



VIRTUAL DESIGN PUBLIC HEARING

February 27, 2024

FOR THE PROPOSED

**ALEWIFE BROOK PARKWAY (~RT 3/RT 16/RT 2) OVER MBTA REDLINE TUNNEL
BRIDGE SUPERSTRUCTURE REPLACEMENT PROJECT**

Project No. 610776

Highway Design

IN THE CITY OF CAMBRIDGE, 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 File No. 610776

A Live Virtual Design Public Hearing will be hosted on the MassDOT website below to present an overview of the proposed Alewife Brook Parkway (~Rt 3/Rt 16/Rt 2) over MBTA Redline Tunnel Bridge Superstructure Replacement Project in Cambridge.

WHEN: 6:30 PM, Tuesday, February 27th, 2024.

PURPOSE: The Live Virtual Design Public Hearing will be hosted on Zoom. The purpose of this hearing is to provide the public with the opportunity to become fully acquainted with the proposed bridge superstructure replacement project. All views and comments submitted in response to the hearing will be reviewed and considered to the maximum extent possible.

PROPOSAL: This Project will include replacing the bridge superstructure which carries Alewife Brook Parkway, US Route 3, Route 16, and Route 2 over the MBTA Redline tunnel. MassDOT invites you to attend the Design Public Hearing to learn more about the need for the Project, the work to be performed, the schedule, potential impacts to the public (including vehicular and pedestrian/bicyclists), and the next steps.

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 at the hearing.

Project inquiries, written statements and other exhibits regarding the proposed undertaking may be submitted to Carrie Lavallee, P.E., Chief Engineer, via e-mail to MassDOTProjectManagement@dot.state.ma.us via US Mail to Suite 7550, 10 Park Plaza, Boston, MA 02116, Attention: **Project Management**, Project File No. **610776**. 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 is posted to 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). 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 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 hearing. 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.

LOCUS MAP



CAMBRIDGE

Alewife Brook Parkway (~Rt 3/Rt 16/Rt 2) over MBTA Redline Tunnel Bridge Superstructure Replacement Project in Cambridge.

PROJECT LOCATION

The project location includes the bridge superstructure which carries Alewife Brook Parkway, US Route 3, Route 16, and Route 2 over the MBTA Redline tunnel in Cambridge.

PROJECT PURPOSE

This Project will improve the safety and capacity of the bridge while limiting impacts to the roadway users, abutting properties, and path networks in and around the project site.

PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS

The scope of work for this project includes:

- Replacing the bridge superstructure with one designed to last 75+ years
- Providing a new riding surface, roadway lane striping, sidewalk, and bridge rails
- Considering updated under bridge lighting

LIMITING IMPACTS

The following measures will be utilized to limit impacts to the local community and traveling public:

- Utilizing accelerating construction techniques
- Planning work for typical daytime hours Monday through Friday
- Isolating night work for sidewalk reconstruction at the end of the project
- Limiting detours to the bicycle and pedestrian network under the bridge to two weekends
- Providing signage for detours and alternate pedestrian paths
- Minimizing noise and disturbance where possible
- Implementing dust control measures
- Ensuring the MBTA Station and Garage remain accessible
- Not impacting MBTA train operations, bus operations may be impacted by vehicular traffic
- Continuing to coordinate with the community and nearby projects

RIGHT OF WAY IMPACTS

MassDOT is responsible for acquiring all necessary rights in public land for design, construction, and implementation of this project. Fee takings, permanent easements and/or temporary construction easements may be required. Affected property owners will be contacted by personnel from the MassDOT ROW Bureau. Property owners are protected under Massachusetts General Laws, primarily Chapter 79.

PROJECT SCHEDULE

The design plans presented this evening represent a 25% level of design. The project has been programmed in the Statewide Transportation Improvement Plan for Federal Fiscal Year 2025. Construction is anticipated to begin in fall/winter 2025.

THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
HIGHWAY DIVISION

FEDERAL AID PROJECT

Cambridge, MA
Alewife Brook Parkway (~Rt 3/Rt 16/Rt 2) over MBTA Redline Tunnel Bridge Superstructure
Replacement Project
Project File No. **610776**

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.

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: Virtual Design Public Hearing
Alewife Brook Parkway (~Rt 3/Rt 16/Rt 2) over MBTA Redline Tunnel Bridge
Superstructure Replacement Project
CAMBRIDGE
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