



**VIRTUAL DESIGN PUBLIC HEARING**

**DECEMBER 7, 2020**

**FOR THE PROPOSED**

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

**Project No. 609279**

**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 Virtual Design Public Hearing will be published on the MassDOT website below to present the design for the proposed Roundabout Construction at Elm Street, Pearl Street, Central Street and Green Street project in **Gardner, MA.**

**WHEN: Monday, December 7th, 2020**

**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 submitted in response to 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. Bicyclists will share the roadway with vehicles, and drivers will be reminded of their potential presence through shared-lane markings.

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

Written statements and other exhibits regarding the proposed undertaking are to be submitted to Patricia A. Leavenworth, P.E., Chief Engineer, MassDOT, 10 Park Plaza, Boston, MA 02116, Attention: **Project Management, Project File No. 609279**. Mailed statements and exhibits intended for inclusion in the public hearing transcript must be postmarked no later than ten (10) business days after the hearing is posted to the MassDOT website listed below. Project inquiries may be emailed to [dot.feedback.highway@state.ma.us](mailto:dot.feedback.highway@state.ma.us).

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 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 Virtual Design Public Hearing or a cancellation announcement will be posted on the internet at [www.mass.gov/massdot-highway-design-public-hearings](http://www.mass.gov/massdot-highway-design-public-hearings).

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 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?

City officials will often seek donations, of parcels, where permanent rights are required. This procedure will minimize the acquisition cost for your community.

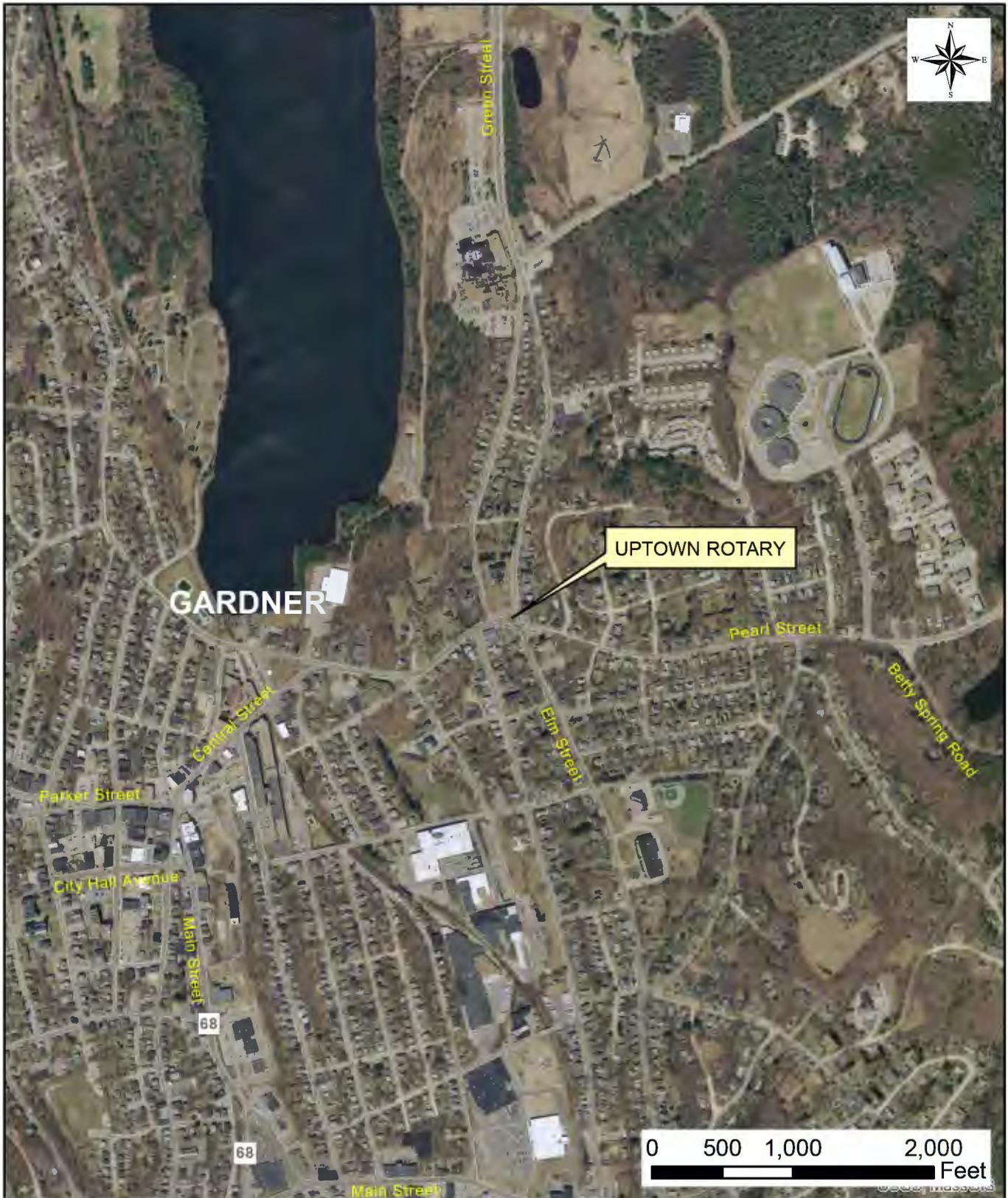
A Right of Entry is a document that is signed by the owner. It allows the Contractor to perform certain types of work on the owner's land. The work is usually minor in nature and frequently consists of loaming/seeding behind sidewalks, new driveway apron work, grading/sloping, and wetland protection,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

# **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 are proposed along both sides of each roadway approach to the intersection. Accessible pedestrian ramps meeting ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) requirements with painted crosswalks will be provided at all pedestrian crossings within the intersection.

## **PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS**

The proposed project improvements include the following:

- Reconstruct the existing intersection to meet modern roundabout standards, consisting of a circular landscaped island with truck apron and re-aligned intersection approaches
- Construct raised splitter islands to provide deflection angles on each approach roadway to reduce vehicle speeds
- Install new roadway pavement, reset curbing, and modify drainage infrastructure
- Construct sidewalks and pedestrian ramps meeting Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) / Architectural Access Board (AAB) requirements
- Stripe new high-visibility crosswalks, STOP lines, centerlines, lane lines, gore areas, parking lanes, and shoulder lines within the project limit.
- 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 associated impacts to adjacent properties. Permanent easements will be required to modify intersection geometry and construct 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**

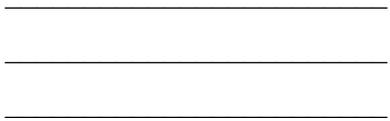
The current estimate of the total construction cost of this project is approximately \$2,900,000.

## **PROJECT SCHEDULE**

The design plans presented are at the 25% design stage. The project is currently programmed for construction in the Spring of 2025. Design, permitting, and right of way acquisitions are anticipated to be completed by the Fall of 2024.



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Boston, MA 02116-3973

RE: Virtual Public Hearing  
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