

DESIGN PUBLIC HEARING

Thursday, January 16, 2020

AT

**DRACUT CENTRAL FIRE STATION
488 PLEASANT STREET**

DRACUT, MASSACHUSETTS

7:00 PM

FOR THE PROPOSED

**Reconstruction of Nashua Road
MassDOT Project No. 608350**

IN THE TOWN OF DRACUT, MASSACHUSETTS

**COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
HIGHWAY DIVISION**

**JONATHAN GULLIVER
HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATOR**

**PATRICIA A. LEAVENWORTH, P.E.
CHIEF ENGINEER**

THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION – HIGHWAY DIVISION
NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING
Project File No. 608350

A Design Public Hearing will be held by MassDOT to discuss the proposed Reconstruction of Nashua Road in Dracut, MA.

WHERE: Dracut Central Fire Station
488 Pleasant Street
Dracut, MA 01826

WHEN: Thursday, January 16, 2020 @ 7:00PM

PURPOSE: The purpose of this hearing is to provide the public with the opportunity to become fully acquainted with the proposed Nashua Road Reconstruction Project. All views and comments made at the hearing will be reviewed and considered to the maximum extent possible.

PROPOSAL: The project involves the reconstruction of Nashua Road for improved vehicular, bicycle and pedestrian safety. Major intersection improvements are incorporated at Lakeview Avenue, Tyngsboro Road and Varnum Road to address substandard geometry, lane configurations and capacity. Improvements include a two-way left turn lane for a portion of the roadway, sidewalks on both sides of the roadway for pedestrian accommodation, expanded shoulders for bicycle accommodation, a traffic signal at the Nashua Road/Lakeview Avenue intersection to improve capacity and safety and a traffic signal at the new fire station for safety and emergency responses.

A secure right-of-way is necessary for this project. Acquisitions in fee and permanent or temporary easements will be required. The Town of Dracut is responsible for acquiring all needed rights in private or public lands. MassDOT's policy concerning land acquisitions will be discussed at this hearing.

Written views received by MassDOT subsequent to the date of this notice and up to five (5) days prior to the date of the hearing shall be displayed for public inspection and copying at the time and date listed above. Plans will be on display one-half hour before the hearing begins, with an engineer in attendance to answer questions regarding this project. A project handout will be made available on the MassDOT website listed below.

Written statements and other exhibits in place of, or in addition to, oral statements made at the Public Hearing regarding the proposed undertaking are to be submitted to Patricia A. Leavenworth, P.E., Chief Engineer, MassDOT, 10 Park Plaza, Boston, MA 02116, Attention: Roadway Project Management, Project File No. 608350. Such submissions will also be accepted at the hearing. Mailed statements and exhibits intended for inclusion in the public hearing transcript must be postmarked within ten (10) business days of this Public Hearing. Project inquiries may be emailed to dot.feedback.highway@state.ma.us

This location is accessible to people with disabilities. MassDOT provides reasonable accommodations and/or language assistance free of charge upon request (including but not limited to interpreters in American Sign Language and languages other than English, open or closed captioning for videos, assistive listening devices and alternate material formats, such as audio tapes, Braille and large print), as available. For accommodation or language assistance, please contact MassDOT's Chief Diversity and Civil Rights Officer by phone (857-368-8580), fax (857-368-0602), TTD/TTY (857-368-0603) or by email (MassDOT.CivilRights@dot.state.ma.us). Requests should be made as soon as possible prior to the meeting, and for more difficult to arrange services including sign-language, CART or language translation or interpretation, requests should be made at least ten (10) business days before the meeting.

In case of inclement weather, hearing cancellation announcements will be posted on the internet at <http://www.massdot.state.ma.us/Highway/>

JONATHAN GULLIVER
HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATOR

PATRICIA A. LEAVENWORTH, 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,

Patricia A Leavenworth, 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 ISSUES

A secure right of way is necessary for this project. Temporary construction easements may be required. Your *municipality* is responsible for acquiring all necessary rights in private or public lands. If your property is affected, your rights are fully protected under law.

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.

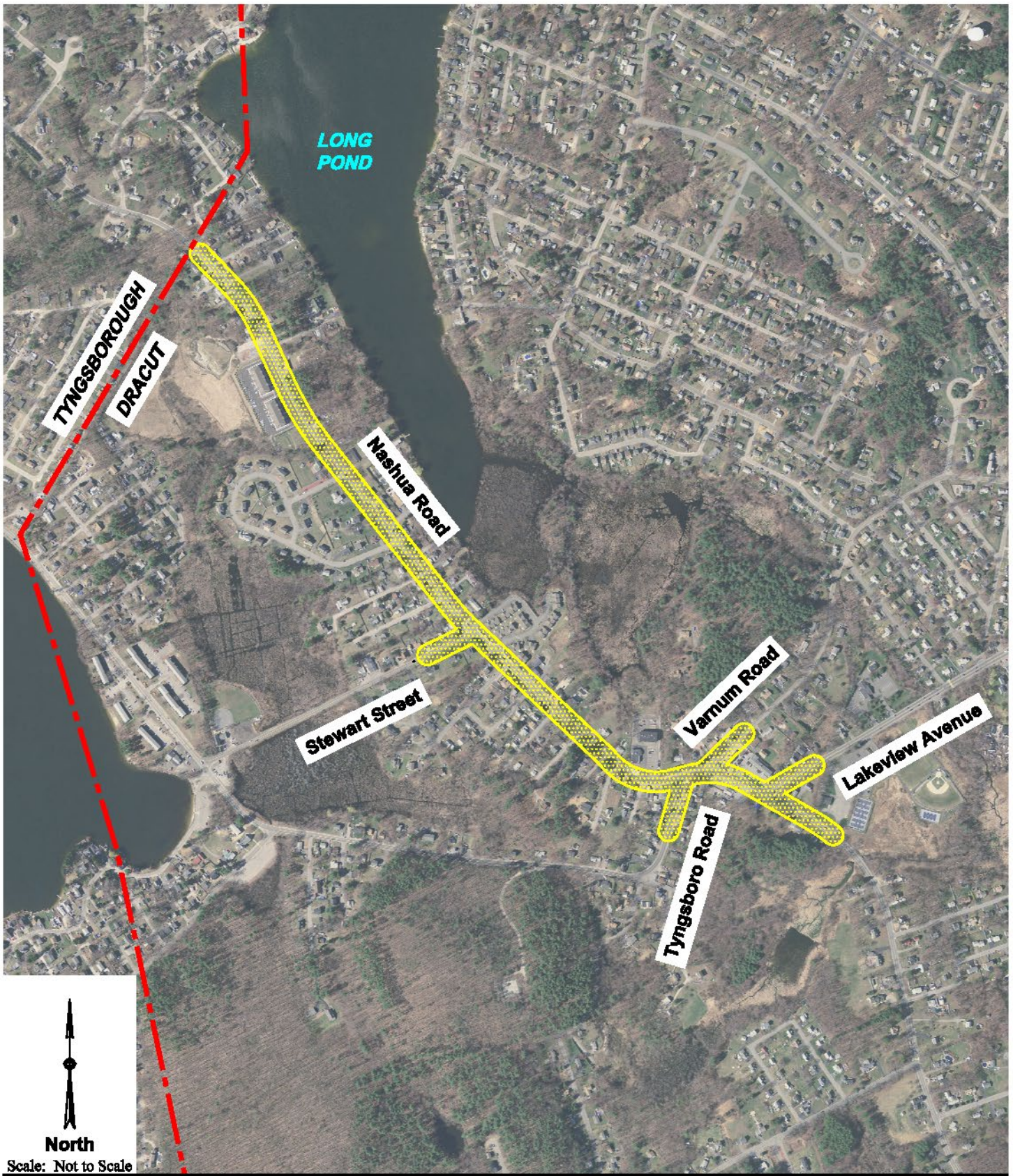
A Right of Entry is a document that is signed by the owner. It allows the Contractor to perform certain types of work on the owner's land. The work is usually minor in nature and frequently consists of loaming/seeding behind sidewalks, new driveway apron work, grading/sloping, and wetland protection, 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.



MDM TRANSPORTATION CONSULTANTS, INC.
Planners & Engineers

Date: January 2020
Dwg No. 304 DPH Locus Plan.dwg
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Locus Map
MassDOT Project #608350
Nashua Road Reconstruction
Dracut, Massachusetts

Roadway Reconstruction Project

Nashua Road, Dracut

PROJECT LOCATION

The proposed project includes the reconstruction and widening of Nashua Road for improved multi-modal accommodation and safety. The attached Locus Map shows the intersection location.

PROJECT PURPOSE

The purpose of the proposed project is to improve roadway conditions, provide bicycle accommodations and improve pedestrian infrastructure and connectivity, to increase driver and pedestrian safety and accessibility to the roadway corridor and the surrounding businesses and residences.

PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS

- Reconstruct the Nashua Road/Lakeview Avenue Intersection, including the installation of a new traffic signal, to improve pedestrian safety and vehicular traffic operations
- Reconstruct the Nashua Road/Tyngsboro Road Intersection to improve available sight distance and reduce capacity constraints
- Reconstruct the Nashua Road/Varnum Road Intersection to improve the geometry and reduce capacity constraints
- Install a traffic signal at the new fire station to assist with emergency response operations
- Construct contiguous sidewalks on both sides of Nashua Road to accommodate safe pedestrian travel throughout the project corridor and the Dillon McAnespie recreational park
- Construct Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) / Architectural Access Board (AAB) compliant accessible curb ramps within the project limits
- Provide 5'-0" wide shoulders along Nashua Road, Lakeview Avenue and Tyngsboro Road to accommodate bicycle traffic
- Provide a two-way left turn lane (TWLTL) on a portion of Nashua Road to improve access to and egress from side streets and commercial properties along the corridor
- Install vertical granite curbing to help channel stormwater flow to drainage structures
- Replace portions of the existing stormwater drainage system and install new catch basins with deep sumps to improve quality in stormwater runoff and discharge

- Reconstruct/Resurface roadways to address pavement deterioration and deficiencies
- Install new thermoplastic striping including crosswalks, stop lines, center lines, lane lines, medians, parking lanes, and shoulder lines within the project limits

TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT

During typical construction operations, all roadways in the project area will remain open to residents and other traffic. Occasional short traffic disruptions and travel lane/shoulder/parking lane 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.

RIGHT OF WAY IMPACTS

Temporary construction easements will be required for minor grading impacts to lawns, driveways, and walkways and to restore impacts to adjacent properties. Permanent easements will also be required to construct portions of roadways and sidewalks as well as erecting utility poles and overhead wire encroachments.

The Town of Dracut will be responsible for securing all necessary easements. 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 \$5,300,000.00

PROJECT SCHEDULE

The design plans presented this evening are at the 25% design stage. Design, permitting, and right of way acquisition. Construction is anticipated to begin in the Spring of 2022.

Please Fold and Tape

Please Place
Appropriate
Postage Here

Patricia A. Leavenworth, P.E.
Chief Engineer
MassDOT – Highway Division
10 Park Plaza
Boston, MA 02116-3973

RE: Public Hearing
Reconstruction of Nashua Road
DRACUT
Project File No. 608350
Roadway Project Management