



**DESIGN PUBLIC HEARING**

**FEBRUARY 19, 2026**

**FOR THE PROPOSED**

**Improvements at Mary C. Burke Elementary (Safe Routes To School)**

**Project No. 612884**

**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 DESIGN PUBLIC HEARING**

**Project Description: Chelsea – Improvements at Mary C. Burke Elementary (Safe Routes To School)  
Project File No. 612884**

A Design Public Hearing will be held to present the design for the proposed project in **Chelsea, MA**.

**WHERE:**       **Mary C. Burke Elementary School, Cafeteria  
300 Crescent Avenue  
Chelsea, MA 02150**

**WHEN:**       **Thursday, February 19, 2026 @ 6:00pm**

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

**PROPOSAL:** The purpose of this project is to improve pedestrian and bicyclist safety in the vicinity of the Mary C. Burke School in Chelsea through the upgrade of an existing signal at Stockton St and Eastern Ave, realignment of Stockton St to be perpendicular to Eastern Ave, removal of the Toomey Square roadway, elimination of left turns out of Louis St, construction of a 10-foot-wide shared-use path for pedestrians and bicyclists along the west side of Eastern Ave, installation of a crosswalk with a rectangular rapid flashing beacon across Eastern Ave immediately north of Hooper St, realignment of Spencer Ave to be perpendicular to Eastern Ave at its north intersection, and the reconfiguration of parking to be back-in angle along the east side of Spencer Ave.

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. MassDOT'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. Lavalley, P.E., Chief Engineer, via e-mail to [MassDOTProjectManagement@dot.state.ma.us](mailto:MassDOTProjectManagement@dot.state.ma.us) or via US Mail to Suite 7550, 10 Park Plaza, Boston, MA 02116, Attention: Project Management, Project File No. 612884. 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 hosted on 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](mailto: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.

In case of inclement weather, a cancellation announcement will be posted on the internet at <https://www.mass.gov/orgs/highway-division/events>.

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. Lavalley, 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.

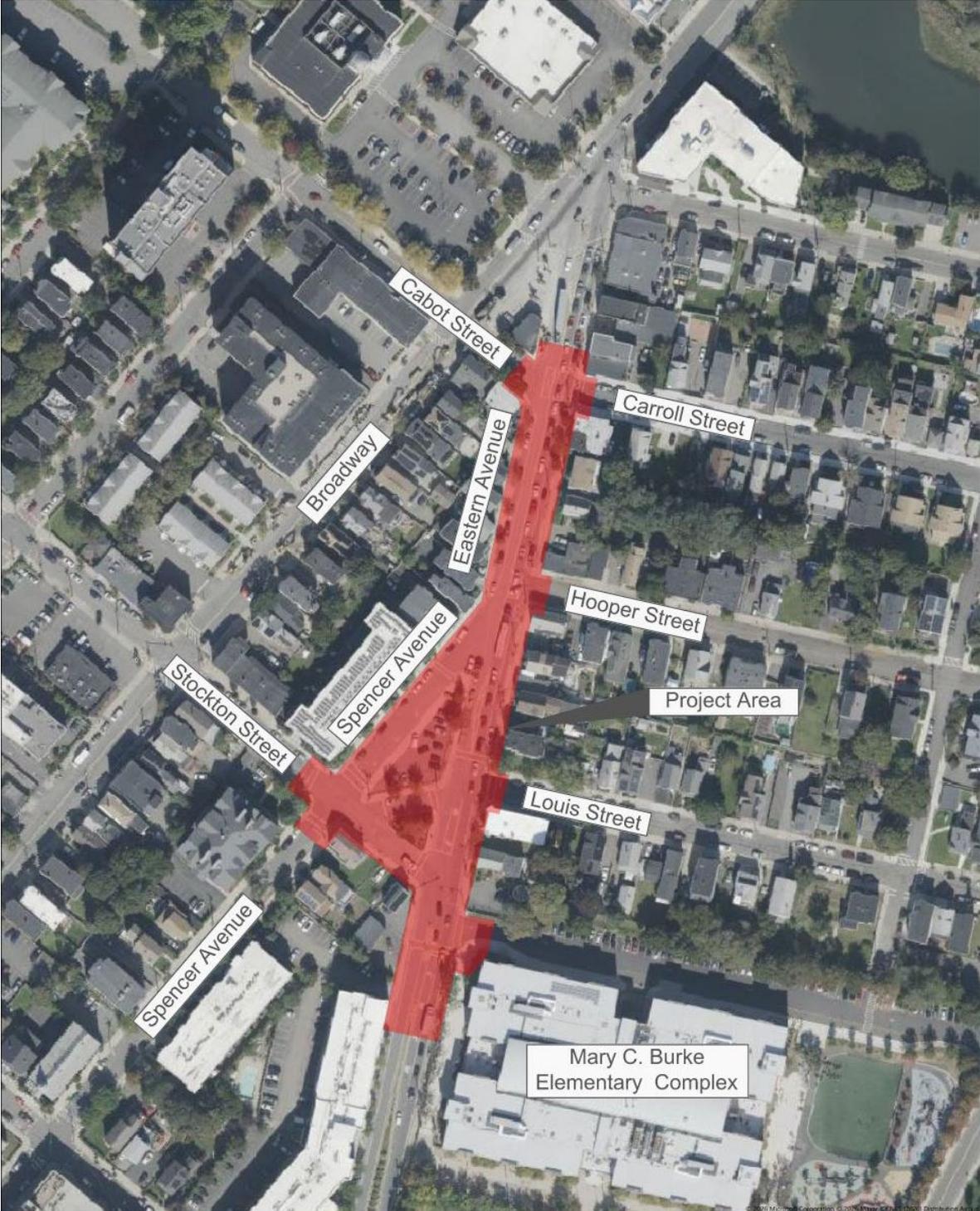
### 4. WHAT IS A FAIR PRICE FOR THE ACQUIRED PARCELS?

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.

# LOCUS MAP



**City of Chelsea**  
**Improvements at Mary C. Burke Elementary School**  
**(Safe Routes to School)**

**Project File No. - 612884**

**Project Description**

**Project Location and Existing Conditions:**

The project is located along Eastern Avenue, Stockton Street, and Spencer Avenue in the vicinity of the Mary C. Burke Elementary School Complex. The project limits begin at approximately 130-feet south of the School Driveway and extend to the north for approximately 950-feet along Eastern Avenue to Carroll Street. The project limits also include Stockton Street from Eastern Avenue to Spencer Ave, Spencer Avenue between Stockton Street and Eastern Avenue, and the roadway segment adjacent to the off-street memorial area known as Toomey Square.

The current conditions within the project limits include a two-lane roadway with parking lanes provided on one or both sides. There are existing sidewalks within the project limits, but no dedicated bicycle facilities. The existing signalized intersection of Eastern Avenue / Stockton Street / School Driveway has aged traffic signal infrastructure and a skewed alignment. The intersections of Spencer Avenue/Eastern Avenue and Eastern Avenue/Spencer Avenue/Stockton Street/Toomey Square have geometric features that present vehicular and pedestrian operational and safety issues.

**Project Purpose:**

The purpose of this Safe Routes to School project is to improve the access, safety and mobility of school aged children accessing the Burke Elementary School and surrounding facilities and encourage healthy and alternative modes of transportation to school. The project will also reconfigure roadway and intersection geometry to slow vehicle speeds, enhance the infrastructure for walkers and bikers, improve ADA accessibility, and to address safety issues.

**Proposed Project:**

The proposed improvements include construction of a 10-foot wide shared use path on the western side of Eastern Avenue between the Elementary School and Cabot Street, replacement of the traffic signal equipment at the intersection of Eastern Avenue / Stockton Street / School Driveway, elimination of Toomey Sq roadway and conversion into new public green space, reconfiguration of the Spencer Avenue parking lot, new school zone flashing beacons and a pedestrian warning device known as a Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacon (or RRFB) at a mid-block crossing across Eastern Avenue, sidewalk and curb ramp reconstruction to provide ADA-compliant pedestrian facilities, and construction of curb extensions (or “bumpouts”) at Stockton Street, Spencer Avenue, Louis Street, Hooper Street, and Carroll Street.

### **Maintenance of Traffic During Construction:**

During construction, the road is anticipated to remain open to traffic. Temporary lane or parking closures are anticipated, but will be restored at the end of each construction work day. One-lane alternating traffic will be utilized under police direction and access to businesses and residences will be reasonably maintained.

The Contractor will coordinate with MassDOT and City Officials regarding work hours and traffic circulation.

### **Project Schedule:**

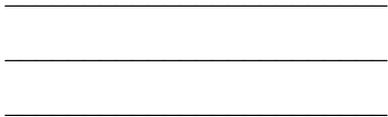
The design reviewed at this meeting is at the 25% stage of completion. Comments made at this design hearing will be incorporated to the maximum extent feasible in the 75% design currently anticipated for Summer 2026. The final designs would then be completed through late 2027, and the project is expected to begin construction in the spring of 2028.

### **Project Cost:**

The estimated total construction cost for this project is approximately \$3.5 million. Funding for the construction will be through the Federal Highway Administration (80%) (FHWA) and the Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) (20%).



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Carrie E. Lavalley, P.E.  
Chief Engineer  
MassDOT – Highway Division  
10 Park Plaza  
Boston, MA 02116-3973

RE: Public Hearing  
IMPROVEMENTS AT MARY C. BURKE ELEMENTARY (SRTS)  
**CHELSEA**  
Project File No. 612884  
Attn: Project Management

