



DESIGN PUBLIC HEARING

DECEMBER 17, 2025

6:30 PM

FOR THE PROPOSED

**South Avenue (Route 123) Improvements
Project File No. 613095**

IN THE CITY OF ATTLEBORO, MASSACHUSETTS

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

**JONATHAN GULLIVER
UNDERSECRETARY AND HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATOR**

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

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

Project Description: Attleboro – South Avenue (Route 123) From Lathrop Road to Snell Street

Project File No. 613095

A Design Public Hearing will be held to present the design for the proposed project in the City of Attleboro, MA.

WHERE: Peter Thatcher Elementary School, Auditorium
160 James Street
Attleboro, MA 02703

WHEN: **6:30 PM, Wednesday, December 17, 2025**

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 safety improvements along South Avenue (Route 123) from Lathrop Road to Snell Street. Pedestrian accommodations will include cement concrete sidewalks and accessible ramps. Crosswalks will be provided at each side street, as well as at three (3) locations for pedestrians to cross South Avenue. The three (3) Route 123 crossings will be provided with ADA assessable push buttons that will activate flashing beacons to notify drivers of the pedestrians crossing. Bicycle accommodations will consist of a 5 foot bicycle lane in each direction on South Avenue, and each bicycle lane will include an adjacent 2 foot painted buffer between the vehicular travel lanes and the bike lanes. A raised median will be provided to separate the eastbound and westbound traffic on South Avenue. Solar powered street lighting will be provided within the median area for the benefit of all road users.

A secure right-of-way is necessary for this project. Acquisitions in fee and permanent or temporary easements will be required. The City of Attleboro 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. 613095. Statements and exhibits intended for inclusion in the public hearing transcript must be emailed or postmarked no later than ten (10) business days (14 calendar days) after the hearing is hosted on 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). 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.

In case of inclement weather, a cancellation announcement will be posted on the internet at <https://www.mass.gov/orgs/highway-division/events>.

JONATHAN GULLIVER
UNDERSECRETARY AND HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATOR

CARRIE E. LAVALLEE, 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. Lavallee, 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.

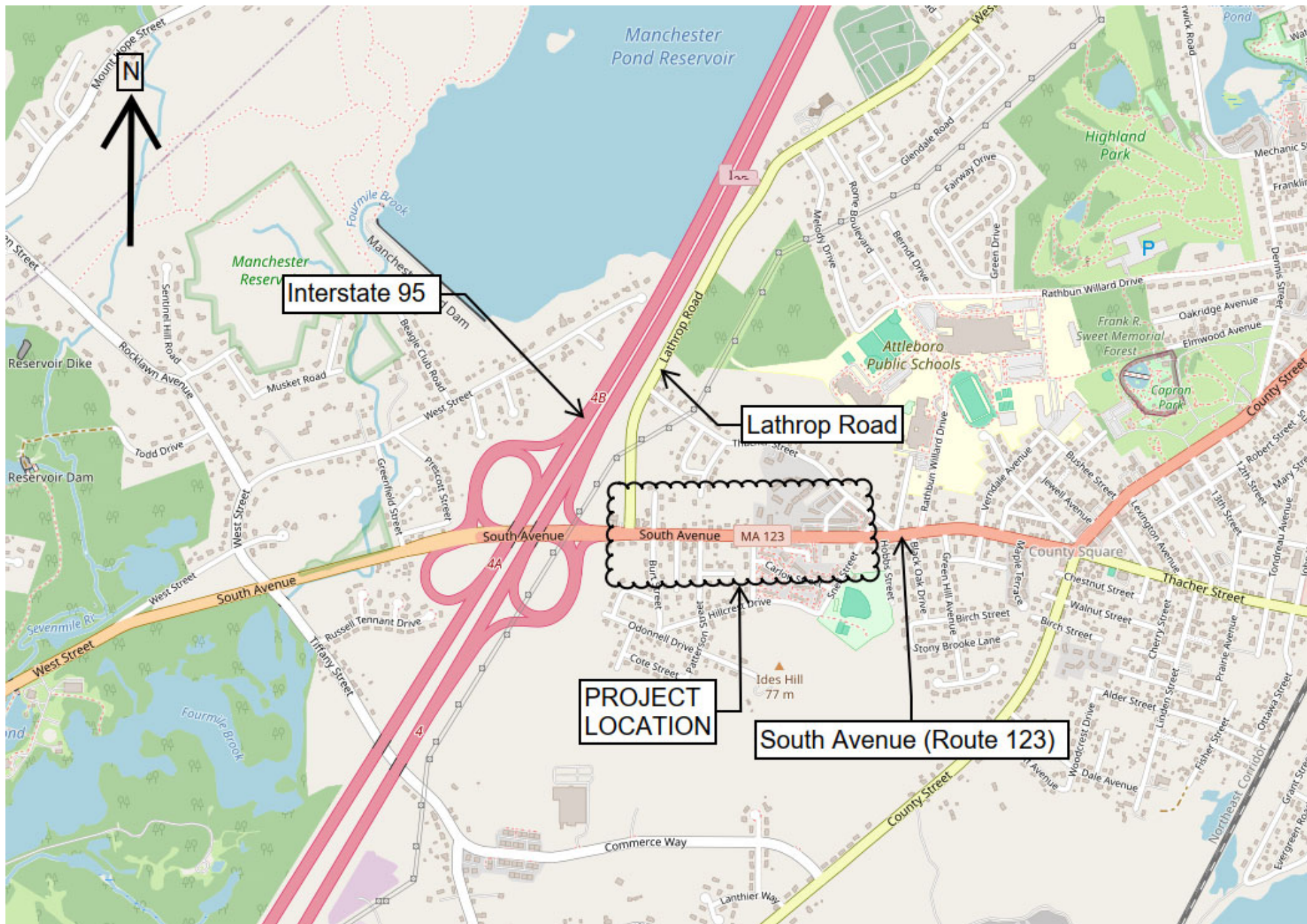
A Right of Entry is a document that is signed by the owner. It allows the Contractor to perform certain types of work on the owner's land. The work is usually minor in nature and frequently consists of loaming/seeding behind sidewalks, new driveway apron work, grading/sloping, and wetland protection,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



South Avenue (Route 123) Improvements
Project File No. 613095
Attleboro, MA

PROJECT LOCATION

The project extends approximately 2,350 feet (0.445 miles) along South Avenue (Route 123), from the intersection with Lathrop Road to the intersection with Snell Street. Project limits extend approximately 30 to 40 feet back along the adjacent side streets of: Burt Street, Davis Circle, Joseph Street, Patterson Street, and Hanisch Street.

PROJECT PURPOSE

The purpose of this project is to enhance safety for all roadway users and address existing deficiencies along South Avenue (Route 123). Specific improvements will be made to pedestrian and bicycle accommodation and safety along the corridor, while also rehabilitating the roadway pavement. One of the goals of this project is to transform South Avenue (Route 123) into a “gateway” as motorists travel from the I-95 interchange towards the business district of the city.

PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS

The following proposed improvements were developed for South Avenue (Route 123) and are based on an examination of existing conditions, known deficiencies, future traffic volumes, and discussions with MassDOT and the City of Attleboro Officials

- **Sidewalks:** A 6-foot sidewalk on the north side of the corridor, and a 5-foot sidewalk on the south side provides updated ADA compliant accommodations for pedestrian travel.
- **Bike Lanes:** Dedicated 5-foot bike lanes with 2-foot buffer zones create separate facilities for cyclists, reducing conflicts with vehicles and enhancing connectivity from the residential area adjacent to the project corridor, to other destinations within the city.
- **Crossings:** The project proposes three mid-block crossings located near the intersections of Burt and South Avenue, Patterson Street and South Avenue, and Nickerson Court and South Avenue that will be equipped with Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacons (RRFB).
- **Travel Lanes:** Travel Lanes will be narrowed to 11-feet with 2-foot shoulders as a traffic calming measure that will reduce travel speeds.
- **Median:** A 6-foot median island will enhance pedestrian safety by acting as a refuge for those crossing the road, and also provides an effective “gateway” treatment
- **Signage and Markings:** Updated pavement markings and signage will improve visibility and provide clear guidance for both drivers and non-motorized users.
- **Lightning:** New ornamental street lighting will be provided in the median to improve safety at night, by enhancing visibility, particularly at intersections and pedestrian crossings.

MAINTENANCE OF TRAFFIC DURING CONSTRUCTION

This section of South Avenue (Route 123) will remain open to both pedestrian and vehicular traffic throughout construction. Operations along the roadway will allow one lane to be maintained on all approaches during peak hours. Occasional short traffic disruptions may occur, but every effort will be made to minimize inconvenience to the public. Pedestrian and vehicular access to abutting properties will be maintained at all times, except for brief periods of time during which abutters will be notified in advance.

RIGHT OF WAY IMPACTS

The proposed impact will require permanent easements affecting nine abutting properties. Seven of these easements will affect abutters along South Avenue (Route 123) and two will affect abutters on side streets. These easements will be a combination of utility easements required for utility pole relocation and aerial rights, which will affect seven abutters, highway easement for sidewalk, which will affect one abutter, and a drainage easement for the installation of a new drainage outfall, which will affect one abutter. In addition, the project will require temporary construction easements affecting most but not all properties within the project limits. At this stage the Right of Way process has not been finalized.

PROJECT COST

The preliminary construction cost of this project at this design stage is approximately \$12million.

PROJECT SCHEDULE

The design plans presented this evening represent a 25% design plan. The project has been programmed in the Statewide Transportation Improvement Plan for Federal Fiscal Year 2029. Construction is anticipated to begin in Spring 2029.

THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
HIGHWAY DIVISION

FEDERAL AID PROJECT

Attleboro, MA
South Avenue (Route 123) Improvements
Project File No. 613095

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: Design Public Hearing
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