



VIRTUAL DESIGN PUBLIC HEARING

August 17th, 2020

FOR THE PROPOSED

**Safe Routes to School - School Street Improvements
Project No. 608911
Project Management**

IN THE TOWN OF BELMONT, 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 MEETING
Project File No. 608911

A Virtual Design Public Hearing will be published on the MassDOT website below to present the design for the proposed improvements project under the “Safe Routes to School” program associated with the **Wellington Elementary School in Belmont, MA**.

WHEN: **Monday, August 17, 2020**

PURPOSE: The purpose of this hearing is to provide the public with the opportunity to become fully acquainted with the proposed Wellington Elementary School Safe Routes to School 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 traffic signal reconstruction, cement concrete sidewalk reconstruction, cement concrete shared use path construction, ADA compliant wheelchair ramps, pavement milling and overlay, pavement markings, signs and minor drainage improvements. **Shared use accommodations consisting of a 10ft wide Shared Use Path (South Side)** 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 of Belmont** is responsible for acquiring all needed rights in private or public lands. MassDOT’s policy concerning land acquisitions will be presented in the hearing.

Written statements and other exhibits 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. **608911**. Mailed statements and exhibits intended for inclusion in the public hearing transcript must be postmarked no later than ten (10) business days after the hearing is posted to the MassDOT website listed below. Project inquiries may be emailed to dot.feedback.highway@state.ma.us

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 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 hearing.

This Virtual Design Public Hearing or a cancellation announcement will be posted on the internet at www.mass.gov/massdot-highway-design-public-hearings.

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

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.



1" = 300'

Wellington Elementary - Safe Routes to School Belmont, MA



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TEC, Inc.
146 Dascomb Road
Andover, MA 01810

Locus Map

Safe Routes to School School Street Improvements Wellington Elementary School Belmont, MA

PROJECT LOCATION

The project includes traffic and safety improvements along School Street associated with the Wellington Elementary School in Belmont, MA. The attached Locus Map outlines the project location.

PROJECT PURPOSE

The Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) and the Town of Belmont are proposing pedestrian, bicycle, and vehicular safety improvements along approximately 1,000 feet of School Street, 300 feet of Common Street, and 150 feet of Waverly Street including the intersection of School St/Common St/ and Waverly St. This proposed project is primarily intended to improve the safety and accessibility for pedestrians and bicyclists from the surrounding neighborhoods to the Wellington Elementary School.

PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS

The project includes pedestrian and bicycle safety improvements along School Street. The proposed improvements include:

- Construction of a 10' wide shared use path along the south side of School Street in front of the Wellington Elementary School;
- Reconstruction of sidewalks within the project limits to rectify non-compliant cross slopes, irregular/heaving surfaces, and deterioration;
- Construction of Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) / Architectural Access Board (AAB) compliant accessible curb ramps within the project limits;
- Realign Waverley Street to improve geometric alignment of the intersection and tighten corner radii to help reduce vehicular speeds and shorten the cross walks lengths;
- Resurfacing the roadway, resetting curb lines and modifying drainage infrastructure within the project limits;
- Striping of new thermoplastic crosswalks, STOP lines, centerlines, lane lines, and shoulder lines within the project limits;

- Construction of a new traffic signal at School Street/Common Street/Waverly Street including accessible pedestrian signals;
- Replace school zone flasher assemblies.

TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT

During typical construction operations, all roadways in the project area will remain open to residents and other traffic. Occasional short traffic disruptions and travel lane/shoulder closures may occur, but every effort will be made to minimize inconvenience to the travelling public and abutting residents and businesses. Pedestrian and vehicular access to abutting properties will be maintained throughout construction.

RIGHT OF WAY IMPACTS

Temporary construction easements will be required for minor grading impacts to lawns, driveways, and walkways and to restore impacts to adjacent properties. Small permanent easements will also be required for utility poles and associated overhead wires. The Town of Belmont will be responsible for securing all necessary easements. MassDOT's policy concerning land acquisition will be discussed at this hearing.

PROJECT COST

The current estimate of the total construction cost of this project is approximately \$1,600,000.

PROJECT SCHEDULE

The design plans presented this evening are at the 25%/75% design stage. Design, permitting and right of way acquisition must be completed by Spring 2021. Construction is anticipated to begin in the Fall of 2021.

THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
HIGHWAY DIVISION

FEDERAL AID PROJECT

Belmont, MA
Safe Routes to School Wellington Elementary School
Project No. 608911

This sheet is provided for your comments. Your input is solicited and appreciated. Please mail this sheet with any additional comments to:

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

Attn: Project Management

The final date for receipt of written statements and exhibits for inclusion into the official hearing transcript will be ten (10) days after the Hearing.

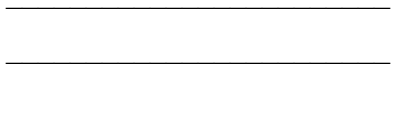
PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT LEGIBLY.

Name: _____ Title: _____

Organization: _____

Address: _____

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

RE: Virtual Public Hearing
Safe Routes to School Wellington Elementary School
BELMONT
Project File No. 608911
Insert section: Project Management

