



DESIGN PUBLIC HEARING

JANUARY 13TH, 2020

AT

EASTHAMPTON MUNICIPAL BUILDING

EASTHAMPTON, MASSACHUSETTS

6:30 PM

FOR THE PROPOSED

**EASTHAMPTON - IMPROVEMENTS AND RELATED WORK ON UNION STREET
(ROUTE 141) FROM PAYSON AVENUE TO HIGH STREET**

Project No. 608577

Roadway Project Management Section

IN THE CITY OF EASTHAMPTON, 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. 608577

A Design Public Hearing will be held by MassDOT to discuss the proposed improvements and related work on Union Street (Route 141) from Payson Avenue to High Street project in Easthampton, MA.

WHERE: Easthampton Municipal Building, 2nd Floor Meeting Room
50 Payson Avenue
Easthampton, MA 01027
WHEN: Monday, January 13th, 2020 @ 6:30 PM

PURPOSE: The purpose of this hearing is to provide the public with the opportunity to become fully acquainted with the proposed improvement and related work on Union Street (Route 141) project. All views and comments made at the hearing will be reviewed and considered to the maximum extent possible.

PROPOSAL: This project is a roadway and intersection improvement project that implements complete streets initiatives to improve accommodations for all users within the downtown area. Improvements include a full-depth roadway reconstruction with new sidewalks for pedestrians, bicycle lanes and enhanced signal operations. A shared use accommodation consisting of a wide travel lane is provided for a portion of the project with shared use markings. Bicycle lanes are provided throughout the remainder of the project and are designed in accordance with applicable design guidelines. The improvements enhance connectivity to the Manhan Rail Trail, which bisects the City from south to north.

A secure right-of-way is necessary for this project. Acquisitions in fee and permanent or temporary easements may be required. The city 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. 608577. Such submissions will also be accepted at the hearing. Mailed statements and exhibits intended for inclusion in the public hearing transcript must be postmarked no later than ten (10) business days after 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 officials will often seek donations, of parcels, where permanent rights are required. This procedure will minimize the acquisition cost for your community.

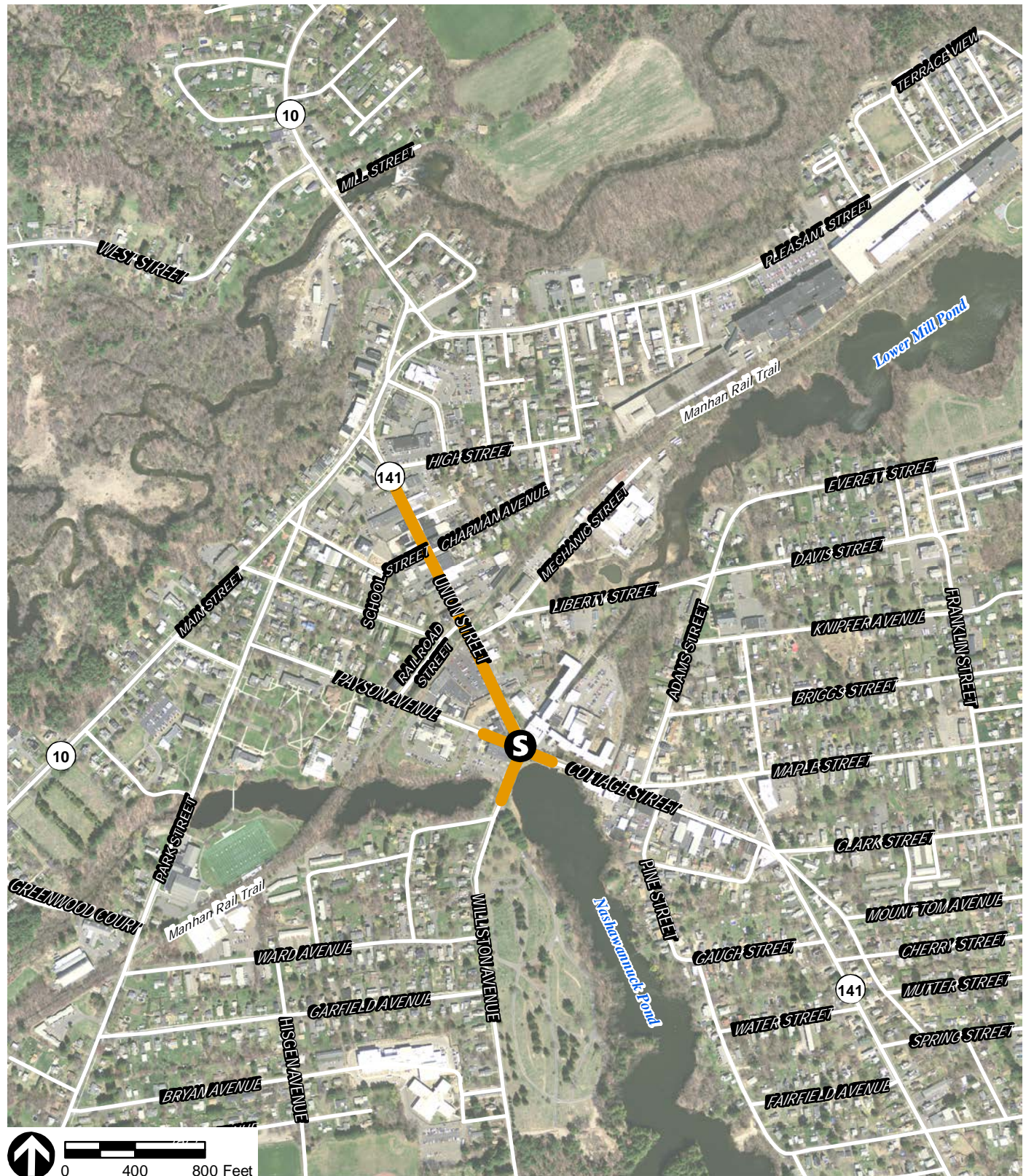
A Right of Entry is a document that is signed by the owner. It allows the Contractor to perform certain types of work on the owner's land. The work is usually minor in nature and frequently consists of loaming/seeding behind sidewalks, new driveway apron work, grading/sloping, and wetland protection,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



Study Roads



Figure 1-1

Locus Map
Easthampton, Massachusetts

Easthampton is a city located within Hampshire County. Easthampton is bordered by the Towns of Southamptton, Westhampton, Northampton and Holyoke. The major routes in and out of the Town are Routes 10 and 141. The Manhan Rail Trail is a major paved shared-use trail that traverses Easthampton and connects Southamptton to Northampton. Union Street (Route 141) is classified as an Urban Principal Arterial and provides access to the historic central business district on Main Street in Easthampton. Union Street is under the jurisdiction of the City of Easthampton within the project limits and is part of the National Highway System (NHS) network. Improvements are proposed to an approximate 1,800-linear foot long segment of Union Street (Route 141) from the intersection of Payson Avenue/ Williston Avenue/ Cottage Street to High Street. The improvements along this section of Union Street include: full depth reconstruction and rehabilitation of the existing pavement, including minor widening, mill and overlay, modifications to utilities including the water, sewer and drainage system, the upgrade of pedestrian and bicycle accommodations through the installation of sidewalks, wheelchair ramps and crosswalks in select areas to improve connectivity and restriping Union Street to provide a 5-foot bike lane along the majority of the corridor. In addition, wheelchair ramps will be reconstructed to meet current ADA/AAB standards. New pavement markings and signs are also proposed. The traffic signal system at the Payson Avenue/Williston Avenue/Cottage Street intersection will also be upgraded with new mast arms and signal system, and a new crosswalk on Cottage Street. The number of lanes and designations will remain the unchanged. The Union Street project is bisected by the Manhan Rail Trail, which crosses Union Street between Liberty and Railroad Streets. There are no bridges within the project limits.

Address: _____

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Appropriate
Postage Here

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

RE: Public Hearing
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EASTHAMPTON
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