



VIRTUAL DESIGN PUBLIC HEARING

JULY 21, 2026

FOR THE PROPOSED

**Reconstruction And Related Work On Wareham Street
and Wood Street
Project No. 608530
Bridge No. M-18-026
Highway Design**

IN THE TOWN OF MIDDLEBOROUGH, 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: Middleborough – Reconstruction and Related Work on Wareham Street
and Wood Street**

Project File No. 608530

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

WHEN: 6:00 PM, Tuesday, July 21, 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: The proposed project consists of improvements to Wareham Street and Wood Street from the intersection with North/South Main Street to Tiger Drive on Wood Street, a total distance of about 1 ½ miles. The proposed work includes pavement rehabilitation, construction of sidewalks and curb ramps to comply with ADA requirements, construction of a shared use path, traffic signal improvements, intersection geometry improvements and stormwater improvements. Bicycle accommodation along the corridor will be in the form of a shared use path along the north side of Wareham Street and Wood Street.

A secure right-of-way is necessary for this project. Acquisitions in fee and permanent or temporary easements may be required. The town of Middleborough 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. 608530. 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.

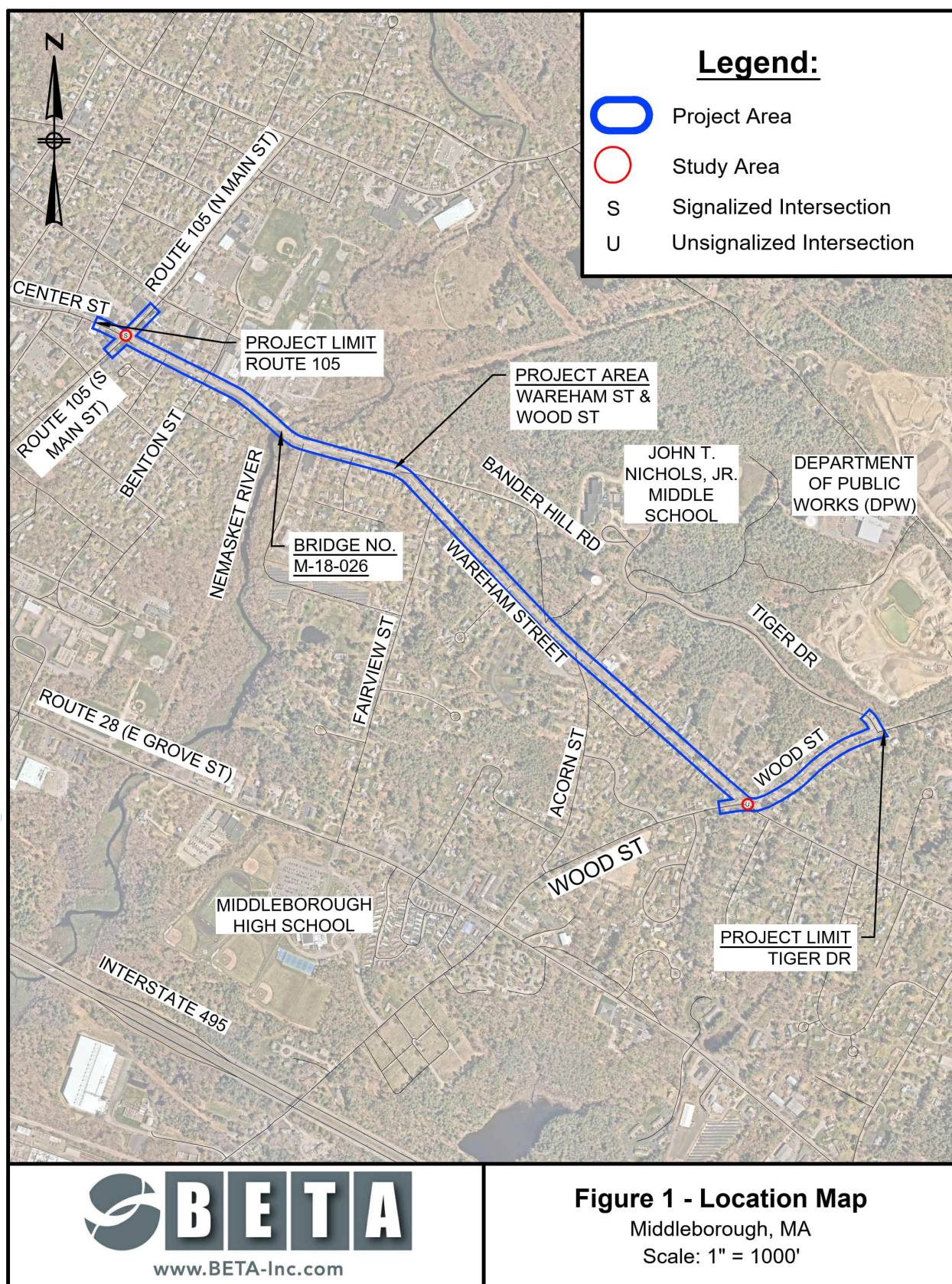
A Right of Entry is a document that is signed by the owner. It allows the Contractor to perform certain types of work on the owner's land. The work is usually minor in nature and frequently consists of loaming/seeding behind sidewalks, new driveway apron work, grading/sloping, and wetland protection, 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.



PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Massachusetts Department of Transportation Highway Division (MassDOT) is proposing to construct improvements to Wareham Street and Wood Street from the intersection with North/South Main Street to Tiger Drive on Wood Street, a total distance of about 1 ½ miles.

The Project will provide pedestrian and bicycle accommodations while improving motorist safety, resulting in a safe and efficient travel corridor between Middleborough Center and the Middle School.

Along the northern side of Wareham Street, bicycle and pedestrian accommodations are proposed through a hot-mixed asphalt shared use path that extends throughout the Project corridor. Additional pedestrian improvements will consist of a sidewalk along the southerly side of Wareham Street and ADA compliant curb ramps throughout the project limits. The shared use path and sidewalk will also extend along Wood Street to the project limit at Tiger Drive.

The proposed roadway layout for Wareham Street will consist of two 11-foot travel lanes, 2-foot wide roadway shoulders, an 8 to 10-foot wide hot mixed asphalt (HMA) shared use path on the north side of Wareham Street, and a 6 to 8-foot wide cement concrete sidewalk on the south side of Wareham Street, except at the Wareham Street bridge over the Nemasket River, where pedestrian traffic will be directed to use the shared-use path.

On Wood Street, the roadway layout will consist of two 11-foot wide travel lanes, 4-foot-wide roadway shoulders, a 10-foot wide shared use path on the north side and a 6-foot wide sidewalk on the south side. Granite curbing will be installed throughout the Project Corridor, and between the shared use path and curbing will be a 2-foot-wide hardscaped buffer.

Additional improvements will include pavement rehabilitation, utility relocations, warning and regulatory signs, rectangular rapid flashing beacons (RRFBs), intersection geometry improvements, and stormwater infrastructure.

The infrastructure associated with Bridge No. M-18-026 that carries Wareham Street over the Nemasket River is in fair to poor condition, and a new bridge barrier and guardrail transitions are proposed.

The traffic signal at the intersection of Wareham Street/Center Street at Route 105 (North/South Main Street) will be reconstructed and the intersection will include new pedestrian curb ramps and sidewalks on the intersection approaches and bicycle accommodations by means of a shared use path through the intersection along Wareham Street and Center Street.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

How can I find out more information about the project?

For more information or questions about the project, contact the MassDOT Project Management, at MassDOTProjectManagement@dot.state.ma.us.

When is construction anticipated to start?

Construction is anticipated to begin in the Spring of 2029.

How long is construction anticipated to last?

Construction is expected to take 3-4 construction seasons, ending in 2031-2032.

How will abutters be impacted during construction?

In general, abutters can expect some relocations of overhead electric utilities as well as adjustments to underground utilities. Some regrading and reconstruction of driveways will be needed to accommodate the proposed work, and some trees and vegetation will need to be trimmed or removed. Access to properties will be maintained during construction.

How much will the project cost and who is responsible?

The estimated construction cost is about \$18,000,000. 80% of the cost is paid for by federal funding and the remaining by MassDOT. The Town of Middleborough is responsible for the design, permitting and any right of way acquisitions that are required.

THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
HIGHWAY DIVISION

FEDERAL AID PROJECT

Middleborough, MA
Reconstruction And Related Work On Wareham Street
and Wood Street
Project File No. 608530

This sheet is provided for your comments. Your input is solicited and appreciated. You may e-mail comments directly to MassDOTProjectManagement@dot.state.ma.us or you may mail this sheet with any additional comments to:

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

Statements and exhibits intended for inclusion in the public hearing transcript must be emailed or postmarked no later than ten (10) business days after the hearing.

PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT LEGIBLY.

Name: _____ Title: _____

Organization: _____

Address: _____

Please Fold and Tape



Please Place
Appropriate
Postage Here

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

RE: Virtual Public Hearing
RECONSTRUCTION AND RELATED WORK ON WAREHAM ST AND WOOD ST
MIDDLEBOROUGH
Project File No. 608530
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