VIRTUAL DESIGN PUBLIC HEARING

OCTOBER 29, 2026 AT 7:00 PM

FOR THE PROPOSED

ACCESSIBILITY IMPROVEMENTS AT MULTIPLE LOCATIONS
Chicopee: Route 116 at Granby Road
Holyoke: I-91 Northbound Exit 15B Off-Ramp at Route 141
Westfield: Route 202/MA-10 at Colonial Pine Acres

Project No. 613669

Highway Design

IN THE MUNICIPALITIES OF CHICOPEE, HOLYOKE, & WESTFIELD, 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 VIRTUAL DESIGN PUBLIC HEARING

Project Description: District 2 Accessibility Improvements at Multiple Locations (Central Project) Chicopee, MA, Holyoke, MA, & Westfield, MA

Project File No. 613669

A Virtual Design Public Hearing will be hosted on the MassDOT website below to present the design for the proposed project in Chicopee, MA, Holyoke, MA, and Westfield, MA.

WHEN: 7:00 PM, Thursday, October 29, 2026

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 proposed project consists of accessibility improvements at the intersection of Route 116 and Granby Road in Chicopee, MA, the intersection of the I-91 Northbound Exit 15b Off-ramp and Route 141 in Holyoke, MA, and on Route 202 between the two Colonial Pine Acre Driveways in Westfield, MA. The scope of the project includes accessibility improvements that will provide upgraded pedestrian signal infrastructure, sidewalks, pedestrian curb ramps, and additional, safer crossing locations. The construction of dedicated bicycle facilities is not included in this scope. These upgrades aim to improve accessibility, safety and functionality for all users.

A secure right-of-way is necessary for this project. Acquisitions in fee and permanent or temporary easements may be required. MassDOT 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. 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. 613669. Statements and exhibits intended for inclusion in the hearing transcript must be emailed or postmarked no later than ten (10) business days (14 calendar days) after the hearing is hosted.

MassDOT provides translation, interpretation, and other reasonable accommodations upon request. Requests should be made at least ten (10) business days prior to the event. Please contact MassDOT's Highway Project Accommodations office at MassDOTHighwayProjectAccommodations@dot.state.ma.us for your accommodation needs.

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 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

The Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) is responsible for securing the right of way for this project. If your property, or a portion of it, must be acquired by MassDOT 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 MassDOT 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?

   MassDOT 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.

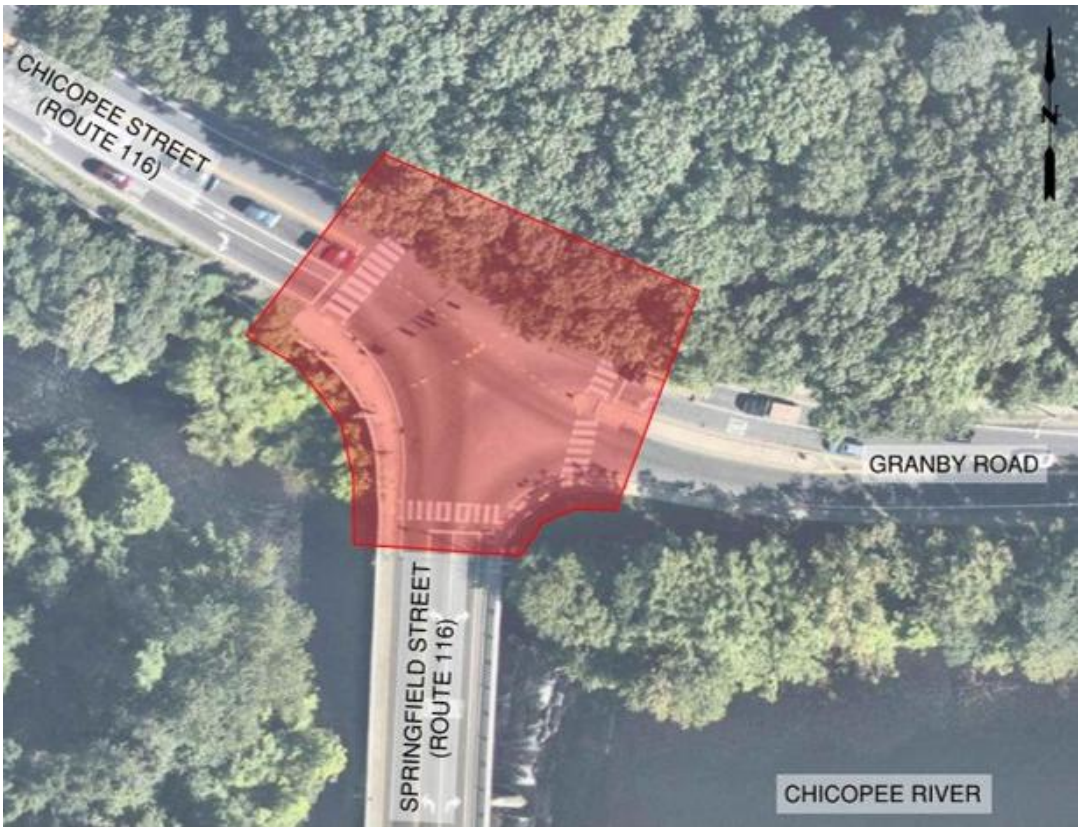
4. WHAT IS A FAIR PRICE FOR THE ACQUIRED PARCELS?

   In the event that donations are not considered, or completed, every effort will be made to ensure that an equitable value is awarded. MassDOT 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 MAPS



Location 1: Chicopee, MA



Location 2: Holyoke, MA



Location 3: Westfield, MA

Accessibility Improvements in Chicopee, Holyoke, and Westfield, MA

PROJECT LOCATION

The proposed project is located at the intersection of Route 116 and Granby Road in Chicopee, MA, the intersection of the I-91 Northbound Exit 15B Off-ramp and Route 141 in Holyoke, MA, and on Route 202 between the two Colonial Pine Acre Driveways in Westfield, MA. In Chicopee, the work will include new pedestrian signal equipment and pedestrian curb ramps. In Holyoke, the work will include a realigned off-ramp and approximately 500 feet of new sidewalk and pedestrian curb ramps. In Westfield, the work will include approximately 300 feet of new sidewalk and pedestrian curb ramps and an established crossing location at two PVTA bus stops. Locus Maps outlining the project limits are attached for reference.

PROJECT PURPOSE

The purpose of this project is to provide targeted improvements that increase accessibility and safety for pedestrians. The accessibility improvements proposed as part of this project include upgrading pedestrian signal infrastructure, sidewalks, pedestrian curb ramps, and additional, safer crossing locations. The construction of dedicated bicycle facilities and major intersection and roadway reconstruction are not included in this project.

PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS

The proposed improvements include:

- Upgraded pedestrian signal equipment
- Upgraded signing and striping
- Upgraded pedestrian crossing countermeasures
- Construction and reconstruction of sidewalks
- Construction and reconstruction of pedestrian curb ramps
- Off-ramp realignment / full-depth pavement
- Adjustments to stormwater infrastructure

TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT

During typical construction operations, all roadways in the project area will remain open to residents and other traffic in Chicopee and Westfield. In Holyoke, a temporary ramp closure will be necessary to switch traffic from the existing off-ramp configuration to the proposed. The detour is expected to be short-term and is expected to have a minimal impact on your commute. On all roadways other than the I-91 off-ramp, occasional short traffic disruptions and travel lane/shoulder closures may occur, but every effort will be made to minimize inconvenience to the travelling public and abutting residents and businesses. Pedestrian and vehicular access to abutting properties will be maintained throughout construction except for very short periods to reconstruct access.

RIGHT OF WAY IMPACTS

Temporary construction easements will be required for grading impacts to lawns, driveways, and walkways and to restore impacts to adjacent properties. Permanent easements will be required for sidewalk reconstruction and minor utility work. MassDOT's policy concerning land acquisition will be discussed at this hearing.

PROJECT COST

The current estimate of the total construction cost of this project is approximately $2.2 million.

PROJECT SCHEDULE

The design plans presented this evening are at the 25% design stage. Final design, permitting and right of way acquisition must be completed prior to construction. Design is currently anticipated to be completed in Fall 2027, however, this is subject to change.

THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
HIGHWAY DIVISION

FEDERAL AID PROJECT

City of Chicopee, Holyoke, & Westfield, MA
District 2 Accessibility Improvements at Multiple Locations (Central Project)
Project File No. 613669

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.

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Organization: _____

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Please Place Appropriate Postage Here

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

RE: Virtual Public Hearing
District 2 Accessibility Improvements at Multiple Locations (Central Project)
Chicopee, Holyoke, & Westfield
Project File No. 613669
Attn: Project Management
Dongke Yu, P.E. | Senior Project Manager