



**DESIGN PUBLIC HEARING**

**JANUARY 24, 2023**

**FOR THE PROPOSED**

**Reconstruction of Route 28  
Project No. 608742**

**Project Management**

**IN THE TOWNS OF DENNIS & HARWICH, 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. 608742**

A Live (In Person) Design Public Hearing will be hosted **Harwich Community Center located at 100 Oak Street, Harwich MA 02645** to present the design for the proposed Reconstruction and Related Work on Main Street, (Route 28) From Upper County Road to The Herring River Bridge project in **Dennis and Harwich, MA.**

**WHEN: 6:00 PM -8:00 PM, January 24, 2023**

**PURPOSE:** The purpose of this hearing is to provide the public with the opportunity to become fully acquainted with the proposed Reconstruction and Related Work on Main Street, (Route 28) From Upper County Road to the Herring River Bridge 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 the rehabilitation of Main Street, (Route 28) and the addition of sidewalks and 5-foot shoulders to accommodate bicycle travel from Upper County Road to the Herring River Bridge.

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 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](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. 608742. 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 Live Virtual Design Public Hearing or a cancellation announcement will be hosted on the internet at [www.mass.gov/massdot-highway-design-public-hearings](http://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.  
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**

The State is responsible for securing the Right of Way for this project. If your property, or a portion of it, must be acquired by the State 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. WHO CONTACTS ME?**

Representatives of the Right of Way Bureau of the Massachusetts Department of Transportation's Highway Division. They will explain the impacts and your rights as protected under Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 79.

### **2. WHAT IS A FAIR PRICE FOR MY PROPERTY?**

Every offer is made to ensure that an equitable value is awarded to you for the property, or to appraise the "damage" to the property as a result of the acquisition. MassDOT appraisers, independent appraisers, MassDOT "Review Appraisers" and a Real Estate Appraisal Review Board may all contribute in arriving at an award of damages. The State also pays a proportionate part of the real estate tax for the current year for fee takings, and interest from the date the property is acquired to the payment date, on all impacts.

### **3. MUST I ACCEPT THE DEPARTMENT'S OFFER?**

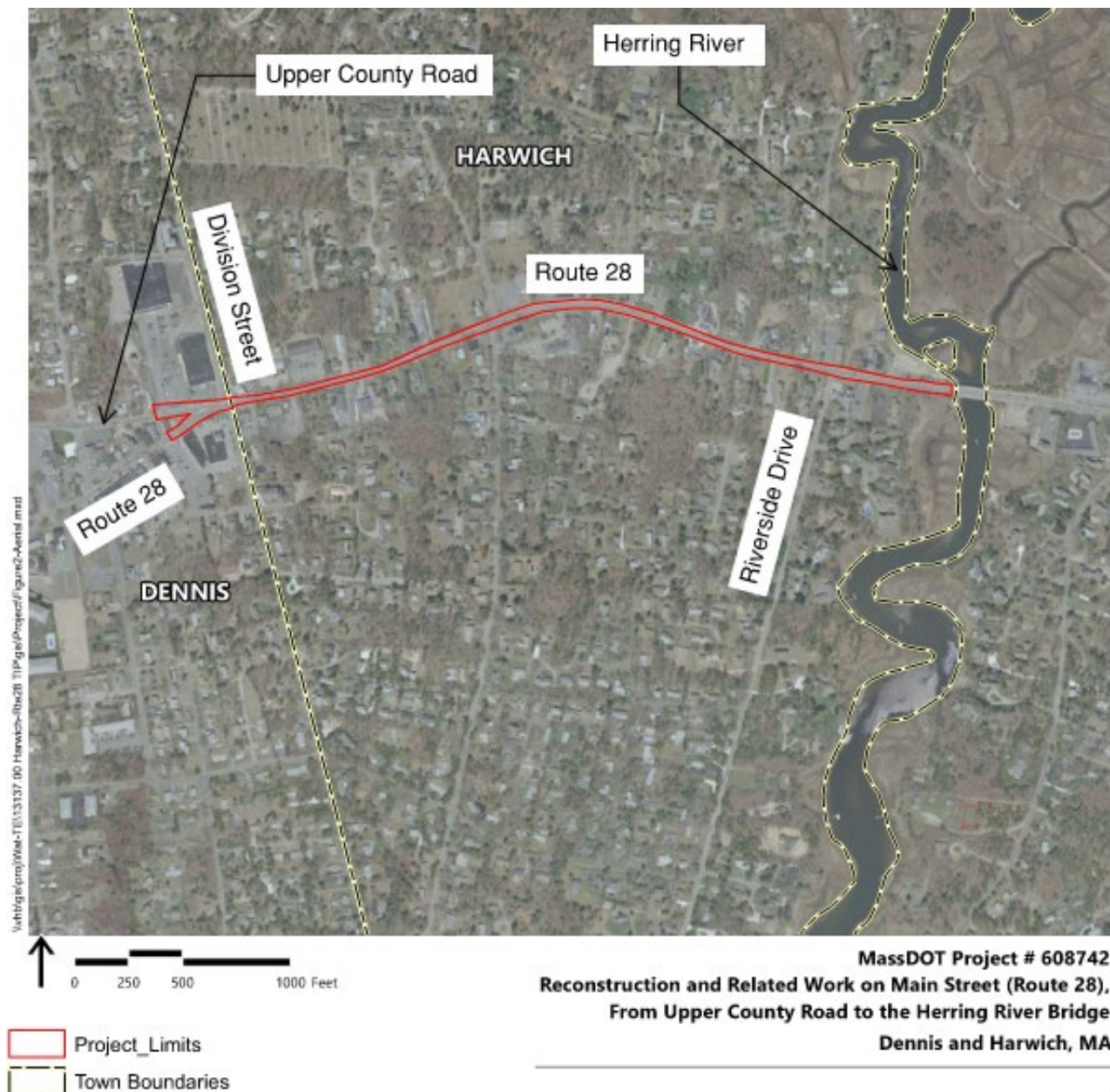
No. If, after the figure established as market value has been offered to the owner, the owner feels he or she is not being offered a fair price, he or she has the right, within three years, to appeal to the courts. Pending a court decision, he or she can be paid on a "pro-tanto" basis (or "for the time being") that in no way prejudices the court appeal.

### **4. WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO MY HOUSE?**

The owner will have the opportunity to buy back his or her house, provided he or she has a location to which it can be moved, and the proper permits for its removal. If the owner does not wish to repurchase, the house will be advertised for bids. The highest bidder, who must also have a location and permits for removal, will be awarded the house. Otherwise, the structure will be slated for demolition.

### **5. WHAT HAPPENS IF I MUST RELOCATE?**

In addition to the market value of the property, the Department pays certain relocation benefits for both owners and tenants of acquired residences and businesses who meet eligibility requirements. Assistance in relocation is also provided. Department brochures are available for details on these benefits.



## **PROJECT LOCATION**

The project includes the reconstruction of Route 28 (Main Street) for 0.75 miles from the Route 28 & Upper County Road intersection in Dennis to the Herring River bridge in Harwich, as shown on the above locus map.

## **PROJECT PURPOSE**

The purpose of this project is to improve traffic and roadway operations, and to provide pedestrian and bicycle accommodations along Route 28 which includes the signalized intersections of Route 28 and Division Street and Route 28 and Upper County Road. This project builds upon the reconstruction of Route 28 in Dennis which upgraded the roadway from the Upper County Road & Route 28 intersection for a length of 1 mile to the west.

## **PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS**

The work under this Contract consists of the construction of a consistent roadway cross section of 11 foot wide travel lanes and 5 foot shoulders. The entire length of the project will include reconstructed and newly constructed sidewalks along both sides of the road, new pedestrian curb ramps and crosswalks, drainage improvements, and refreshed roadside signage.

The project proposes the reconstruction of the existing traffic signal at the intersection of Upper County Road and Route 28 and Division Street and Route 28. The proposed traffic signals will operate in unison.

Additional work includes unclassified excavation, pavement mill and overlay, full depth hot mix asphalt pavement, hot mix asphalt walks and driveways, cement concrete pedestrian curb ramps, granite curb, pavement markings, signs, drainage, water system improvements, sewer system improvements, landscaping, and other incidental work.

## **TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT**

A minimum one lane of travel will be maintained throughout the majority of the project timeline. Portions of the proposed full depth pavement reclamation work may require detouring traffic off segments of Route 28 to avoid the work zone. These detours will be noticed in advance of the work and appropriately signed as well as staffed with police details as needed. The detours will likely be limited to daytime work hours and the Route 28 throughfare will be restored to normal traffic conditions by the end of the work day. Maintaining traffic flow shall also be closely coordinated with maintaining access to abutting residents.

Lane shifts and lane closures (with alternating traffic) along Route 28 are expected to occur with moderate frequency. In some cases, two-way traffic will be maintained by alternating traffic under police control.

## **RIGHT OF WAY IMPACTS**

Temporary and permanent easements will be required along the length of the project to accommodate the proposed work. This includes 47 temporary construction easements and 39 permanent easements for utilities, traffic signal & sidewalk construction. The proposed improvements will require temporary easements for minor grading impacts, driveway reconstruction and sidewalk construction. MassDOT's policy concerning land acquisition will be discussed at this hearing.

**PROJECT COST**

The preliminary construction cost of this project at this design stage is approximately \$7,814,926.

**PROJECT SCHEDULE**

The design plans presented are at the 25% design stage. Design, permitting, and right of way acquisition must be completed by February 2024. Construction is anticipated to begin in the Fall of 2024.

THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS  
MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
HIGHWAY DIVISION

FEDERAL AID PROJECT

Dennis & Harwich, MA  
Reconstruction of Route 28  
Project File No. 608742

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

RE: Public Hearing  
Reconstruction of Route 28  
**DENNIS & HARWICH**  
Project File No. 608742  
Attn: Project Management

