



**VIRTUAL DESIGN PUBLIC HEARING**

**APRIL 21, 2026**

**FOR THE PROPOSED**

**FALL RIVER- BRIDGE REPLACEMENT, F-02-114 (C0X), JEFFERSON STREET  
OVER SUCKER BROOK**

**Project No. 609434  
Project Management**

**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.  
CHIEF ENGINEER**

THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS  
MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION – HIGHWAY DIVISION  
NOTICE OF A VIRTUAL DESIGN PUBLIC HEARING

**Project Description: FALL RIVER- Bridge Replacement, F-02-114 (C0X), Jefferson Street  
over Sucker Brook  
Project File No. 609434**

A Virtual Design Public Hearing will be hosted on the MassDOT website below to present the design for the proposed project in Fall River, MA.

WHEN: 6:00, Tuesday, April 21, 2026

**PURPOSE:** The purpose of this hearing is to provide the public with the opportunity to become fully acquainted with the proposed project. All views and comments submitted in response to the hearing will be reviewed and considered to the maximum extent possible.

**PROPOSAL:** The proposed purpose of the project is to address the structurally deficient bridge, which will continue providing multiple access points for vehicular traffic and more importantly emergency responders to the industrial park on the other side of Sucker Brook. This project involves careful consideration and balancing of multiple environmental, functional, and cost constraints.

The project replaces the existing one-lane bridge with a two-lane bridge. Replaces the existing failing retaining wall, including the addition of a new sidewalk, and reconstruction of the roadway approaches.

The proposed project consists of Bicycles accommodation by way of proposed 2' wide shoulders. Providing 5' shoulders on both sides of the roadway was evaluated as it would provide the greatest safety for bicyclists. However, adding an additional 3' of shoulder on the west side (right side) of the roadway increases impacts to the wetland along the side of the road which is also the floodplain for Sucker Brook. The narrower 2' wide shoulder was chosen to minimize environmental impacts to the maximum extent feasible while still providing some usable space for bicyclists.

The project also proposes adding a 6-foot sidewalk to one side of the road in an area of relatively low pedestrian usage. Both sides of the roadway was evaluated but not proposed due to increased impacts to the adjacent wetland and floodplain along the west (right) side of the roadway.

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.

Project inquiries, written statements and other exhibits regarding the proposed undertaking may be submitted to Carrie E. Lavalley, 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. 609434. Statements and

exhibits intended for inclusion in the hearing transcript must be emailed or postmarked no later than ten (10) business days (14 calendar days) after the hearing is hosted.

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. Lavalley, 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 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.

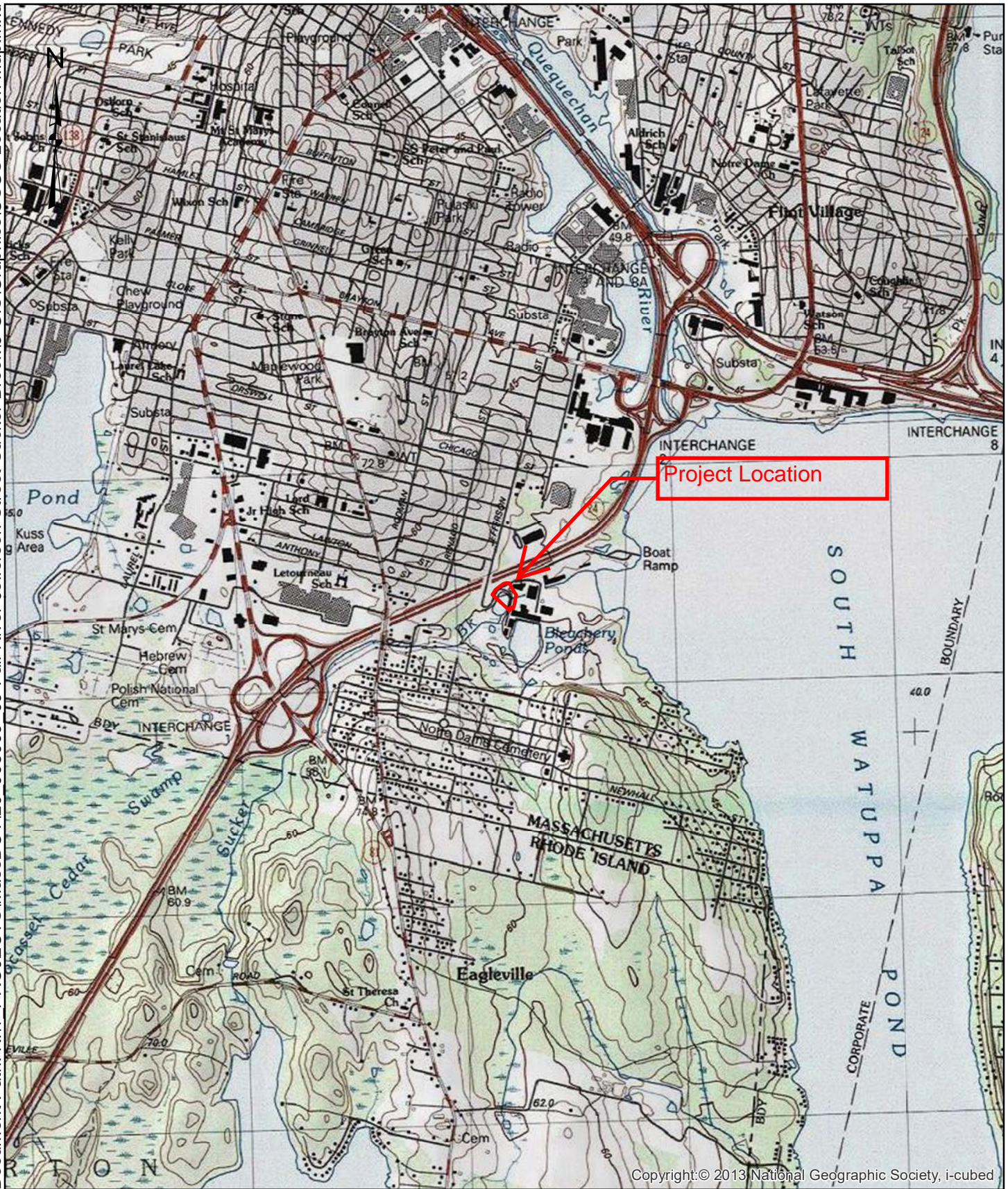
A Right of Entry is a document that is signed by the owner. It allows the Contractor to perform certain types of work on the owner's land. The work is usually minor in nature and frequently consists of loaming/seeding behind sidewalks, new driveway apron work, grading/sloping, and wetland protection,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



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		150 Dow Street Manchester, NH 03101-1227 Tel 603-669-5555 Fax 603-669-4168 Web Page www.hoyletanner.com		JEFFERSON STREET BRIDGE OVER SUCKER BROOK, FALL RIVER, MA MASSDOT PROJECT NO. 609434		APPENDIX	
		DR. BY dcoon	DATE 3/25/2022	SCALE 1 inch = 2,000 feet	PROJECT LOCATION MAP		A

## **Project Details**

The project includes a complete replacement of the structurally deficient Jefferson Street Bridge over Sucker Brook with a new 23'-11" single span adjacent prestressed concrete deck beam structure supported on cantilevered concrete abutments with stone facing founded on micropiles. The existing single lane bridge will be replaced with a two lane bridge.

The project will reconstruct approximately 400' of approach roadway (250' to the west, between the bridge and Jefferson Street Extension, and 150' to the south, to the end of Jefferson Street). Bicycle accommodation is achieved by way of proposed 2-foot-wide shoulders, and pedestrian accommodation consists of the addition of a 6-foot sidewalk to one side of the road in an area of relatively low pedestrian usage.

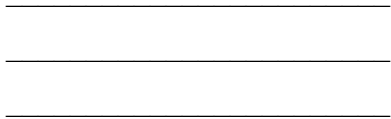
The project will also replace the failing retaining walls in the western and southern approaches.

## **Project Questions and Answers**

- **Why is this project necessary?**
  - The bridge is in poor condition with a weight restriction, and neither the bridge geometry nor its traffic safety features meet current design standards. It would not be practical or economical to rehabilitate this bridge, so MassDOT is advancing a project to completely replace the bridge.
- **How will traffic be impacted during construction?**
  - The bridge will be closed to all traffic during construction. Vehicular and pedestrian traffic will be routed around the project.
- **How long will it take to build this project?**
  - The project is anticipated to take about 9 months to build, and will be completed in a single construction season.
- **What is the cost?**
  - The estimated construction cost for this project is about \$5,000,000.
- **How will the project impact parking during construction, and in the final condition?**
  - Some of the street-side parking located next to the bridge will be unavailable during construction. There will also be temporary impacts to private parking and material storage areas east of the bridge. The City of Fall River is currently working through the process to acquire the necessary property rights to construct the project, which will include evaluating and implementing required temporary vehicle parking and material storage solutions.



Please Fold and Tape



Please Place  
Appropriate  
Postage Here

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

RE: Virtual Public Hearing  
Jefferson Street over Sucker Brook  
**FALL RIVER**  
Project File No. 609434  
Attn: Project Management

