



**DESIGN PUBLIC HEARING**

**MONDAY - JUNE 17, 2019**

**AT**

**DUNSTABLE TOWN HALL, GRAND HALL (MAIN FLOOR)**

**DUNSTABLE, MASSACHUSETTS**

**6:30 PM**

**FOR THE PROPOSED**

**IMPROVEMENTS ON MAIN STREET (ROUTE 113)**

**Project No. 608603**

**Roadway Project Management Section**

**IN THE TOWN OF DUNSTABLE, 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. 608603**

A Design Public Hearing will be held by MassDOT to discuss the proposed Main Street (Route 113) Transportation Improvement Project in Dunstable, MA.

**WHERE:** Dunstable Town Hall, Grand Hall (main floor)  
511 Main Street  
Dunstable, MA 01827

**WHEN:** Monday, June 17, 2019 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 Main Street (Route 113) project. All views and comments made at the hearing will be reviewed and considered to the maximum extent possible.

**PROPOSAL:** The proposed project consists of improvements along Main Street (Route 113), from the vicinity of the Main Street/Pleasant Street intersection to approximately 750 feet east of Westford Street. The project includes roadway widening and pavement improvements; roadway intersection and access improvements; pedestrian and bicycle accommodation and accessibility improvements; roadway retaining wall, culvert and drainage system improvements; granite curb and hot mix asphalt berm installations; highway guardrail, signage and pavement marking installations; landscaping, and other incidental work. The proposed roadway cross section will consist of 11-foot travel lanes and 4-foot paved shoulders. The project also includes new ADA compliant sidewalks with granite curbing on the southerly side of Main Street (Route 113), from the westerly project limits to the vicinity of the intersection with Westford Street (~1,500 feet of sidewalk improvements) and on the northerly side of the Main Street (Route 113), from the westerly project limits to the vicinity of the intersection with Common Street (~350 feet of sidewalk improvements).

A secure right-of-way is necessary for this project. Acquisitions in fee and permanent or temporary easements may be required. The Town of Dunstable 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. 608603. 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](mailto: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](mailto: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.

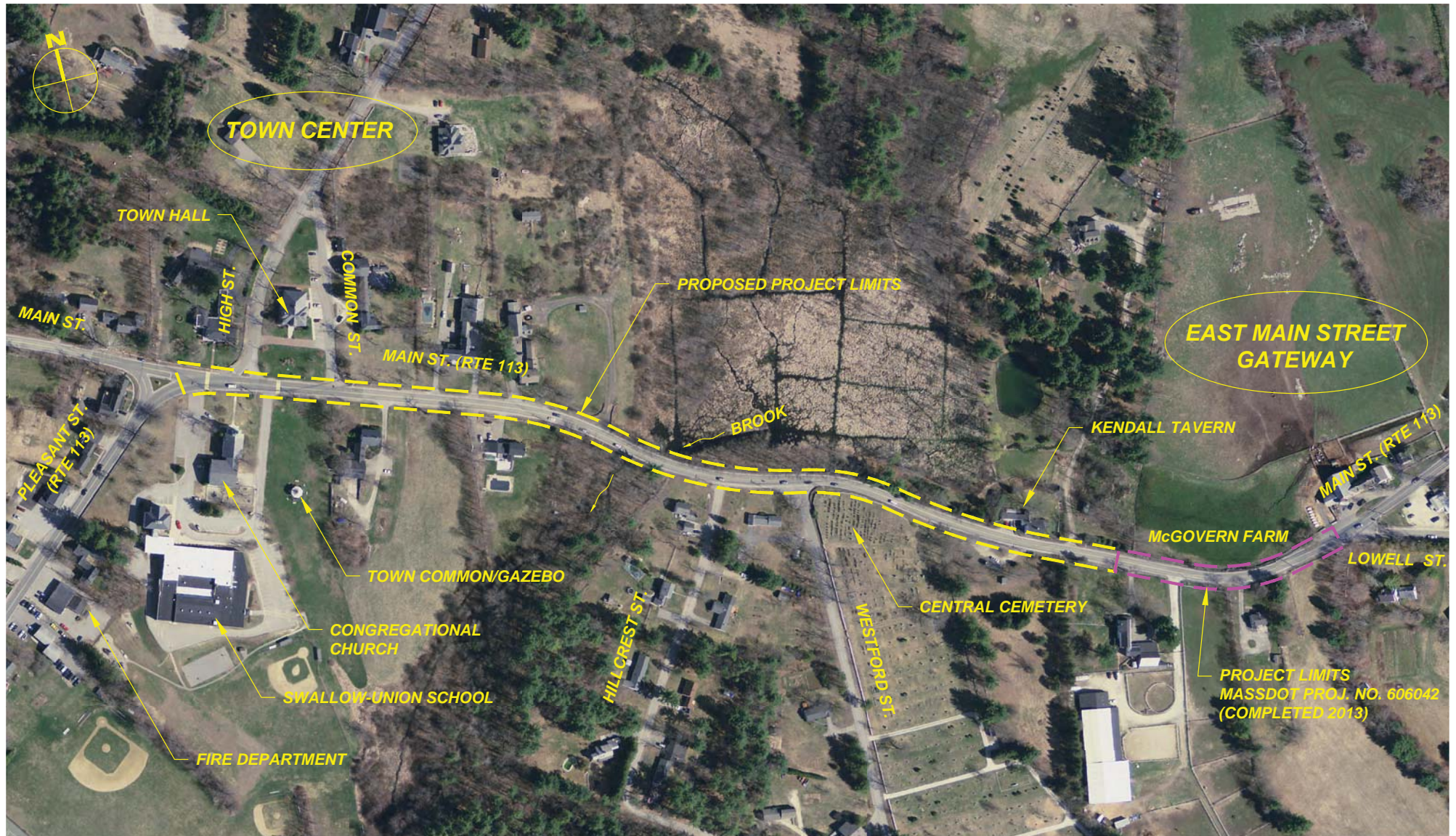
### **4. WHAT IS A FAIR PRICE FOR THE ACQUIRED PARCELS?**

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.





Main Street (Route 113)  
Roadway Infrastructure Improvement Project  
Dunstable, MA

## Project Locus

Feet  
0 50 100 200



## **PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

### **Project Location and Limits**

The project is located in Dunstable Center. Dunstable lies midway between two major urban centers, Nashua, NH to the north and Lowell to the southeast and just west of Route 3, the principal north-south running arterial that connects them.

In Dunstable, Main Street (Route 113) generally runs east-west. Therefore, from a regional perspective, and one with very few other alternatives, Main Street (Route 113) provides an important link between neighboring towns and serves as a primary means of access to Route 3 for travel destinations both north and south.

The project limits extend along Main Street (Route 113), from the vicinity of the Main Street/Pleasant Street intersection to the westerly limits of the recent MassDOT Project No. 606042 (completed in 2013), a distance of approximately 2,000 linear feet (0.38 miles), as shown on the following Project Locus Plan. All roadways within the project limits are owned and maintained by the Town.

### **Project Purpose**

The purpose of the project is to improve safety and accessibility for all the roadway's users while protecting, enhancing and reinforcing the roadway corridor's existing village character, rural landscape, and historic features.

### **Existing Conditions**

The Main Street (Route 113) corridor exhibits all the characteristics of the classic New England farm and village landscape as it winds along rolling topography between the town of Tyngsborough to the east, and the New Hampshire border to the north. Within the immediate vicinity of the project, this appealing character is reinforced by a number of historic and cultural landscape features which help define the community, including the Town's historic Central Cemetery and the historic Kendall Tavern.

From a local perspective, Main Street (Route 113) is an integral part of the town's rural character. It forms the basis of Dunstable's Town Center and East Main Street Scenic Gateway Priority Heritage Landscapes, which are characterized by a range of farm and village properties and scenic features, including old stone farm walls, large shade trees, and various vistas of fields, farms, and woods, to name a few.

From a transportation perspective, however, Main Street (Route 113) within the project limits exhibits a very narrow roadway cross-section with no sidewalk provisions yet carries traffic volumes approaching 15,000 vehicles per day. As a result, vehicle, bicycle and pedestrian travel through the area range from constrained to potentially unsafe. Existing horizontal sight distance limitations, deteriorating pavements, and a failing highway culvert and retaining wall system are also a concern to the community.

## **Proposed Improvements**

Key components envisioned through the proposed project include the following:

- Improve vehicular travel and bicycle accommodation, safety, and accessibility within the project limits through roadway widening to provide consistent travel lane and shoulder widths. In particular, the Town proposes to develop a new Main Street (Route 113) roadway cross section consisting of 11-foot wide travel lanes and 4-foot wide paved shoulders.
- Improve pedestrian accommodation, safety, and accessibility within the project limits, and within the Town Center area, through the construction of new ADA-compliant sidewalk systems.
- Improve intersection geometry conditions at Main Street's intersection with High Street.
- Improve intersection sight distance conditions at Main Street's intersection with Westford Street.
- Improve driveway sight distance conditions at the historic Kendall Tavern property.
- Improve mid-block pedestrian crossing conditions within the Town Center area.
- Reconstruct/mitigate approximately 750 linear feet of existing dry-laid stone retaining wall, immediately adjacent to and supporting the roadway, which is structurally substandard and failing under current loading conditions.
- Replace an existing dry-laid stone box culvert, carrying a perennial stream under the roadway, which is structurally substandard and failing under current loading conditions.
- Mitigate existing physical and visual impacts to the Town's historic Central Cemetery due to the existing roadway pavement's proximity and encroachment.

## **Project Programming/Cost**

The project is included in the 2021 Northern Middlesex Metropolitan Planning Organization MPO Transportation Improvement Program and has a current estimated construction cost of approximately \$4,900,000.

## **Project Status**

The design plans on display are at the preliminary design stage. Comments made at this Public Hearing will be incorporated into the project's final design documents to the maximum extent feasible.



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

Please Fold and Tape



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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  
IMPROVEMENTS ON MAIN STREET (ROUTE 113)  
**DUNSTABLE**  
Project File No. 608603  
Roadway Project Management

