



**VIRTUAL DESIGN PUBLIC HEARING**

**APRIL 12, 2021**

**FOR THE PROPOSED**

**Intersection Improvements at Greenville Road (Route 31) and Turnpike Road  
Project No. 609314  
Project Management**

**IN THE TOWN OF ASHBY, 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 VIRTUAL DESIGN PUBLIC HEARING  
Project File No. 609314**

A Virtual Design Public Hearing will be published on the MassDOT website below to present the design for the proposed Intersection Improvements at Greenville Road (Route 31) and Turnpike Road project in Ashby, MA.

**WHEN: Monday, April 12, 2021**

**PURPOSE:** The purpose of this hearing is to provide the public with the opportunity to become fully acquainted with the proposed Intersection Improvements at Greenville Road (Route 31) and Turnpike Road 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 enhance safety and operations at the intersection. A roundabout is proposed to be constructed. This is expected to reduce the travel speeds of approaching vehicles through horizontal deflection and reduce the number of conflict points between vehicles traveling along Route 31 and vehicles approaching from Turnpike Road. Prominent advanced warning signage will be installed, particularly on the Route 31 northbound and southbound approaches to the roundabout. Drivers accessing the intersection via Turnpike Road will be able to proceed through the intersection more efficiently compared to existing conditions, while delays to Route 31 traffic over existing conditions are expected to be relatively minor. Storm drainage will be updated to accommodate the proposed intersection geometry.

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

Project inquiries, written statements and other exhibits regarding the proposed undertaking may be submitted to Patricia A. Leavenworth, P.E., Chief Engineer, via e-mail to [MassDOTProjectManagement@dot.state.ma.us](mailto:MassDOTProjectManagement@dot.state.ma.us)

or via US Mail to Suite 6340, 10 Park Plaza, Boston, MA 02116, Attention: Project Management, Project File No. 609314. 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 is posted to the MassDOT website listed below.

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](mailto: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 business days before the hearing.

This Virtual Design Public Hearing or a cancellation announcement will be posted on the Internet at [www.mass.gov/massdot-highway-design-public-hearings](http://www.mass.gov/massdot-highway-design-public-hearings).

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 CONCERNS**

The State is responsible for securing the Right of Way for this project. If your property, or a portion of it, must be acquired by the State 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. WHO CONTACTS ME?**

Representatives of the Right of Way Bureau of the Massachusetts Department of Transportation's Highway Division. They will explain the impacts and your rights as protected under Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 79.

### **2. WHAT IS A FAIR PRICE FOR MY PROPERTY?**

Every offer is made to ensure that an equitable value is awarded to you for the property, or to appraise the "damage" to the property as a result of the acquisition. MassDOT appraisers, independent appraisers, MassDOT "Review Appraisers" and a Real Estate Appraisal Review Board may all contribute in arriving at an award of damages. The State also pays a proportionate part of the real estate tax for the current year for fee takings, and interest from the date the property is acquired to the payment date, on all impacts.

### **3. MUST I ACCEPT THE DEPARTMENT'S OFFER?**

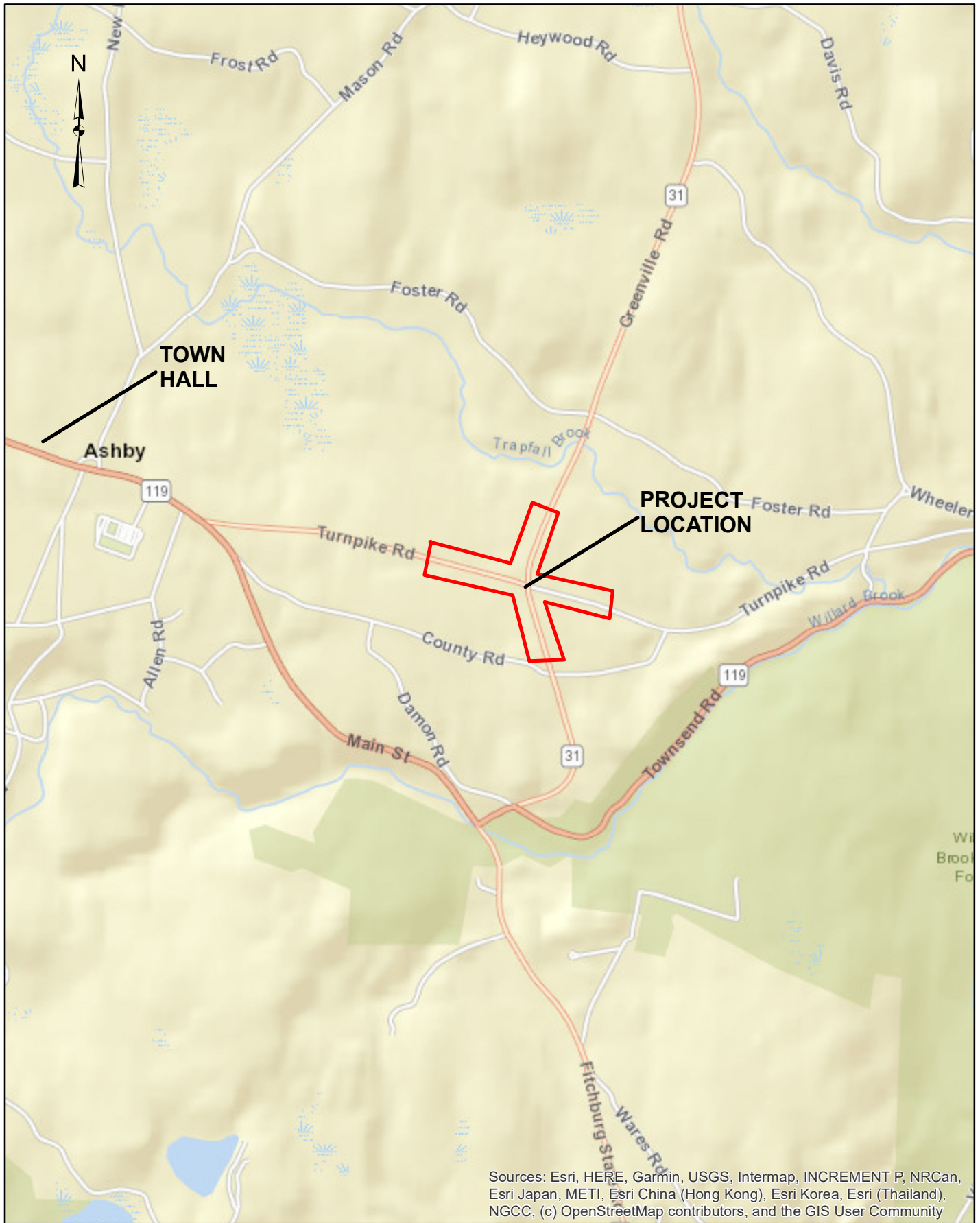
No. If, after the figure established as market value has been offered to the owner, the owner feels he or she is not being offered a fair price, he or she has the right, within three years, to appeal to the courts. Pending a court decision, he or she can be paid on a "pro-tanto" basis (or "for the time being") that in no way prejudices the court appeal.

### **4. WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO MY HOUSE?**

The owner will have the opportunity to buy back his or her house, provided he or she has a location to which it can be moved, and the proper permits for its removal. If the owner does not wish to repurchase, the house will be advertised for bids. The highest bidder, who must also have a location and permits for removal, will be awarded the house. Otherwise, the structure will be slated for demolition.

### **5. WHAT HAPPENS IF I MUST RELOCATE?**

In addition to the market value of the property, the Department pays certain relocation benefits for both owners and tenants of acquired residences and businesses who meet eligibility requirements. Assistance in relocation is also provided. Department brochures are available for details on these benefits.



## **PROJECT LOCATION**

The project includes safety and traffic calming improvements to the intersection at Greenville Road (Route 31) and Turnpike Road. The project limits extend approximately 500-feet from the intersection. The attached Locus Map shows the intersection location.

## **PROJECT PURPOSE**

The purpose of this project is to improve safety of the Greenville Road (Route 31) and Turnpike Road intersection by reducing the frequency and severity of crashes. The intersection is identified as a Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) high crash cluster for the years 2013-2015. Currently, there are issues relating to safety, traffic speed, and flow. The existing intersection geometry consists of 4 approaches, Turnpike Road is eastbound and westbound under STOP control with Greenville Road (Route 31) northbound and southbound with the right-of-way. The project proposes to convert the intersection into a single-lane roundabout with no bicycle or pedestrian accommodations to lessen the impacts to the existing location. The design proposes to have a partially paved center island that will act as a truck apron and splitter islands constructed at each approach along with additional advanced warning signage. This is expected to reduce the travel speeds of approaching vehicles through horizontal deflection and reduce the number of conflict points between vehicles traveling along Route 31 and vehicles approaching from Turnpike Road.

## **PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS**

The proposed project improvements include the following:

- Reconstruct the existing intersection as a single-lane roundabout, consisting of a partially paved center island that will act as a truck apron
- Construct raised splitter islands to provide deflection angles on each approach roadway to reduce vehicle speeds
- Install new roadway pavement and curbing, and modify drainage infrastructure
- Stripe new centerlines, lane lines, gore areas, and shoulder lines within the project limit.
- Install new traffic signage

## **TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT**

During typical construction operations, all roadways in the project area will remain open to residents. 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 during construction. Pedestrian and vehicular access to abutting properties will be maintained throughout construction.

### **RIGHT OF WAY IMPACTS**

Temporary construction easements will be required due to grading impacts to lawns, driveways, and walkways and to restore associated impacts to adjacent properties. Permanent easements will be required to modify intersection geometry. MassDOT will be responsible for securing all necessary easements. MassDOT's policy concerning land acquisition will be discussed at this hearing.

### **PROJECT COST**

The current estimate of the total construction cost of this project is approximately \$2,500,000.

### **PROJECT SCHEDULE**

The design plans presented are at the 25% design stage. The project is currently programmed for construction in the Fall of 2022. Design, permitting, and right of way acquisitions are anticipated to be completed by the end of 2023.





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

RE: Virtual Public Hearing  
Intersection Improvements at Greenville Road (Route 31) and Turnpike Road  
**ASHBY**  
Project File No. 609314  
Attn: Project Management

