) project consists of constructing continuous pedestrian routes along Cottage Street from Ames Street to Billings Street.

The project addresses this gap by constructing a new sidewalk along the eastern side of Cottage Street where sidewalks currently do not exist, reconstructing the existing sidewalks and pedestrian curb ramps for ADA compliance on both sides of Cottage Street, installing rectangular rapid flashing beacons (RRFB) at select crosswalks. The project also includes geometric improvements at the intersections of Cottage Street with Ames Street and Quincy Street, including tightening of curb radius to reduce crossing distances and improve pedestrian safety.

A secure right-of-way is necessary for this project. Acquisitions in fee and permanent or temporary easements may be required. The Town of Sharon is responsible for acquiring all needed rights in private or public lands. MassDOT's policy concerning land acquisitions will be presented in the hearing.

Project inquiries, written statements and other exhibits regarding the proposed undertaking may be submitted to Carrie E. Lavalley, P.E., Chief Engineer, via e-mail to MassDOTProjectManagement@dot.state.ma.us or via US Mail to Suite 7550, 10 Park Plaza, Boston, MA 02116, Attention: Project Management, Project File No. 612889. Statements and exhibits intended for inclusion in the hearing transcript must be emailed or postmarked no later than ten (10) business days (14 calendar days) after the hearing is hosted.

This hearing is accessible to people with disabilities. MassDOT provides reasonable accommodations and/or language assistance free of charge upon request (e.g interpreters in American Sign Language and languages other than English, live captioning, videos, assistive listening devices and alternate material formats), as available. For accommodation or language assistance, please contact MassDOT's Chief Diversity and Civil Rights Officer by phone (857-368-8580), TTD/TTY at (857) 266-0603, fax (857) 368-0602 or by email (MassDOT.CivilRights@dot.state.ma.us). Requests should be made as soon as possible and prior to the hearing, and for more difficult to arrange services including sign-language, CART or language translation or interpretation, requests should be made at least ten business days before the hearing.

This hearing will be hosted, or a cancellation announcement posted, on the internet at <https://www.mass.gov/orgs/highway-division/events>.

JONATHAN GULLIVER
HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATOR

CARRIE E. LAVALLEY, 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,

Carrie E. Lavalley, 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 CONCERNS

Your Municipality is responsible for securing the right of way for this project. If your property, or a portion of it, must be acquired by the Municipality 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. 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.



LCOUS MAP (PROJECT AREA)
Cottage Street Sidewalk Improvements (SRTS)
Sharon, MA

**COTTAGE STREET IMPROVEMENTS
SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL
PROJECT NO. 612889**

PROJECT LOCATION

The project is located on Cottage Street and begins at the intersection of Billings Street and extends southerly to Ames Streets where Cottage Street Elementary School is located on the eastern side of 800 feet south of Billings Street.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this project is to improve pedestrian safety and accessibility within the project area, including intersecting streets and adjacent roadways, in support of the Safe Routes to School program. The improvements are intended to provide enhanced pedestrian safety and mobility with specific emphasis on safe access to the Cottage Street Elementary School.

EXISTING CONDITIONS

Cottage Street is a two-lane road with approximately 12 to 14-foot wide travel lanes without shoulders. Sidewalks currently exist along the western side of Cottage Street between Billings Street and Woodland Street, and along the eastern side between Goddard Road and Ames Street.

PROPOSED CONDITIONS

Proposed improvements include construction of a new sidewalk along the eastern side of Cottage Street between Billings Street and Goddard Road, as well as reconstruction of existing sidewalks and curb ramps to provide accessible pedestrian accommodations in compliance with ADA and AAB requirements. Minor geometric improvements are also proposed at the intersections of Cottage Street at Ames Street and Quincy Street at Ames Street.

MAINTENANCE OF TRAFFIC DURING CONSTRUCTION

The anticipated traffic control on Cottage Street is expected to consist of narrowing the travel lanes with the majority of the work to be conducted off of the travel way. The roadway is expected to remain open with one lane of alternate travel available during sidewalk construction.

Proposed mitigation measures to limit impacts to traffic include restricting work during peak hours; limiting work area/length during a typical workday to ensure that the Contractor is able to begin and complete a segment of roadway work such that normal traffic operation can be restored at the end of each workday, and using police control during construction. Access to all residences and pedestrian routes will be maintained

during construction as much as possible. Abutters will be notified in advance should access to their property need to be restricted temporarily.

RIGHT OF WAY

The Town of Sharon is responsible for all Right-of-Way (ROW) acquisition. The proposed improvements will require ROW acquisitions in the form of temporary and permanent easements.

PROJECT COST

The total preliminary construction cost estimate for this Safe Routes to School project is approximately \$2.4 million.

PROJECT STATUS

The design plans presented here represent the 25% design level. Comments made at this public hearing will be incorporated to the maximum extent feasible in the final design documents. The project is scheduled to be advertised in March of 2029 and the construction is anticipated to begin in the summer of 2029.

PROJECT QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

The following questions and answers are intended to start conversation and discussion among the proponents, the designers, and the public assembled here. Please feel free to expand on these and include your own questions. There is also a comment form you can send to MassDOT should you have more questions or comments.

1. IS IT GOING TO BE NOISY?

Construction hours are typically during the day, outside of rush hour. No nighttime construction is anticipated for this project.

2. WHAT ABOUT THE TREES?

We have made every effort to save as many trees as possible. Those which may not survive construction or are in the way of handicap facilities such as safe and navigable sidewalks and ramps will be removed.

3. HOW WILL SCHOOL ACCESS BE AFFECTED?

We will work with the Cottage Street Elementary School and Town Departments of Public Works to make temporary accommodations during the school hours. It is our intentions to keep the bus routes the same.

4. I HAVE TO GET IN & OUT OF MY DRIVEWAY!

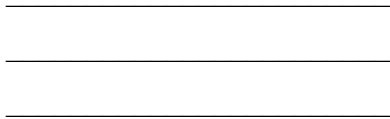
The Contractor is obligated to accommodate abutters. Additionally, we anticipate police details on-site to aid in traffic movement.

5. WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN TO MY FENCE/ BUSHES/ STEPS/ LAWN?

Property Owners will be contacted by the Town to discuss their individual property as the Right of Way process proceeds.

In general, grass in back of the new sidewalk will be regrown. Privately owned items within Town property lines will need to be removed unless a license is granted by the Town to allow the encroachment.

Please Fold and Tape



Please Place
Appropriate
Postage Here

Carrie E. Lavalley, P.E.
Chief Engineer
MassDOT – Highway Division
10 Park Plaza
Boston, MA 02116-3973

RE: Virtual Public Hearing
Cottage Street School Improvements
Town of Sharon
Project File No. 612889
Attn: Project Management

