



**DESIGN PUBLIC HEARING  
FEBRUARY 25, 2019**

**AT**

**AVON TOWN HALL**

**AVON, MASSACHUSETTS**

**6:30 PM**

**FOR THE PROPOSED**

**Harrison Boulevard and Pond Street Intersection Improvements Project  
Project No. 608086  
Roadway Project Management**

**IN THE TOWN OF AVON, 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. 608086**

A Design Public Hearing will be held by MassDOT to discuss the proposed Harrison Boulevard and Pond Street Intersection Improvements project in **Avon, MA**.

WHERE: Avon Town Hall, Mary McDermott Meeting Room  
65 E. Main Street  
Avon, MA 02322

WHEN: Monday, February 25, 2019 @ 6:30 PM

PURPOSE: The purpose of this hearing is to provide the public with the opportunity to become fully acquainted with the proposed Harrison Boulevard and Pond Street Intersection Improvements project. All views and comments made at the hearing will be reviewed and considered to the maximum extent possible.

PROPOSAL: The proposed project consists of the installation of a new traffic signal at the intersection, widening of the pavement to accommodate turn lanes, provisions for bicycles, and construction of sidewalk. The project limits begin on Harrison Boulevard just east of the Route 24 ramps and end 1,000' east of the intersection. The project limits on Pond Street start 70' south of the intersection and end 1000' north of the intersection. Sidewalks are provided along Pond Street and Old Pond Street. ADA compliant ramps are included at the intersection. Bicycle accommodations consisting of a shared use path are provided for 600' on the north side of Pond Street. A usable shoulder is provided throughout the rest of the project limits. These accommodations have been provided in accordance with applicable design guides.

A secure right-of-way is necessary for this project. Acquisitions in fee and permanent or temporary easements may be required. The town and MassDOT are 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. **608086**. 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](mailto: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](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 (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.

## **TO SAFEGUARD THE PROPERTY OWNER**

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.

## **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 that are not to be acquired by the State. 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?**

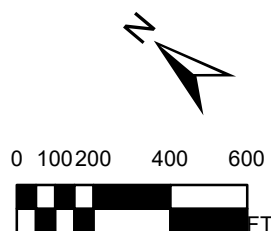
No, if the owner feels that the offer is not fair the owner may petition the courts. This action does not stop or delay the acquisition. The action must occur within 3 years. The owner(s) may be paid pro tanto (for the time being). The pro tanto payment will not prejudice the court's final decision.





**TOWN OF AVON, MA**

**HARRISON BLVD AT POND ST  
INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS**



**Figure 1. Locus Map**

**CHWA**  
design/construction solutions



## **PROPOSED SCOPE OF WORK**

The Massachusetts Department of Transportation – Highway Division is proposing improvements at the intersection of Harrison Boulevard and Pond Street in the Town of Avon, MA. Improvements are intended to improve traffic flow and safety for all roadway users. The project limits begin on Harrison Boulevard just east of the ramps to Route 24 and end approximately 1,000 ft. east of the Pond Street intersection. Along Pond Street, the project will extend 1,000 ft. northeast from the intersection of Harrison Boulevard up to Peterson Road.

### **Purpose and Need**

The goal of this project is to make safety and traffic flow improvements at the intersection of Harrison Boulevard and Pond Street which has been identified as a high crash location by MassDOT. A Road Safety Audit, consisting of a meeting of State and local officials and subsequent report to evaluate the roadways deficiencies and safety issues, was held in 2014 for this intersection. The project intends to implement recommendations from the Road Safety Audit.

### **Existing Conditions**

Harrison Boulevard is classified as an urban minor arterial and is owned by MassDOT. West of Pond Street, Harrison Boulevard has two travel lanes in each direction divided by a raised median with guardrail with approximately 10-foot shoulders. To the east of the intersection of Pond Street, the roadway drops to one travel lane in each direction with a concrete median barrier. Harrison Boulevard has no sidewalks or designated bicycle lanes. There are left and right turn lanes on each approach to the intersection. Approximately 38,000 vehicles per day (vpd) travel on Harrison Boulevard on an average day.

Pond Street is an urban minor arterial that is owned by the Town of Avon. It has one travel lane in each direction with sidewalks on both sides of the road starting approximately 150 feet north of Harrison Boulevard. Pond Street runs north of Harrison Boulevard and ends at the intersection of Pond Street and West Main Street. The southern leg of Pond Street provides access to D. W. Field Park with restricted vehicular access by a gate which is locked between 9pm and 10am.

### **Proposed Improvements**

At the intersection of Harrison Boulevard and Pond Street, it is proposed to completely replace the existing traffic control signal with new equipment that meets current MassDOT and Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) standards. Pedestrian signals, pushbuttons and bicycle detection will also be included. The lane geometry on the eastbound Harrison Boulevard approach to the intersection will be modified as part of the project. A second dedicated left-turn lane will be provided, and the dedicated right-turn lane will be eliminated; the right-turn will operate from a shared lane with the through movement. The eastbound dual left-turn movement also requires a second northbound receiving lane on Pond Street which will extend approximately 100' northeast of Bodwell Street. Roadway widening will be required on both Harrison Boulevard and Pond Street to accommodate the new lane assignments as well as 5'



wide shoulders. The Pond Street approach to the intersection will maintain the existing right turn and through/left turn lane.

A 10' wide shared use path separated from the roadway by a 5' wide grassed strip is proposed along the northern side of Pond Street between Harrison Boulevard and Bodwell Street. This path will service both pedestrians and bicycles and provide a safer path of travel that is separated from vehicular traffic. A sidewalk and 5' wide shoulder will be maintained on the south side of Pond Street throughout the project. Crosswalks across all four approaches to the intersection with Harrison Boulevard will be provided. The sidewalks will be extended down Old Pond Street up to the access gate to D.W. Field Park. All proposed pedestrian facilities will comply with current ADA/ MAAB regulations.

Additional improvements include a new concrete barrier to replace the existing guardrail in the center median along Harrison Boulevard. New traffic signage and pavement markings are proposed consistent with the proposed intersection modifications. The project will require the relocation of 10 utility poles along Pond Street as well as minor stormwater drainage system modifications to relocate inlets to the new curb lines.

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Please Fold and Tape



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Please Place  
Appropriate  
Postage Here

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

RE: Public Hearing  
Harrison Boulevard and Pond Street Intersection Improvements Project  
AVON  
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