



**DESIGN PUBLIC HEARING**

**MARCH 31, 2020**

**AT**

**TOWN HALL**

**SHELBURNE FALLS, MASSACHUSETTS**

**6:30 PM**

**For the Proposed**

**Reconstruction of Conway St, Summer St, South St  
and Conway Road**

**Project File #606463  
Roadway Project Management**

**In the 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**  
**Project File No. 606463**

A Design Public Hearing will be held by MassDOT and the Town of Buckland to discuss the proposed Reconstruction on Conway Street, Summer Street, South Street and Conway Road Project in Buckland, MA.

WHERE: Town Hall  
17 State Street  
Shelburne Falls, MA 01370

WHEN: Tuesday, March 31, 2020 at 6:30 PM

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

PROPOSAL: The Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) and the Town of Buckland 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.

A secure right-of-way is necessary for this project. Acquisitions in fee and permanent or temporary easements may be required. The Town of Buckland is 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. **606463**. Such submissions will also be accepted at the hearing/meeting. Mailed statements and exhibits intended for inclusion in the public hearing transcript must be postmarked no later than ten (10) business days after 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.

## 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. 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.

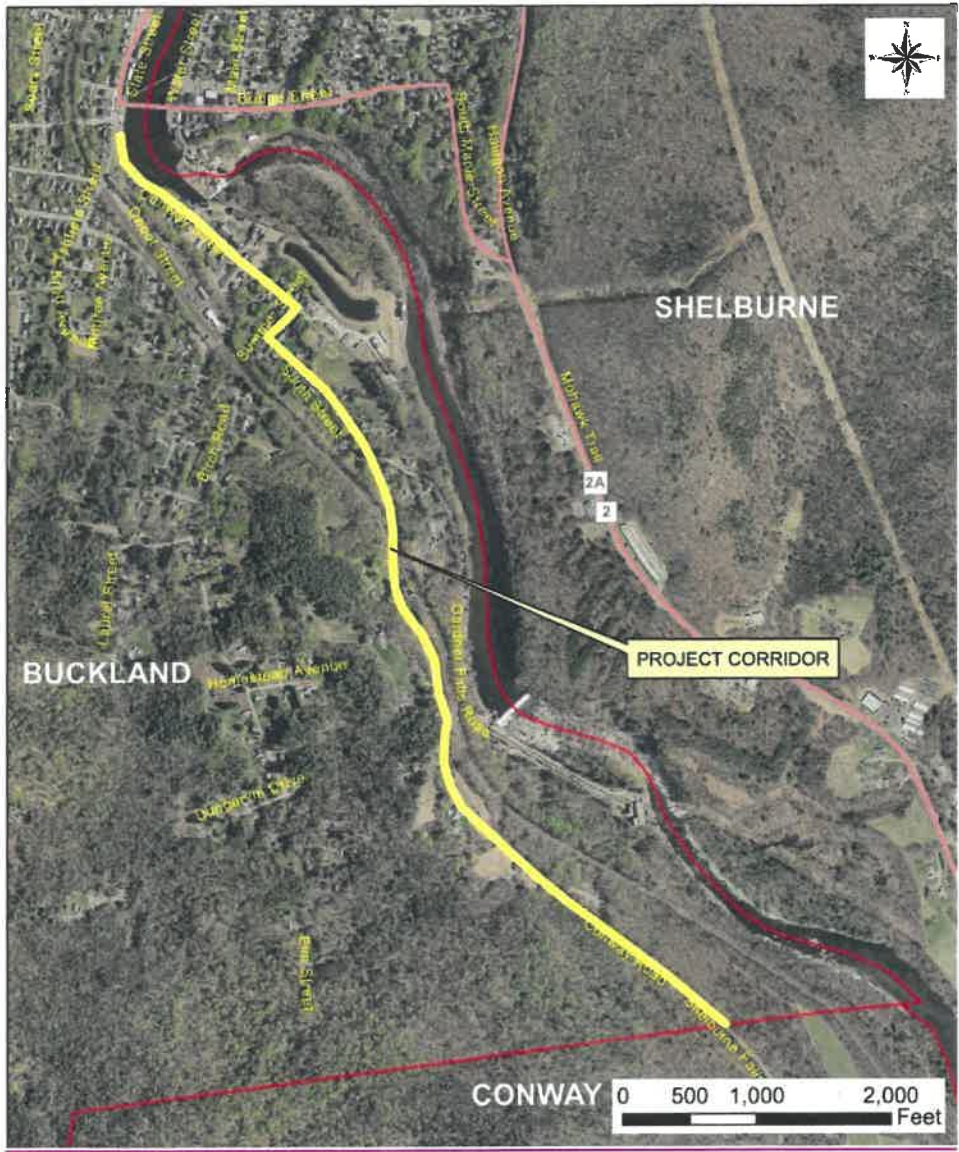
A Right of Entry is a document that is signed by the owner. It allows the Contractor to perform certain types of work on the owner's land. The work is usually minor in nature and frequently consists of loaming/seeding behind sidewalks, new driveway apron work, grading/sloping, and wetland protection,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



Reconstruction of Conway St, Summer St, South St and Conway Road  
Project File No. 606463

## **Reconstruction of Conway St, Summer St, South St and Conway Road Buckland, MA**

### **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 and 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.

## **PROJECT SCHEDULE**

The design plans are at the 25% design stage. The project is programmed for FY21 and FY22 funding in the State Transportation Improvement Program for construction. Final design, environmental permitting and right of way acquisition is anticipated to be complete by Winter/Spring 2020/2021 and construction advertising shortly thereafter.



THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS  
MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
HIGHWAY DIVISION

Federal Aid Project

Buckland, MA  
Reconstruction of Conway St, Summer St, South St and Conway Road  
Project File No. 606463

This sheet is provided for your comments. Your input is solicited and appreciated. Please return your sheet, with comments, to a staff member at the meeting, or mail to:

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

**PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT LEGIBLY.**

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

RE: Public Hearing  
Reconstruction of Conway St, Summer St, South St and Conway Road  
Buckland, MA  
Project File No 606463  
Project Management

