



DESIGN PUBLIC HEARING

AUGUST 15, 2019

AT

**HAWLEMONT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
10 SCHOOL STREET
CHARLEMONT, MASSACHUSETTS, 01339**

7:00 PM

FOR THE PROPOSED

**Tower Road over Chickley River Bridge Replacement Project
Project No. 608644
Bridge No C-05-008
Bridge Project Management**

IN THE TOWN OF CHARLEMONT, 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. 608644

A Design Public Hearing will be held by MassDOT to discuss the proposed Tower Road over Chickley River Bridge Replacement Project in **Charlemont, MA**.

WHERE: Hawlemont Elementary School
10 School Street
Charlemont, MA 01339

WHEN: Thursday, August 15, 2019 @ 7:00 PM

PURPOSE: The purpose of this hearing is to provide the public with the opportunity to become fully acquainted with the proposed Tower Road over Chickley River Bridge Replacement project. All views and comments made at the hearing will be reviewed and considered to the maximum extent possible.

PROPOSAL: The proposed bridge project consists of the complete replacement of the existing single span bridge. The new 85-foot single span structure will have a 22-foot curb to curb width for vehicular and pedestrian traffic in accordance with applicable design guides. The bridge will remain closed to vehicular traffic, and will be closed to pedestrians, for the duration of construction; the current detour will be maintained.

A secure right-of-way is necessary for this project. Acquisitions in fee and permanent or temporary easements may be required. The town of Charlemont 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: **Bridge Project Management Section**, Project File No. **608644**. Such submissions will also be accepted at the hearing. Mailed statements and exhibits intended for inclusion in the public hearing transcript must be postmarked within ten (10) business days of this Public Hearing. 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 meeting.

In case of inclement weather, hearing cancellation announcements will be posted on the internet at <http://www.massdot.state.ma.us/Highway/>

JONATHAN GILLIVEER
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.

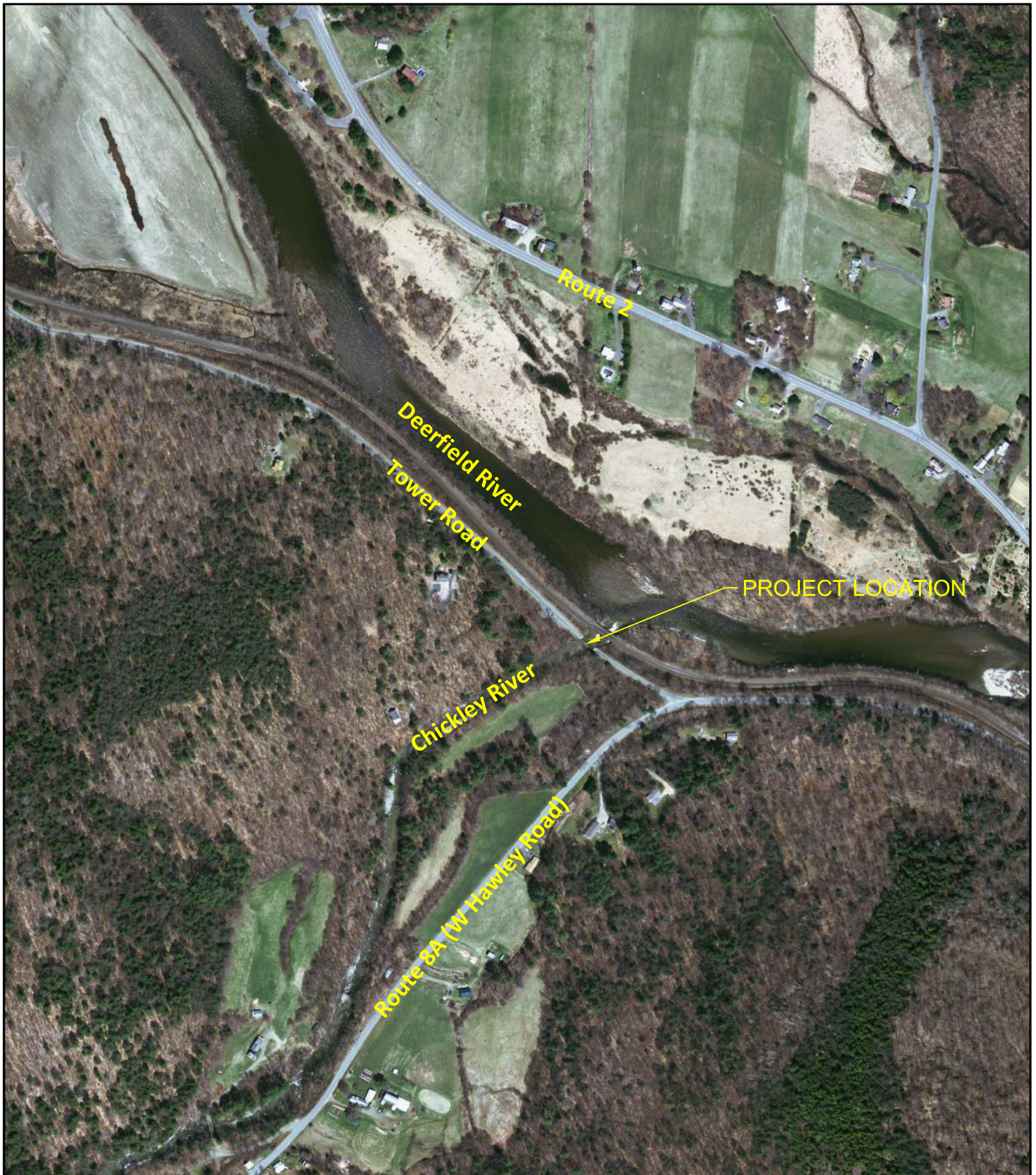
A Right of Entry is a document that is signed by the owner. It allows the Contractor to perform certain types of work on the owner's land. The work is usually minor in nature and frequently consists of loaming/seeding behind sidewalks, new driveway apron work, grading/sloping, and wetland protection,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



TITLE:
MASSDOT PROJECT NO. 608644
PROPOSED BRIDGE REPLACEMENT
TOWER ROAD OVER CHICKLEY RIVER
TOWN OF CHARLEMONT, MASSACHUSETTS

PREPARED BY:
Hoyle, Tanner
& Associates, Inc.
150 Dow Street, Manchester, NH 03101-1227
Tel (603) 669-5555 • Fax (603) 669-4168
www.hoyletanner.com

DATE:
OCTOBER 2018
SCALE:
1" = 500'

FIGURE #1

Tower Road over the Chickley River Bridge Replacement Project
Bridge No. C-05-008
Charlemont, MA

Project Location and Limits

The project area is on Tower Road over Chickley River located within the Town of Charlemont, Massachusetts. The bridge is approximately 400' northwest of the Tower Road intersection with Route 8A, and is 50' upstream of a railroad bridge. The project length is approximately 700-feet long, and extends approximately 290' northwest of the bridge and 325' southeast of the bridge.

Project Purpose

The purpose of this project is to replace the existing deteriorated structure with a new structure.

Existing Conditions

Bridge No. C-05-008 carries Tower Road over the Chickley River in the town of Charlemont, Massachusetts. The existing bridge was constructed in 1939, rehabilitated in 1991, and is a single-span steel stringer bridge. The superstructure consists of rolled steel beams with an open steel grate deck. The substructure consists of cast-in-place concrete abutments and wingwalls and is skewed to the roadway by approximately 23 degrees. The 1991 rehabilitation consisted of cleaning and painting the structural steel, modifications to the bridge rail connection to approach guardrail transition, concrete repairs to the substructure, deck joint modifications, and steel deck grating repairs.

The span length of the existing bridge is 72'-9" with a clear span of 70'-7" along the skew (65'-0" square). The bridge provides a total roadway width of 14'-0", with no sidewalks, and an out-to-out deck width of 16'-4".

The bridge is structurally deficient and was closed in October 2015 due to the condition of the superstructure.

Proposed Improvements

The proposed bridge will consist of a single span structure comprised of metalized steel plate girders and reinforced concrete deck, bearing on pile-supported concrete cantilever abutments. The structure will have a span length of 85'-0" and an overall width of 25'-3". The bridge will have an asphalt wearing surface, a 22'-0" curb-to-curb roadway with, and a crash-tested bridge rail system.

The proposed bridge will be shifted approximately 11'-0" upstream of the existing bridge to avoid encroachment onto the adjacent railroad right-of-way. The proposed bottom chord elevation will match the existing bottom chord elevation of the downstream railroad bridge, which is 2'-0" higher than the existing bridge; therefore, the roadway profile will be raised approximately 2'-6" at the bridge.

Traffic Management

The bridge was closed to vehicular traffic in October 2015 and will remain closed to vehicular and pedestrian traffic for the duration of construction. The existing 4.0 mile detour will be maintained.

Utilities

The project will require relocation of overhead wires; however, service connections from impacted utilities to adjacent properties will be maintained during construction.

Right of Way

Temporary and permanent easements will be required for this project.

Project Cost

The total construction cost at the 25% design level is estimated to be approximately \$4.0 million, including contingency.

Project Status

The plans on display tonight are at the 25% Design Stage. Comments received this evening will be considered in determining the final design. The design is anticipated to be complete in June 2020.

Address: _____

Please Fold and Tape



Please Place
Appropriate
Postage Here

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

RE: Public Hearing
TOWER ROAD OVER CHICKLEY RIVER BRIDGE REPLACEMENT
CHARLEMONT, MA
Project File No. 608644
Bridge Project Management

