



**VIRTUAL DESIGN PUBLIC HEARING**

**December 5, 2024**

**FOR THE PROPOSED**

**Cross Road Corridor Improvements Project  
Project No. 610669**

**IN THE TOWN OF DARTMOUTH, 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. 610669**

A Live Virtual Design Public Hearing will be hosted on the MassDOT website below to present the design for the proposed Cross Road Improvements in the Town of Dartmouth.

WHEN: Thursday, December 5, 2024, at 6:30 PM

PURPOSE: The purpose of this hearing is to provide the public with the opportunity to become fully acquainted with the proposed Cross Road Improvements, from south of Vincent Street to Pine Top Lane in the Town of Dartmouth. 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 the reconstruction of Cross Road from Vincent Street to Autumn Glen (Senior Living Center). It will include pavement rehabilitation, installation of new curbing, sidewalks, ADA compliant ramps, crosswalks, closed drainage system improvements, and a 10-foot side path along the western side of Cross Road. The existing school zone reduced speed warning beacons will be upgraded.

A secure right-of-way is necessary for this project. Acquisitions in fee and permanent or temporary easements may be required. **Dartmouth is responsible for acquiring all needed rights in private or public lands.** MassDOT's policy concerning land acquisitions will be presented at 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](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. 610669**. 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.

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.  
Acting 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.

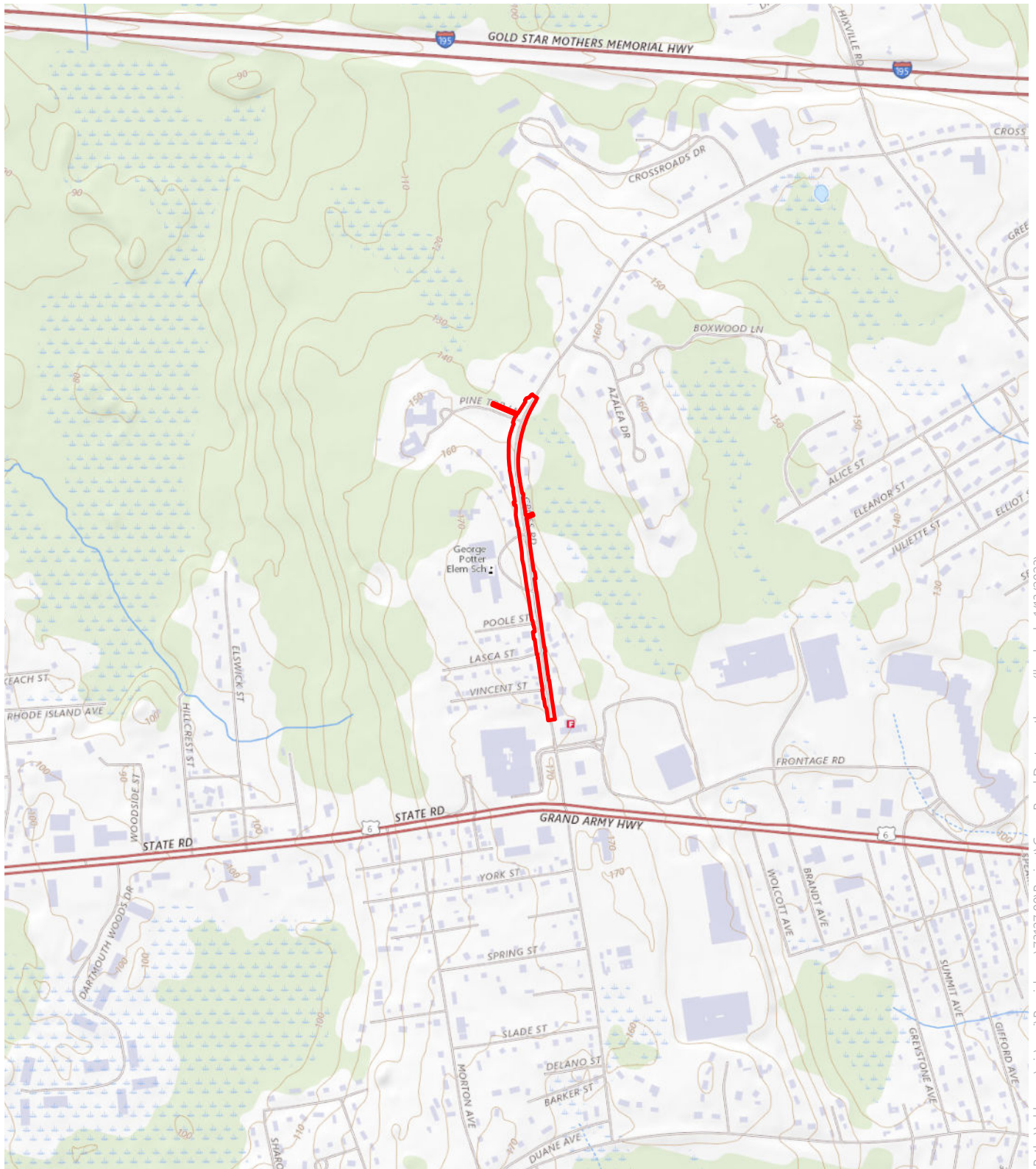
### **4. WHAT IS A FAIR PRICE FOR THE ACQUIRED PARCELS?**

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: USGS Locus**  
Cross Road Corridor Improvements | Dartmouth, MA



Path: \\vhb.com\gis\proj\Providence\73127.00\Project\Cross Road Dartmouth.aprx (lburbank, 1/13/2023)

 Project Location



0 500 1,000 1,500 Feet

## **CROSS ROAD CORRIDOR IMPROVEMENTS**

### **PROJECT NO. 610669**

#### **PROJECT LOCATION**

The project is located Cross Road beginning at the northerly Walmart driveway on Cross Road extending northerly to just past Pine Top Lane.

#### **PROJECT PURPOSE**

The purpose of this project is to rehabilitate the roadway, improve pedestrian and bicycle accommodations along the corridor, and upgrade the existing drainage system.

#### **EXISTING CONDITIONS**

Cross Road is a two-lane roadway with approximately 13-foot travel lanes. There are no defined shoulders along the roadway. The existing roadway is deteriorated with numerous patches, alligator cracking, longitudinal cracking, and raveling. The roadway edge is significantly deteriorating along portions of the corridor due to poor drainage collection. The existing horizontal and vertical roadway geometry is in compliance with current standards. There are non-continuous segments of sidewalk on the east side of the roadway and no bicycle accommodations within the project limits.

#### **PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS**

Improvements include a new sidewalk on the east side of the roadway and a new shared-use path on the west side for pedestrian and bicycle accommodation that meet ADA/AAB requirements. Minor geometric improvements are proposed along with full-depth reconstruction of the roadway and application of new pavement markings. A raised intersection is proposed at the exit driveway from the George H. Potter Elementary School onto Cross Road.

#### **MAINTENANCE OF TRAFFIC DURING CONSTRUCTION**

The anticipated traffic control on Cross Road is expected to consist primarily of alternating one-way traffic or narrowing of the travel lanes. Proposed mitigation measures to limit impacts to traffic include restricting work during peak hours; limiting work area/length during a typical workday to ensure that the Contractor is able to begin and complete a segment of roadway work such that normal traffic operation can be restored at the end of each workday, and using police control during construction. Access to all residences and pedestrian routes will be maintained during construction as much as possible. Abutters will be notified in advance should access to their property need to be restricted temporarily.

#### **RIGHT OF WAY**

The Town of Dartmouth is responsible for all Right-of-Way (ROW) acquisition. The proposed improvements will require ROW acquisitions in the form of temporary and permanent easements.



## **PROJECT CONSTRUCTION COST**

The project construction costs will be funded with a combination of moneys from the Federal Highway Administration and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and is currently estimated at approximately \$7 million.

## **PROJECT STATUS**

The design plans presented here represent the 25% design level. Comments made at this public hearing will be incorporated to the maximum extent feasible in the final design documents. The project is scheduled to be advertised in Spring 2029 with construction anticipated to begin in the Summer, 2029 and completed by Summer 2031.

## **PROJECT QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS**

The following questions and answers are intended to start conversation and discussion among the proponents, the designers, and the public assembled here. Please feel free to expand on these and include your own questions.

### **1. IS IT GOING TO BE NOISY?**

Construction hours are typically during the day, outside of rush hour. No nighttime construction is anticipated for this project.

### **2. WHAT ABOUT THE TREES?**

We have made every effort to save as many trees as possible. Those which may not survive construction or are in the way of handicap facilities such as safe and navigable sidewalks and ramps will be removed.

### **3. HOW WILL SCHOOL ACCESS BE AFFECTED?**

We will work with the George H. Potter Elementary School and Town Departments to make temporary accommodations during the school hours. It is our intentions to keep the bus routes the same.

### **4. I HAVE TO GET IN & OUT OF MY DRIVEWAY!**

The Contractor is obligated to accommodate abutters. Additionally, we anticipate police details on-site to aid in traffic movement.

### **5. WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN TO MY FENCE/ BUSHES/ STEPS/ LAWN?**

Property Owners will be contacted by the Town to discuss their individual property as the Right of Way process proceeds. In general, grass behind the new sidewalk will be regrown. Privately owned items within Town property lines will need to be removed unless a license is granted by the Town to allow the encroachment.



THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS  
MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
HIGHWAY DIVISION

FEDERAL AID PROJECT

Dartmouth, MA  
Cross Road Corridor Improvements  
Project File No. 610669

This sheet is provided for your comments. Your input is solicited and appreciated. You may e-mail comments directly to [DOTHighwayDesign@dot.state.ma.us](mailto:DOTHighwayDesign@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: Highway Design

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 presentation.

**PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT LEGIBLY.**

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Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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

RE: Virtual Public Hearing  
Cross Road Corridor Improvements  
Dartmouth MA  
Project File No. 610669  
Attn: Project Management

