



DESIGN PUBLIC HEARING

JUNE 27, 2019

AT

AUBURN TOWN HALL – SELECTMAN’S ROOM, 2ND FLOOR

AUBURN, MASSACHUSETTS

7:00 PM

FOR THE PROPOSED

AUBURN STREET RECONSTRUCTION PROJECT

MassDOT Project No. 607733

Roadway Project Management Section

IN THE TOWN OF AUBURN, MASSACHUSETTS

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

**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

THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION – HIGHWAY DIVISION
NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING
Project File No. 607733

A Public Hearing will be held by MassDOT to discuss the proposed Auburn-Rehabilitation of Auburn Street, From Walsh Avenue to Millbury Street Project in Auburn, MA

WHERE: Auburn Town Hall - Selectmen's Room, 2nd Floor
104 Central Street
Auburn, Massachusetts 01075
WHEN: Thursday, June 27 at 7:00 PM

PURPOSE: The purpose of this hearing is to provide the public with the opportunity to become fully acquainted with the proposed Auburn-Rehabilitation of Auburn Street, From Walsh Avenue to Millbury Street Project. All views and comments made at the hearing will be reviewed and considered to the maximum extent possible.

PROPOSAL: The proposed improvements include pavement rehabilitation and reconstruction, decorative street lighting, landscaping, traffic signal upgrades at the intersection of Auburn Street and Southbridge Street (Route 12), full traffic signal reconstruction at Auburn Street and Brotherton Way and additional emergency pre-emption equipment at the fire station located on Auburn Street. Geometric improvements include resetting the curb to provide a consistent roadway cross section, including bikeable shoulders, and providing sidewalks and ADA compliant wheelchair ramps.

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 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. 607733. Such submissions will also be accepted at the hearing. Mailed statements and exhibits intended for inclusion in the public hearing transcript must be postmarked within ten (10) business days of 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

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.

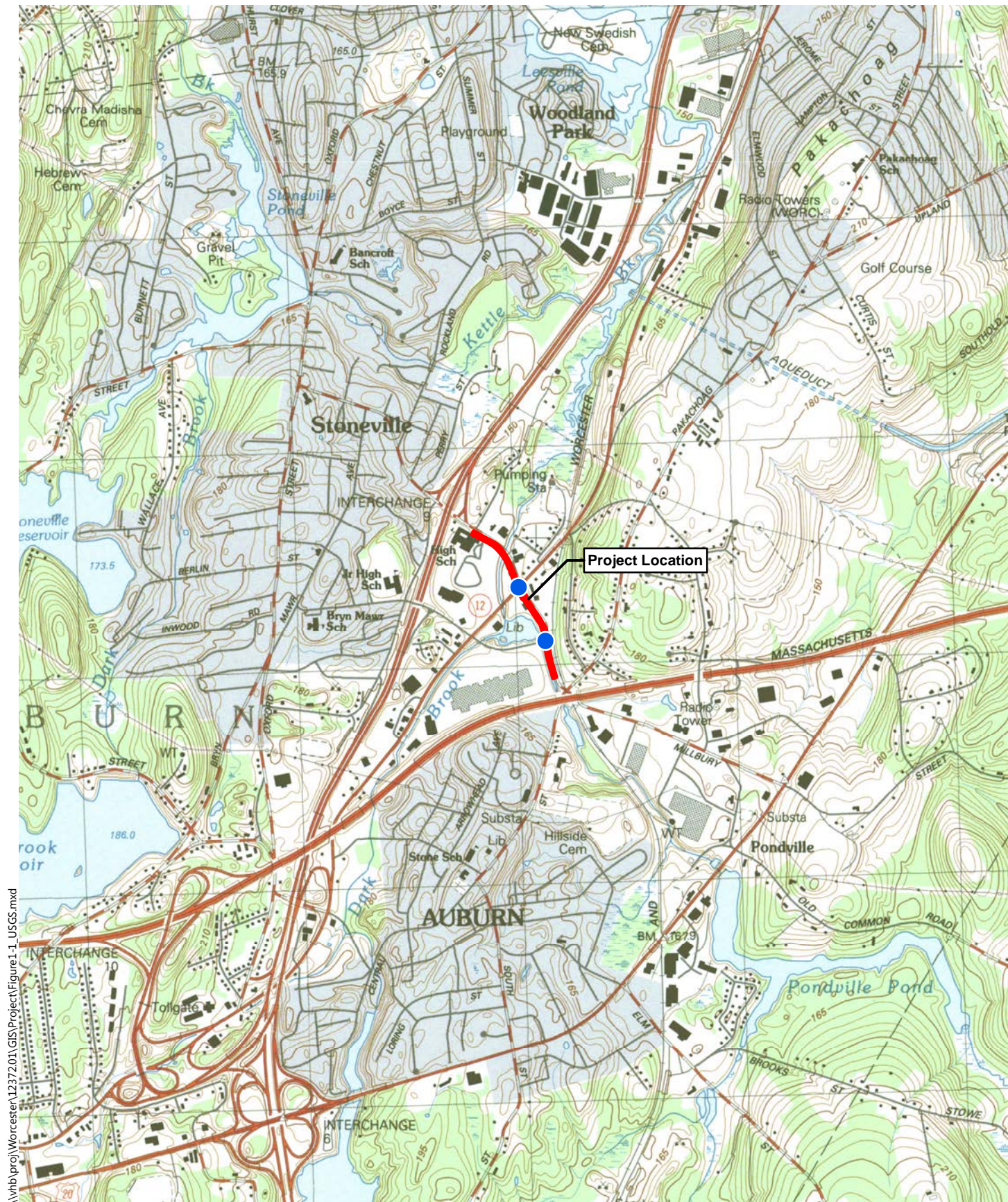
A Right of Entry is a document that is signed by the owner. It allows the Contractor to perform certain types of work on the owner's land. The work is usually minor in nature and frequently consists of loaming/seeding behind sidewalks, new driveway apron work, grading/sloping, and wetland protection,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



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- Legend**
- █ Project Location
 - Project Intersection

Auburn Street Improvements | Auburn, MA

USGS Locus

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Project Purpose: The Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT), in conjunction with the Town of Auburn, is proposing to make improvements to Auburn Street in Auburn. The purpose of the proposed project is to upgrade the roadway to better serve its current purpose as an arterial roadway as well as improve roadway safety for vehicles, bicyclists, and pedestrians along the entire corridor. This Project addresses multiple recommendations in both the Town's Master Plan adopted in 2006 and the Planning Vision and Design Guidelines for Drury Square document prepared in 2017, including improving pedestrian connections and the addition of streetscape features.

Project Location and Limits: The project limits start on Auburn Street at its intersection with Walsh Avenue and end just south of its intersection with Brotherton Way. The Project Area is predominantly commercial in nature, as well as including several municipal properties such as the Fire Station and Auburn High School. The project length is approximately 2,600 linear feet (0.49 miles).

Project Goals

- Improve Pavement Conditions
- Improve Bicycle & Pedestrian Accommodations and Safety
- Improve Intersection Traffic Signal Operations

Proposed Improvements

- Bicycle Lanes on Both Sides of the Roadway
- New Sidewalks throughout the Project Limits
- New Traffic Signal at Brotherton Way
- New Decorative Street Lighting and Streetscape Elements

Proposed Improvements: The proposed improvements include pavement rehabilitation and reconstruction, decorative street lighting, landscaping, traffic signal upgrades at the intersection of Auburn Street and Southbridge Street (Route 12), full traffic signal reconstruction at Auburn Street and Brotherton Way and additional emergency pre-emption equipment at the fire station located on Auburn Street. Geometric improvements include resetting the curb to provide a consistent roadway cross section, including bikeable shoulders, and providing sidewalks and ADA compliant wheelchair ramps.

Traffic Management: For the majority of construction, all roadways will remain open to traffic. At least one lane of traffic in each direction is expected to be maintained; however, there could be instances where alternating traffic is proposed during off-peak commuter hours. Occasional short traffic disruptions may occur, but every effort will be made to minimize inconvenience to the public. All driveways in the project area will remain open to traffic throughout construction.

Right of Way: Temporary and permanent easements will be required throughout the project limits to accommodate the proposed sidewalk reconstruction and traffic signal upgrades, as well

as for potential utility relocations. The Right of Way required for the construction of this project is the responsibility of the Town of Auburn.

Project Cost: The preliminary construction cost of this project at this design stage is approximately \$4 million (includes approximately \$1 million dollars of Town funds).

Project Schedule: The design plans presented at this meeting are at preliminary design stage. Comments made at this hearing will be reviewed and may be incorporated in the final plans prior to the award of the construction contract. This project must be programmed in the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) in the appropriate Federal Fiscal Year in order for MassDOT to solicit bids for eventual construction. This project, through the Central Massachusetts Metropolitan Planning Organization, is currently programmed on the 2021 Statewide TIP, with construction anticipated to start no earlier than Summer of 2021.

Address: _____

Please Fold and Tape

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Appropriate
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Patricia A. Leavenworth, P.E.
Chief Engineer
MassDOT – Highway Division
10 Park Plaza
Boston, MA 02116-393

RE: Public Hearing
Auburn Street Reconstruction Project
AUBURN
Project File No. 607733
Roadway Project Management Section