VIRTUAL DESIGN PUBLIC HEARING

MAY 21ST, 2025

FOR THE PROPOSED

Intersection improvements at Route 28, Spring Street and Harrison Boulevard
Project No. 611979
Project Management

IN THE TOWN OF AVON, 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 VIRTUAL DESIGN PUBLIC HEARING

Project Description: Avon – Intersection improvements at Route 28, Spring Street and Harrison Boulevard

A Virtual Design Public Hearing will be hosted on the MassDOT website below to present the design for the proposed project in Avon, MA.

WHEN: **7:00pm, Wednesday, May 21st ,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 improving overall safety and reducing the number of injuries and crashes at the unsignalized intersection of East and West Spring Street and Route 28 with a new traffic signal. There will be improvements on West Spring Street and Harrison Blvd to eliminate vehicle conflict points and speed reduction measures. There will be enhancements to pedestrian and bicycle accommodation which include a 10-foot shared-use path on the eastern side of Route 28 along with curb ramps and crosswalks. A new bike and pedestrian access to School Street from Route 28 have been planned with this project.

A secure right-of-way is necessary for this project. Acquisitions in fee and permanent or temporary easements may be required. The Commonwealth of Massachusetts 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. 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. 611979. 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
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

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.



FUSS & O'NEILL

611979 - INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS AT ROUTE 28, SPRING STREET AND HARRISON BOULEVARD
AVON, MA

LOCUS MAP

Drawing Not to Scale

Project Description

The Massachusetts Department of Transportation – Highway Division (MassDOT) is proposing the reconstruction of the intersection of Route 28 at East and West Spring Street as well as the rehabilitation of Route 28 and Harrison Boulevard. The project limits span from approximately 250 feet south of East Street to approximately 100 feet north of Gill Street as well as approximately 600 feet west along Harrison Boulevard. The project includes traffic signal construction, roadway reconstruction, and sidewalk & shared-use path construction.

Proposed Improvements

The primary improvements include installation of a new traffic signal at the intersection of Route 28 and East /West Spring Street and roadway reconstruction at the intersection of Route 28 and Harrison Boulevard (including traffic signal improvements). Other proposed improvements include full depth pavement replacement, ADA compliant pedestrian ramps, utility relocations/drainage improvements, and pedestrian and bicycle accommodations consisting of sidewalk reconstruction and the construction of a 10-foot shared-use path along the east side of Route 28. West Spring is proposed to be permanently a dead-end at Route 28 to reduce cut-through traffic and reduce the number of vehicle conflicts turning and improve safety. A modified cul-de-sac ("offset bulb) will be used to create the dead-end.

Existing Conditions

Route 28 is classified as an urban principal arterial under the jurisdiction of MassDOT. Two travel lanes are provided in each direction on Route 28 and there are 5-foot sidewalks on either side of the roadway. The speed limit at this section of Route 28 is 40 mph, although it is not posted within the project limits. Harrison Boulevard is classified as an urban minor arterial under the jurisdiction of MassDOT. One travel lane is provided in each direction, and no sidewalks are present along the roadway. East Spring Street is classified as an urban minor arterial and West Spring Street is classified as a local roadway; both contain one travel lane per direction. The sidewalk exists along the north side of East Spring Street and along both sides of West Spring Street. The land use within the project area includes business zoning, restricted development, and mixed-use purposes.

Maintenance of Traffic During Construction

Route 28, Harrison Boulevard, East Spring Street, and West Spring Street will remain open to traffic during construction. Temporary alternating lane closures will be required during workday non-peak hours. Driveway access for abutting properties and businesses shall be always maintained during construction.

THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
HIGHWAY DIVISION

FEDERAL AID PROJECT

Avon, MA
Intersection improvements at Route 28, Spring Street and Harrison Boulevard
Project File No. 611979

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. Lavallee, 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.

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Organization: _____

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Please Place Appropriate Postage Here

Carrie E. Lavallee, P.E.
Chief Engineer
MassDOT – Highway Division
10 Park Plaza
Boston, MA 02116-3973

RE: Virtual Public Hearing
Intersection improvements at Route 28, Spring Street and Harrison Boulevard
AVON
Project File No. 611979
Attn: Project Management