



DESIGN PUBLIC HEARING WEBINAR

July 10, 2020

For the Proposed

**Buckland – Conway Street, Summer Street, South Street and Conway Road
Reconstruction and Minor Widening Project**

Project No. 606463

Project Management

Town of Buckland, 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 WEBINAR
Project File No. 606463

A Design Public Hearing Webinar will be published on the MassDOT website to present the design for the proposed Conway Street, Summer Street, South Street and Conway Road Improvements project in the Town of Buckland, MA.

WHEN: July 10, 2020

PURPOSE: The purpose of this hearing webinar is to provide the public with the opportunity to become fully acquainted with the proposed Conway Street, Summer Street, South Street and Conway Road Improvements Project. All views and comments submitted in response to the webinar will be reviewed and considered to the maximum extent possible.

PROPOSAL: The Town Of Buckland and the Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) are proposing improvements to a 1.7-mile long corridor along Conway Street, Summer Street, South Street, and Conway Road in the Town of Buckland. The purpose of the proposed project is to increase safety and mobility throughout the corridor. Proposed improvements along the corridor include: roadway rehabilitation and reconstruction, minor roadway widening, installation of granite curb, construction of ADA/AAB compliant sidewalks and ramps at pedestrian crossings, bicycle accommodations, drainage improvements, culvert replacement and repairs, and the installation of new traffic signs and pavement markings. Bicycle accommodations include 5 ft bicycle lanes on some sections and 1 to 4 ft usable shoulders on other sections.

A secured right-of-way will be required for this project. Acquisitions of properties in fee and securing permanent or temporary easements may be required. The Town of Buckland is responsible for acquiring all needed rights in private and public lands. MassDOT's policy concerning land acquisitions will be presented during the webinar.

Written comments or views may be received by MassDOT subsequent to the date of this notice and up to five (5) days prior to the date of the webinar, plans and a project handout will be made available on the MassDOT website listed below.

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: **Project Management**, Project File No. **606463**. Mailed statements and exhibits intended for inclusion in the public hearing webinar transcript must be postmarked no later than ten (10) business days after the webinar is posted to the MassDOT website listed below. 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 webinar.

Hearing webinar 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.

RIGHT OF WAY ISSUES

A secure right of way is necessary for this project. Temporary and permanent 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.

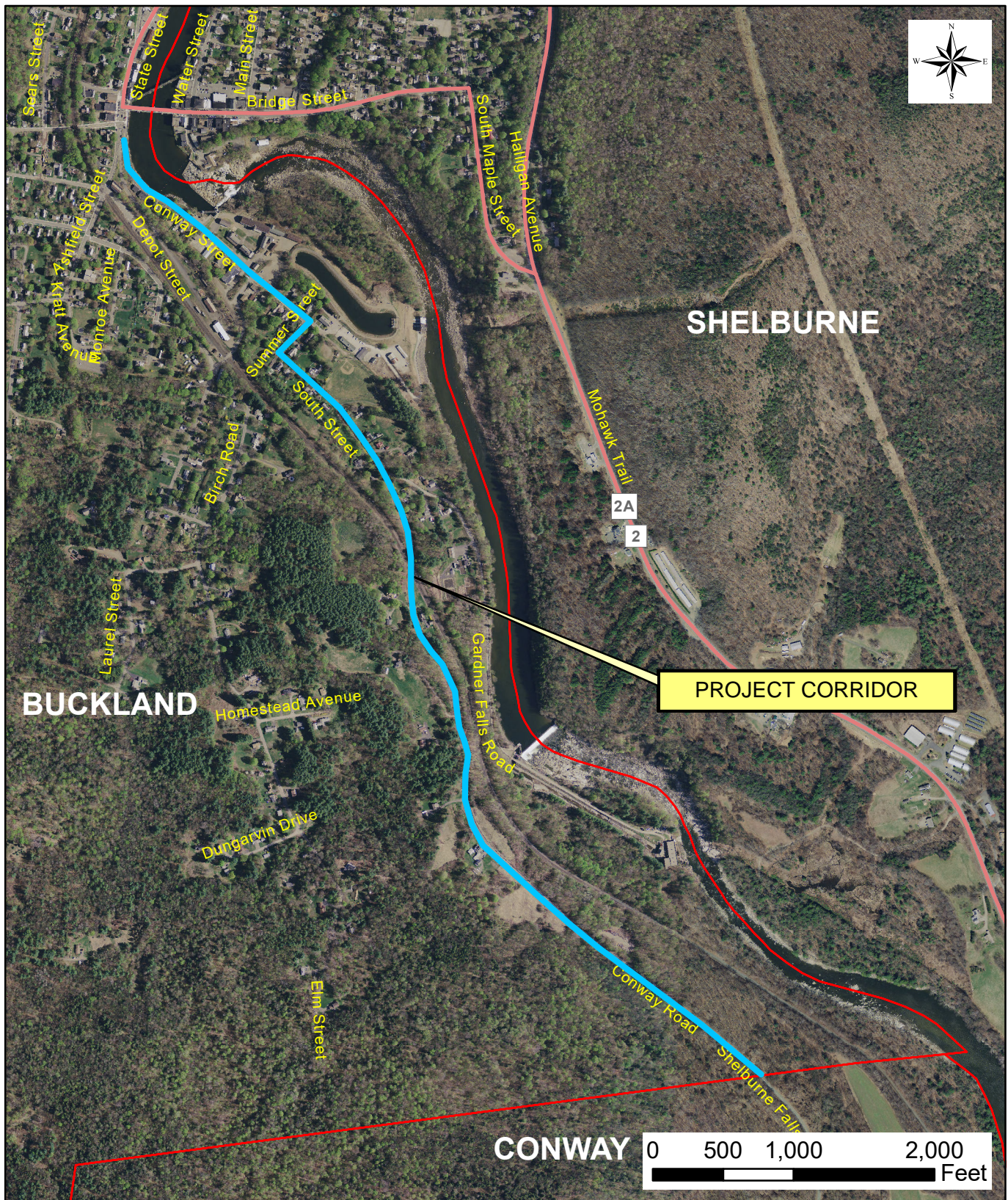
A Right of Entry is a document that is signed by the owner. It allows the Contractor to perform certain types of work on the owner's land. The work is usually minor in nature and frequently consists of loaming/seeding behind sidewalks, new driveway apron work, grading/sloping, and wetland protection,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



Project Locus Map

Conway Street, Summer Street, South Street and Conway Road Improvements

Buckland, MA

Project No. 606463

Data Source: MassGIS
Nitsch Project #11130



PROPOSAL

PROJECT LOCATION

The project includes safety, mobility, and roadway improvements to Conway Street, Summer Street, South Street, and Conway Road in the Town of Buckland, Massachusetts. The project limits begin at the intersection of Conway Street with Clement Street/Ashfield Street and extend approximately 1.7 miles southerly to the Buckland/Conway Town Line. The attached Locus Map shows the proposed project limits.

PROJECT PURPOSE

This purpose of this project is to increase safety and mobility for all modes of transportation. The Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) and the Town of Buckland are proposing pedestrian, bicyclist, and vehicular safety and mobility improvements along Conway Street, Summer Street, South Street, and Conway Road. New sidewalks and bicycle accommodations are proposed along Conway Street, South Street, and Summer Street. Full depth pavement reconstruction is proposed for the entire project length. Included as part of this proposed full depth roadway reconstruction project, two culverts running under South Street and Conway Road are proposed to be replaced with new concrete box culverts, two existing concrete culverts under South Street are proposed to be repaired, and several corrugated metal pipe culverts of various sizes along the project corridor are proposed to be cleaned and retained. Drainage, water, sewer, and utility pole modifications are also proposed within the project limits.

PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS

The proposed project improvements include the following:

- Reconstruct roadways with a new full depth pavement structure
- Minor widening along roadways as necessary to provide bicycle accommodations
- Resurface the roadway, reset curb, modify drainage, sewer, water, and overhead wire infrastructure within the project limits
- Construct Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) / Architectural Access Board (AAB) compliant accessible sidewalks and pedestrian ramps to improve pedestrian accommodations from the northerly project limits to Gardner Falls Road
- Stripe new high-visibility ladder-style crosswalks, STOP lines, roadway centerlines, lane lines, and shoulder lines within the project limits.
- Install new traffic signage
- Install new guardrail, where required, throughout the project limits

TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT

During typical roadway construction operations, all roads within the project area will remain open to vehicular 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 during construction. Pedestrian and vehicular access to abutting properties will be maintained throughout construction.

A detour is anticipated for the construction of two (2) new concrete culverts just north of Gardner Falls Road. Traffic on Conway Road and South Street will be detoured during the construction of these culverts only. Detour signage will be installed along the detour route, which is proposed to utilize Wilder Hill Road, Baptist Corner Road, Bray Road, and Ashfield Street. Pedestrian and vehicular access to abutting properties will be maintained throughout construction.

RIGHT OF WAY IMPACTS

Temporary construction easements will be required to grade, reseed lawns, and reconstruct driveway aprons and walkways affected by construction activities and to restore associated impacts to adjacent properties. Permanent easements will be required for modified roadway geometry and new sidewalks. Permanent utility easements will also be required for new culverts, retaining walls, and relocated overhead utilities. The Town of Buckland will be responsible for securing all necessary easements. MassDOT's policy concerning land acquisition will be discussed at this hearing.

PROJECT COST

The project construction costs will be funded with a combination of money from the Federal Highway Administration and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and is currently estimated at \$8.25 million. Funding for the project must be programmed in the State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP)

PROJECT SCHEDULE

The design plans are at the 25% design stage. The project is programmed for FY21 and FY22 funding in the amount of \$7.9 million in the State Transportation Improvement Program. Final design, environmental permitting and right of way acquisition is anticipated to be completed by Spring 2021 and construction advertising shortly thereafter.

THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
HIGHWAY DIVISION

Federal Aid Project

Buckland, MA
Conway Street, Summer Street, South Street and Conway Road Reconstruction and Minor
Widening Project

Project File No. 606463

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

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

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

PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT LEGIBLY.

Name: _____ Title: _____

Organization: _____

Address: _____

Please Fold and Tape

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Postage Here

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

RE: Public Hearing Webinar
Conway Street, Summer Street, South Street and Conway Road
Buckland, MA
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