



VIRTUAL DESIGN PUBLIC HEARING

FEBRUARY 8, 2024

FOR THE PROPOSED

QUALITY STREET OVER HOOSIC RIVER BRIDGE REPLACEMENT PROJECT

Project No. 610777

Bridge No. A-04-038

Project Management

IN THE TOWN OF ADAMS, 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 PUBLIC HEARING
Project File No. 610777

A Live Virtual Design Public Hearing will be hosted on the MassDOT website below to present the design for the proposed bridge replacement on Quality Street over Hoosic River in Adams, MA.

WHEN: 6:30 – 7:30 PM, Thursday, February 8, 2024

PURPOSE: The purpose of this hearing is to provide the public with the opportunity to become fully acquainted with the proposed bridge replacement on Quality Street over the Hoosic River. 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 the construction of a new 96-ft span prestressed concrete beam bridge carrying Quality Street over the Hoosic River. A temporary utility bridge is proposed during construction to support the water and gas mains.

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

Project inquiries, written statements and other exhibits regarding the proposed undertaking may be submitted to Carrie E. Lavallee, 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. 610777. 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
P.E.
HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATOR

CARRIE E. LAVALLEE,
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.

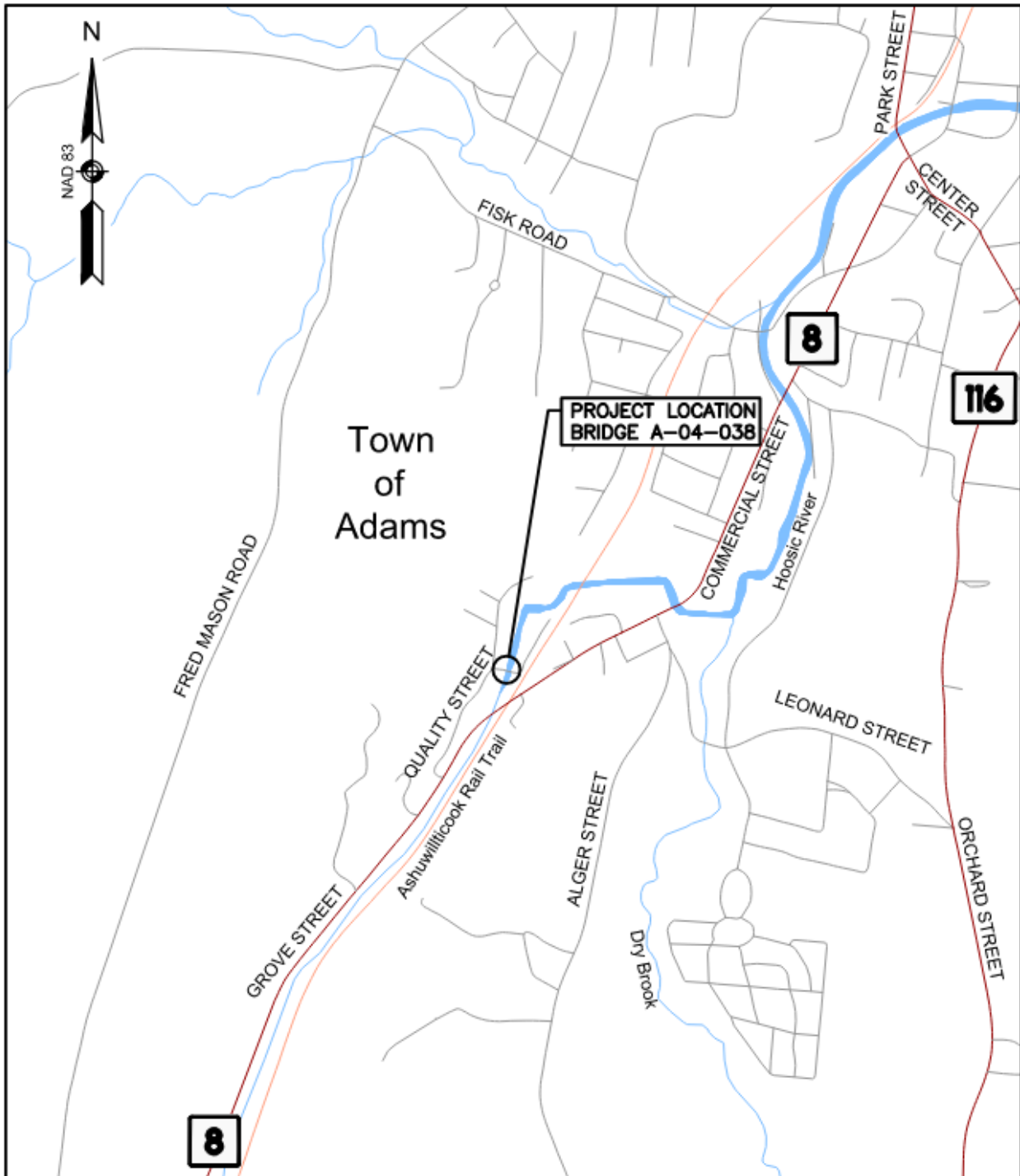
A Right of Entry is a document that is signed by the owner. It allows the Contractor to perform certain types of work on the owner's land. The work is usually minor in nature and frequently consists of loaming/seeding behind sidewalks, new driveway apron work, grading/sloping, and wetland protection,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

SUBJECT: LOCUS MAP
SCALE: 1" = 1000'

FIGURE 1

LOCUS MAP

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The proposed project consists of full replacement of the existing simple span steel through-plate girder structure that carries Quality Street over the Hoosic River. The proposed bridge is to be constructed on a similar alignment as the existing bridge. The structure will remain a single span bridge, however, the span length will be increased from approximately 82' to 96'. The proposed substructure will be located behind the existing spill-through abutment footings. The proposed bridge will provide (2) 11'-0" lanes of traffic, (2) 2'-0" shoulders and (2) 1'-7½" safety-curbs, with standard MassDOT S3-TL4 bridge rail for a total out-to-out width of 29'-3".

There are three utilities supported on the existing bridge. A 12" water main and a 2" gas main are supported by the north plate girder. A 16" water main is supported by the south plate girder. The water and gas mains will be supported under the proposed bridge, in between the beams. During construction, these utilities will be supported by a temporary utility bridge adjacent to the existing bridge.

There are existing overhead utilities running perpendicular to the bridge, near both the east and west approaches. These overhead wires will need to be, at a minimum, temporarily relocated to allow construction activities. Temporary easements will be required for the temporary utility bridge and for temporary utility pole relocation, and associated guy wires/brace poles.

MAINTENANCE OF TRAFFIC DURING CONSTRUCTION

Quality Street will be closed to vehicular and pedestrian traffic at the bridge site for the full construction duration. Access to the houses on South Willow Street will be maintained by temporarily re-establishing a connection from Grove Street (Route 8), across the Ashuwillticook Rail Trail, to South Willow Street.

RIGHT OF WAY IMPACTS

The proposed improvements will require 5 permanent easements and 9 temporary easements within the project limit. The town is responsible for acquiring all needed rights in private or public lands.

PROJECT COST

The preliminary construction cost of this project based on 25% design stage is approximately \$4 million, which will come from: the Federal Highway Administration funding 80% of the total construction cost. MassDOT funds the remaining 20%. This project must be programmed in the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program in the appropriate Federal Fiscal Year for MassDOT to solicit bids for eventual construction.

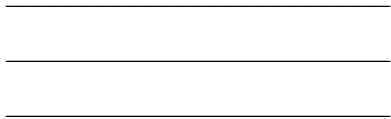
PROJECT SCHEDULE

The plans presented this evening represent 25% design plans. Project is expected to be advertised for construction in Summer 2025 subject to ROW Certificate is issued and all Environmental Permits are obtained. Construction is anticipated to begin in the Fall of 2025.

PROJECT QUESTIONS

1. What is the purpose of this project?
 - a. The purpose of this project is to replace the existing bridge on Quality Street over Hoosic River due to its poor structural condition.
2. How will access to my property be maintained through construction?
 - a. Access to the residence will be maintained during construction through the same easement used back in 1950 to construct the existing bridge. Temporary access will be off Grove Street across the rail trail to South Willow Street.
3. How will the utilities on the bridge be maintained through construction?
 - a. A temporary utility bridge is proposed during construction to support the water and gas mains.

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
Quality Street over Hoosic River Bridge Replacement Project
ADAMS, MA
Project File No. 610777
Attn: Project Management

