



DESIGN PUBLIC HEARING

MARCH 19, 2020

AT

GARDNER POLICE DEPARTMENT CLASSROOM

GARDNER, MASSACHUSETTS

7:00 PM

FOR THE PROPOSED

**Roundabout Construction at Elm Street, Pearl Street, Central Street and Green Street
Project No. 609279
Roadway Project Management**

IN THE CITY OF GARDNER, 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. 609279

A Design Public Hearing will be held by MassDOT to discuss the proposed Roundabout Construction at Elm Street, Pearl Street, Central Street and Green Street project in Gardner, MA.

**WHERE: Gardner Police Department
200 Main Street, Classroom
Gardner, MA 01440**

WHEN: Thursday, March 19, 2020 @ 7:00PM

PURPOSE: The purpose of this hearing is to provide the public with the opportunity to become fully acquainted with the proposed Roundabout Construction at Elm Street, Pearl Street, Central Street and Green Street 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 constructing a roundabout at the existing Uptown Rotary, where Elm Street, Pearl Street, Central Street and Green Street meet. Additional work involves reconstruction of sidewalks, lighting, pavement markings, signage, minor drainage improvements and landscaping.

A secure right-of-way is necessary for this project. Acquisitions in fee and permanent or temporary easements may be required. The City of Gardner is responsible for acquiring all needed rights in private or public lands. The City of Gardner'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. 609279. Such submissions will also be accepted at the hearing. Mailed statements and exhibits intended for inclusion in the public hearing transcript must be postmarked no later than ten (10) business days after 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.

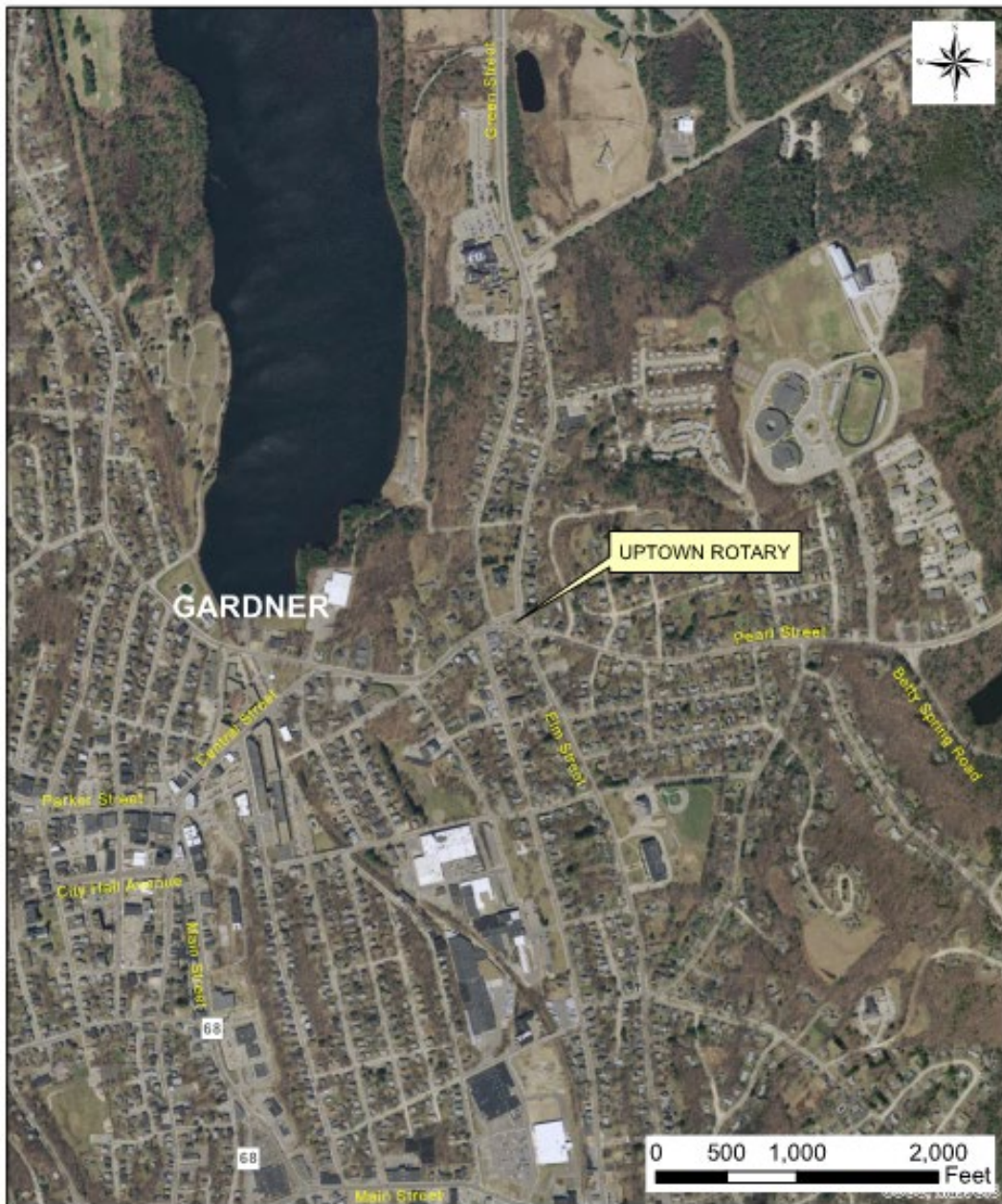


Figure 1: Locus Map
 Roadway Improvements at Uptown Rotary
 Gardner, MA

Data Source: MassGIS
 Nitsch Project #11498



Roundabout Construction at Elm Street, Pearl Street, Central Street and Green Street Gardner, MA

PROJECT LOCATION

The project includes safety and traffic calming improvements to the Uptown Rotary Intersection of Elm Street, Central Street (Route 101), Pearl Street (Route 101) and Green Street. The project limits extend westerly along Central Street to Chestnut Street. The project limits also extend approximately 200-feet on Elm Street, Pearl Street, and Green Street. The attached Locus Map shows the intersection location.

PROJECT PURPOSE

The purpose of this project is to improve safety for all modes of transportation, improve intersection geometry and to improve sidewalk accommodations within the project limits. The intersection is listed as a High Crash Location and will be funded by the state's Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP). The existing rotary geometry has large open areas, faded pavement markings, and poor visibility. The project proposes to convert the existing rotary into a modern roundabout with a central truck apron and modified approaches for all incoming streets. The intersection approaches will be constructed to provide splitter islands, shoulders, sidewalks, and grass buffers between the sidewalk and the roadway. New sidewalks with grass strips are proposed along both sides of all roadway approaches. New ADA compliant ramps will be provided at new crosswalks within the intersection.

PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS

The proposed project improvements include the following:

- Reconstruct the existing intersection to meet modern roundabout standards including central truck apron, central landscape island, splitter islands at approaches, and re-aligned intersection approaches into the intersection
- Splitter islands will form entry deflection angles to reduce vehicle speeds, improving pedestrian safety
- Resurface the roadway, reset curb lines and modify drainage infrastructure within the project limits
- Reconstruct existing sidewalk and install new sidewalk to enhance pedestrian accommodations throughout the project limits
- Construct Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) / Architectural Access Board (AAB) compliant accessible sidewalks and curb ramps within the project limits

- Stripe new high-visibility ladder-style crosswalks, STOP lines, centerlines, lane lines, gore areas, parking lanes, and shoulder lines within the project limits.
- Install new traffic signage

TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT

During typical construction operations, all roadways in the project area will remain open to vehicular 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 during construction. Pedestrian and vehicular access to abutting properties will be maintained throughout construction.

RIGHT OF WAY IMPACTS

Temporary construction easements will be required due to grading impacts to lawns, driveways, and walkways and to restore those associated impacts to adjacent properties. Permanent easements will also be required for modified intersection geometry and sidewalks. The City of Gardner will be responsible for securing all necessary easements. The City's policy concerning land acquisition will be discussed at this hearing.

PROJECT COST

The current estimate of the total construction cost of this project is approximately \$2,600,000.

PROJECT SCHEDULE

The design plans presented this evening are at the 25% design stage. The project is currently not programmed for construction on the TIP. However, it is being advanced in the event funding becomes available to construct it in future years. Design, permitting and right of way acquisition is anticipated to be complete in Spring 2021.

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
ROUNDBOUT CONSTRUCTION AT ELM STREET, PEARL STREET,
CENTRAL STREET AND GREEN STREET
GARDNER
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