



**DESIGN PUBLIC HEARING**

**February 12<sup>th</sup>, 2026**

**FOR THE PROPOSED**

**Replacment of Bridge on Old Coldbrook Road over the Prince River**

**Project No. 612084**

**Bridge No. B-02-004**

**Highway Design**

**IN THE TOWN OF BARRE, 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 DESIGN PUBLIC HEARING**

**Project Description: Barre – Bridge Replacement, Br# B-02-004, Old Coldbrook Road over Prince River  
Project File No. 612084**

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

WHERE: Barre Town Hall, Selectboard's Room  
40 West Street  
Barre, MA 01005

WHEN: Thursday, February 12, 2026 @ 6:30PM

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 a full bridge replacement is of Bridge # B-02-004, Old Coldbrook Road over the Prince River. The project limits extend approximately 150 feet in either direction from the ends of the current bridge. Bicycle and pedestrian facilities do not exist within this area; however, accommodations are currently being considered in the design. Options are also being investigated on routes that may be necessary for a detour during construction.

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 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](mailto:MassDOTProjectManagement@dot.state.ma.us) or via US Mail to Suite 7550, 10 Park Plaza, Boston, MA 02116, Attention: Project Management, Project File No. 612084. 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](mailto: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  
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.

The figure consists of two maps. The top map is an inset map showing a detailed view of the study area. It features a north arrow pointing upwards. A black box labeled "INSET" is in the top left corner. A black line points from a box labeled "BR. NO. B-02-004 (CVK)" to a specific location on the map. The map shows roads including James St, Summer St, Valley Rd, Pleasant Brook, and Old Coldbrook Rd. Other landmarks include "RCALAL'S BUILT IN SHIMMER / RCALAL'S...", "Palmer Pavey Property", "Barre Hiking & Diving Club", "Barre Park", and "Walnut Hill Rd". The bottom map shows a larger area, including the town of Barre, Vermont. A black box labeled "LOCATION OF INSET" points to the area shown in the top map. The map shows roads including Route 100, Route 12, Route 10, Route 11, Route 13, Route 14, Route 15, Route 16, Route 17, Route 18, Route 19, Route 20, Route 21, Route 22, Route 23, Route 24, Route 25, Route 26, Route 27, Route 28, Route 29, Route 30, Route 31, Route 32, Route 33, Route 34, Route 35, Route 36, Route 37, Route 38, Route 39, Route 40, Route 41, Route 42, Route 43, Route 44, Route 45, Route 46, Route 47, Route 48, Route 49, Route 50, Route 51, Route 52, Route 53, Route 54, Route 55, Route 56, Route 57, Route 58, Route 59, Route 60, Route 61, Route 62, Route 63, Route 64, Route 65, Route 66, Route 67, Route 68, Route 69, Route 70, Route 71, Route 72, Route 73, Route 74, Route 75, Route 76, Route 77, Route 78, Route 79, Route 80, Route 81, Route 82, Route 83, Route 84, Route 85, Route 86, Route 87, Route 88, Route 89, Route 90, Route 91, Route 92, Route 93, Route 94, Route 95, Route 96, Route 97, Route 98, Route 99, Route 100. Other landmarks include "Moose Brook Wildlife Management Area", "Bull Goo Lawn Care", "Autumn Morning Farm Beekeeping Supplies", "Clare Park Water", "Higgins Powersports", "Hampshire Lumber-Barre", and "Camp Coldbrook RV Resort".

## PROJECT DESCRIPTION

This project consists of the proposed bridge replacement and associated approach roadway work at Old Coldbrook Road over Prince River (Bridge No. B-02-004) in Barre, Massachusetts.

The purpose of this project is to maintain vehicular access along Old Coldbrook Road. The need of the project is to address a structurally deficient and non-scour stable bridge. The project includes a complete replacement of the existing bridge with a new 67'-6" single span steel stringer bridge supported on integral abutments with driven H-piles. The proposed bridge type and configuration was selected based on long term serviceability (providing a minimum of a 75-year service life), providing a structure that will meet MassDOT hydraulic and scour design criteria depths, reducing maintenance expenditures for the Town of Barre, and constructability concerns given the preferred traffic control scheme. Project constraints used to determine the design of the proposed roadway elements include:

- Limiting the right-of-way takings to the greatest extent practicable per request of the Town of Barre.
- Meeting the requirements for a "footprint" bridge permitting exemption by not increasing the capacity or significantly change the alignment.

The selection of a recommended preferred alternative also considers the impacts to abutting properties (including nearby Article 97 lands), natural resources, and the need for design exceptions from the Department's standards that are required to advance the preferred alternative.

THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS  
MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
HIGHWAY DIVISION

FEDERAL AID PROJECT

Barre, MA  
BRIDGE REPLACEMENT, B-02-004, OLD COLDBROOK RD OVER PRINCE RIVER  
Project File No. 612084

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](mailto: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.**

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

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: In-person Public Hearing  
BRIDGE REPLACEMENT, B-02-004, OLD COLDBROOK RD OVER PRINCE RIVER  
**BARRE**  
Project File No. 612084  
Attn: Project Management

