



DESIGN PUBLIC HEARING

Thursday, March 9, 2023

6:30 PM

FOR THE PROPOSED

Downtown Lower Broadway Project
Targeted Safety Improvements and Related Work on Broadway
Project No. 609532
Project Management

IN THE CITY OF CHELSEA, 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 PUBLIC HEARING
Project File No. 609532

A Design Public Hearing will be held by MassDOT to present the design for the proposed project involving targeted safety improvements and related work on Broadway, from Williams Street to City Hall Avenue (Downtown Broadway Project) in **Chelsea, MA**.

WHERE: **The Williams Middle School**
 180 Walnut Street
 Chelsea, MA 02150

WHEN: **Thursday, March 9, 2023 @ 6:30 PM**

PURPOSE: The purpose of this hearing is to provide the public with the opportunity to become fully acquainted with the proposed Downtown Broadway Project. All views and comments submitted in response to the hearing will be reviewed and considered to the maximum extent possible.

PROPOSAL: The proposed project consists of adding MassDOT and Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (MBTA) improvements along the Broadway Corridor from City Hall to Williams Street (0.543 miles), including the permanent addition of the Downtown Broadway Bus/Bike Lane Pilot, intersection safety improvements, and the reconfiguration of the Bellingham Square signalized intersection. The completion of these improvements advances key goals of the 2018 City of Chelsea Re-imagining Broadway Plan, which rethinks the traffic and circulation of the Downtown Chelsea area with the goals of improving access, safety, and mobility for everyone. Standard safety countermeasures such as improved signage, lighting, traffic calming streetscape elements, curb extensions, signal upgrades, sidewalks, pavement and markings, and bus transit amenities will be included with this project.

A secure right-of-way is necessary for this project. Acquisitions in fee and permanent or temporary easements may be required. The **City is responsible for acquiring all needed rights in private or public lands**. The City's policy concerning land acquisitions will be presented in the hearing.

Project inquiries, written statements and other exhibits regarding the proposed undertaking may be submitted to Carrie E. Lavallee, P.E., Chief Engineer, via e-mail to MassDOTProjectManagement@dot.state.ma.us or via US Mail to Suite 7550, 10 Park Plaza, Boston, MA 02116, Attention: **Project Management, Project File No. 609532**. Statements and exhibits intended for inclusion in the public hearing transcript must be emailed or postmarked no later than ten (10) business days (14 calendar days) after the hearing is held.

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 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

CARRIE E. 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 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.

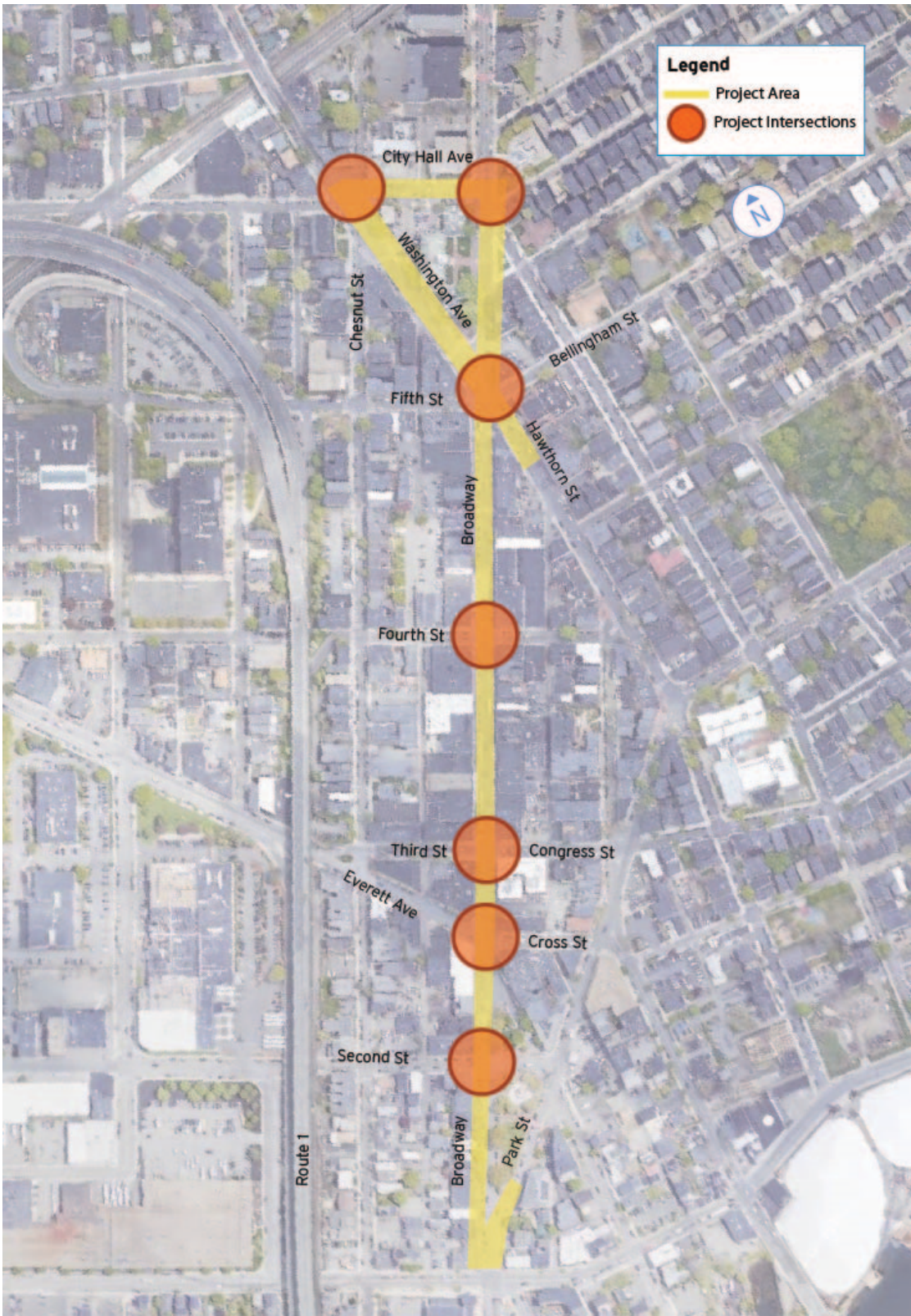


Figure 1 - Locus Map

Downtown Lower Broadway Project

PROJECT LOCATION

The study area includes the following intersections and their connecting roadways:

- Broadway at City Hall Avenue/Marlborough Street
- Washington Avenue at City Hall Avenue/Chestnut Street/Sixth Street (Fay Square)
- Broadway at Washington Avenue/Bellingham Street/Fifth Street/Hawthorne Street (Bellingham Square)
- Broadway at Fourth Street
- Broadway at Third Street/Congress Avenue
- Broadway at Everett Avenue/Cross Street/Winnisimmet Street
- Broadway at Second Street

PROJECT PURPOSE

This Project will add MassDOT and Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (MBTA) improvements along the Broadway Corridor from City Hall to Williams Street, including the permanent addition of the Downtown Broadway Bus/Bike Lane Pilot, intersection safety improvements, and the reconfiguration of the Bellingham Square signalized intersection. The completion of these improvements advances key goals of the 2018 City of Chelsea Re-imagining Broadway Plan, which rethinks the traffic and circulation of the Downtown Chelsea area with the goals of improving access, safety, and mobility for everyone.

PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS

The intent of the project is to improve roadway safety for all road users.

- Incorporate mobility improvements for pedestrians, transit, and bicyclists
- The permanent addition of the Downtown Broadway Bus/Bike Lane
- Intersection safety improvements
- Circulation improvements of Bellingham Square and Broadway at City Hall

MAINTENANCE OF TRAFFIC DURING CONSTRUCTION

All roadways within the project will remain open to traffic throughout construction. Parking as a while within the project area will be maintained to the maximum possible. During construction at each intersection, localized parking and the bus lane lanes will be closed. Occasional short traffic disruptions may occur, but every effort will be made to minimize inconvenience to the public. Pedestrian and vehicular access to abutting properties will always be maintained, except for brief periods of time during which abutters will be notified in advance.

RIGHT OF WAY IMPACTS

The proposed improvements will require temporary easements at storefronts and building entrances to connect the new sidewalks to the abutting properties. This will improve accessibility but may require access to the pavement up to building doors beyond the building overhangs. There are currently no permanent easements required.

PROJECT COST

The preliminary construction cost of this project at this design stage is approximately \$7,400,000.

PROJECT SCHEDULE

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

THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
HIGHWAY DIVISION

FEDERAL AID PROJECT

Chelsea, MA
Downtown Lower Broadway Project
Project File No. 609532

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: Design Public Hearing
Downtown Lower Broadway Project
CHELSEA
Project File No. 609532
Attn: Project Management

