



VIRTUAL DESIGN PUBLIC HEARING

March 31, 2026

FOR THE PROPOSED

**Streiber Memorial School Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Project
Project No. 612079
Highway Design**

IN THE CITY OF CHICOPEE, 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. 612079

A Design Public Hearing will be held to present the design for the proposed Streiber Elementary School Safe Routes to School project in Chicopee, MA

WHERE: Streiber Memorial School, Cafeteria
40 Streiber Driver
Chicopee, MA 01020

WHEN: Tuesday, March 31, 2026 at 6:00pm

PURPOSE: The purpose of this Design Public Hearing is to provide the public with the opportunity to become fully acquainted with the proposed Safe Route to School Project at Streiber Elementary School 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 will improve pedestrian connectivity to the streets abutting Streiber Elementary School. This will include installing new sidewalk, replacing existing sidewalks, and improving crosswalks.

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 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 or via US Mail to Suite 7550, 10 Park Plaza, Boston, MA 02116, Attention: Project Management, Project File No. 612079. 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). 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.

PROEJCT LOCUS MAP



PROJECT BACKGROUND

Project Location:

The project area includes Telegraph Avenue, Streiber Drive, and Streiber Memorial School along with segments of Irene Court and Debra Drive.

Purpose:

The purpose of the project is to improve pedestrian and student safety by designing better connectivity to the Streiber Memorial School.

Existing Conditions:

Sidewalks near the school are either non-existent or in poor condition, leading to students walking in the road. Speeding vehicles pose a threat to students and other pedestrians. There are only two crosswalks within the project area and neither meets current design standards.

Proposed Project:

The project proposes constructing new sidewalks, replacing existing sidewalks, and installing crosswalks and accessible ramps along portions of Telegraph Avenue, Streiber Drive, Irene Street, and Irene Court.

Right of Way:

A secure right-of-way may be necessary for this project. Acquisitions in fee and permanent or temporary easements may be required. The City of Chicopee is responsible for acquiring all needed rights in private or public lands. Right-of-way plans are available at the Engineering Department at Chicopee City Hall for public review and comment.

Maintenance of Traffic During Construction:

There will be minimal impacts to road users and pedestrian access will be maintained throughout construction. The Contractor will coordinate access with abutters. There will be no construction within the direct proximity of the school during the school year, and night work is not anticipated.

Project Schedule:

The 75%/100% Design will be submitted in Fall 2026, and the Final Design will be submitted in Spring 2027. Construction is anticipated to begin in Summer 2028 and be completed by Fall 2028.

Project Cost:

The estimated construction cost for these improvements is approximately \$2.6 million. This project will be funded by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and the Federal Highway Administration.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q: What is the Massachusetts Safe Routes to School Program?

A: The Massachusetts SRTS Program targets elementary and middle schools with the aim of improving the health, safety, and physical activity of students while reducing air pollution and traffic congestion near schools. The program is nationally mandated but is managed by the Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT).

Q: What are the environmental impacts?

A: No trees will be removed within the project area. The proposed design includes drainage and infiltration improvements. The project team has and will continue to coordinate with the Chicopee Conservation Commission.

Q: Will any of the roads be repaved?

A: The Safe Routes to School Program does not fund any proposed repaving other than for utility work at select locations.

Q: What is the speed limit through the project area?

A: The statutory speed limit in the city of Chicopee is 25 miles per hour (mph) unless otherwise posted. On Irene Street, the posted speed limit is 25 mph. There are no posted speed limits on Streiber Drive, Telegraph Avenue, or Irene Court within the project area. Memorial Drive has a posted speed limit of 35 mph.

Please Fold and Tape



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

RE: Design Public Hearing
Streiber Memorial School Safe Routes to School
CHICOPEE
Project File No. 612079
Attn: Project Management

