



VIRTUAL DESIGN PUBLIC HEARING

Wednesday October 27th, 2021

FOR THE PROPOSED

**Corridor Improvements on Route 79 & Davol St
Major Projects/Design- Build**

IN THE CITY OF FALL RIVER, MASSACHUSETTS

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

**JONATHAN GULLIVER
HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATOR**

**CARRIE E. LAVALLEE, P.E.
ACTING CHIEF ENGINEER**

THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION – HIGHWAY DIVISION
NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING MEETING
Project File No. 608049

A Live Virtual Design Public Hearing will be hosted on the MassDOT website below to present the design for the proposed Corridor Improvements on Route 79/Davol Street in Fall River, MA.

WHEN: 6:30 pm-8:30pm, Wednesday, October 27, 2021

PURPOSE: The purpose of this hearing is to provide the public with the opportunity to become fully acquainted with proposed Corridor Improvements on Route 79/Davol Street Design Build 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 includes both design and construction of the Route 79/Davol Street corridor. The existing Route 79 is being relocated approximately onto the current alignments of northbound and southbound Davol Street, which will allow creation of development parcels along the existing Route 79 alignment. The work also includes, but is not limited to, the design and construction of local street connections to the corridor, including Brightman Street, President Avenue, Hathaway Street, and Turner Street. The project also includes the design and construction of a network of shared use paths and sidewalks, and new traffic signals. The project also requires the design and construction of a new bridge structure and retaining walls, as well as a new drainage system.

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

For more information about the project visit: www.mass.gov/route-79-davol-street-corridor-improvements

Project inquiries, written statements and other exhibits regarding the proposed undertaking may be submitted to Carrie E. Lavalley, P.E., Acting Chief Engineer, via e-mail to dot.feedback.highway@state.ma.us or via US Mail to Suite 6340, 10 Park Plaza, Boston, MA 02116, Attention: **Major Projects**, Project File No. **608049**. 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 is posted to 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). 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 business days before the hearing.

This Live Virtual Design Public Hearing or a cancellation announcement will be hosted on the internet at <https://www.mass.gov/massdot-highway-design-public-hearings>

JONATHAN GULLIVER
LAVALLEE, P.E.
HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATOR
CHIEF ENGINEER

CARRIE E.
ACTING



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. Lavalley, 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?

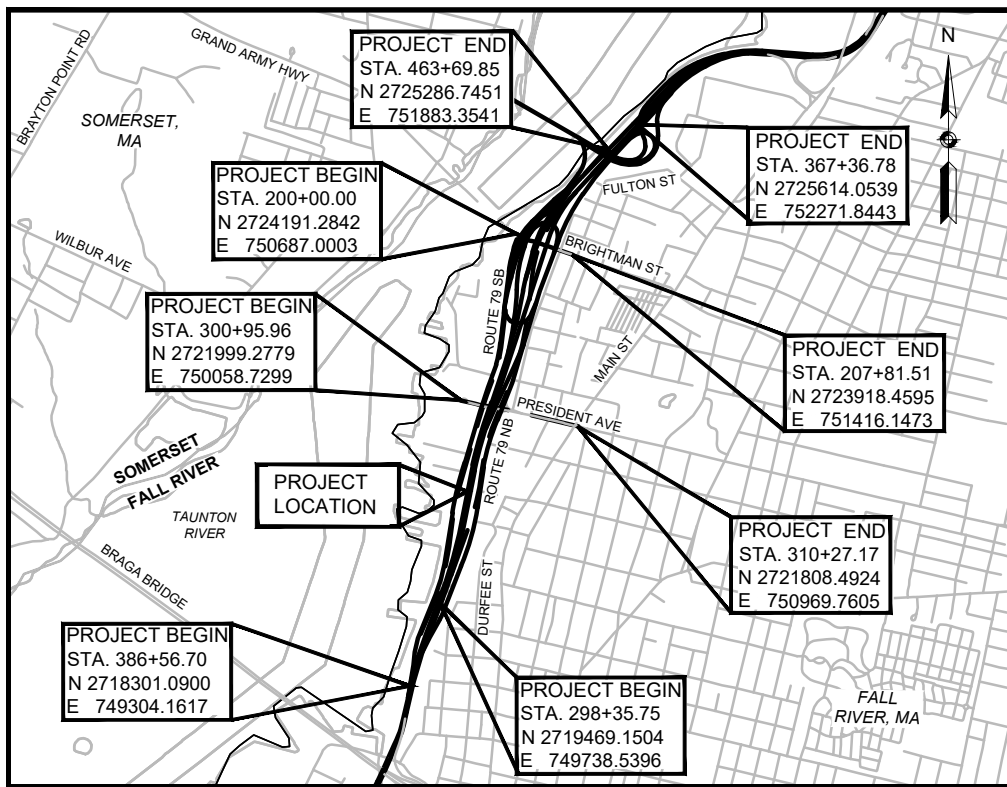
No. If, after the figure established as market value has been offered to the owner, the owner feels he or she is not being offered a fair price, he or she has the right, within three years, to appeal to the courts. Pending a court decision, he or she can be paid on a "pro-tanto" basis (or "for the time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



Fall River, Route 79/Davol Street Improvements Project (#608049)

Project Fact Sheet



Project Purpose and Need

The purpose of the project is to promote economic growth in the City by creating new developable parcels of land and to establish multimodal connectivity between the neighborhoods and the waterfront.

Existing Conditions

- Route 79 between the Veterans Memorial Bridge and Central Street is a divided limited access highway carrying two lanes in each direction with a speed limit ranging between 40 mph and 45 mph.
- Route 79 carries approximately between 20,000 and 30,000 vehicles per day and has excess capacity.
- Northbound Davol Street carries approximately 5,000 vehicles per day south of President Avenue and 16,000 vehicles per day between President Avenue and the Veterans Memorial Bridge.
- Southbound Davol Street carries approximately 5,000 vehicles per day south of President Avenue and 10,000 vehicles per day between President Avenue and the Veterans Memorial Bridge.
- Only access between neighborhoods east of Route 79 and the waterfront is via President Avenue.
- There are no dedicated provisions for bicyclists within the project corridor.

Proposed Project Improvements

The project combines Route 79 with northbound and southbound Davol Street which allows:

- Creation of 19 acres of new developable parcels
- Additional 9 acres of open space
- Reduction of total number of travel lanes from four to two lanes in each direction
- Establishment of four cross street connections between neighborhoods and waterfront at:
 - Brightman Street
 - President Avenue
 - Hathaway Street (South Coast Rail Commuter Station Connection)
 - Turner Street
- Provision of two miles of sidewalks and over two miles of shared use paths
- Separation of storm and sanitary sewer and addition of water quality infiltration basins
- Addition of coordinated traffic signals along Route 79
- Introduction of landscaping elements throughout the corridor
- Replacement of bridge carrying northbound Route 79 at the southern project end

Anticipated Project Milestones

- Fall/winter of 2021 – Environmental Permitting, 25% Design, and Right-of-Way Procurement
- Winter 2022 – Advertisement/Request for Proposals (RFP)
- Summer 2022 – Contract Awarded to Design-Build Proposer
- Fall 2025 – Roadway and Bridge Full Beneficial Use (FBU)

THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
HIGHWAY DIVISION

FEDERAL AID PROJECT

Fall River, MA
Corridor Improvements on Route 79/Davol St.
Project File No. 608049

This sheet is provided for your comments. Your input is solicited and appreciated. You may e-mail comments directly to dot.feedback.highway@state.ma.us or you may mail this sheet with any additional comments to:

Carrie E. Lavalley, P.E., Acting Chief Engineer
MassDOT – Highway Division
10 Park Plaza, Boston, MA 02116-3973
Attn: Major Projects

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.

Name: _____ Title: _____

Organization: _____

Address: _____

Please Fold and Tape



Please Place
Appropriate
Postage Here

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

RE: Virtual Public Hearing
Corridor Improvements on Route 79/Davol St.
FALL RIVER
Project File No. 608049
Attn: Major Projects/Design-Build

