

DESIGN PUBLIC HEARING

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2025

**7:00 PM
at Grafton Town Hall**

FOR THE PROPOSED BRIDGE REPLACEMENT

**Shrewsbury Street (Route 140) over MBTA/CSX Railroad
Project File No. 612510
Bridge No. G-08-020
Project Management**

IN THE TOWN OF GRAFTON, 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 DESIGN PUBLIC HEARING**

**Project Description: Grafton – Bridge Replacement, G-08-020, Shrewsbury Street over MBTA/CSX RR
Project File No. 612510**

A 25% Design Public Hearing will be held to present the design for the proposed project in Grafton, MA.

WHERE: **Grafton Town Hall
30 Providence Rd
Grafton, MA 01519**

WHEN: **Thursday, December 4, 2025, at 7:00 PM**

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 project consists of replacement of the existing 149-foot long 3-span bridge structure that carries Shrewsbury Street (Route 140) over the MBTA/CSX railroad. The bridge will be reconstructed in place while maintaining horizontal and vertical clearance over the railroad tracks. The proposed 3-span steel beam and concrete deck and concrete substructure construction will occur while maintaining one lane of bidirectional traffic utilizing temporary traffic signals. Pedestrian access will also be maintained during the staged construction. The new bridge structure will have 11-foot travel lanes, a 9-foot buffered bike lane and 5.5-foot concrete sidewalks on both sides. The proposed improvements are focused on replacing the structurally deficient bridge and increasing safety.

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. Lavallee, P.E., Chief Engineer, via e-mail to MassDOTProjectManagement@dot.state.ma.us or via US Mail to Suite 7550, 10 Park Plaza, Boston, MA 02116, Attention: Project Management, Project File No. 612510. Statements and exhibits intended for inclusion in the public hearing transcript must be emailed or postmarked no later than ten (10) business days (14 calendar days) after the hearing is hosted on 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 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.

In case of inclement weather, a cancellation announcement will be 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. Lavallee, 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

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?

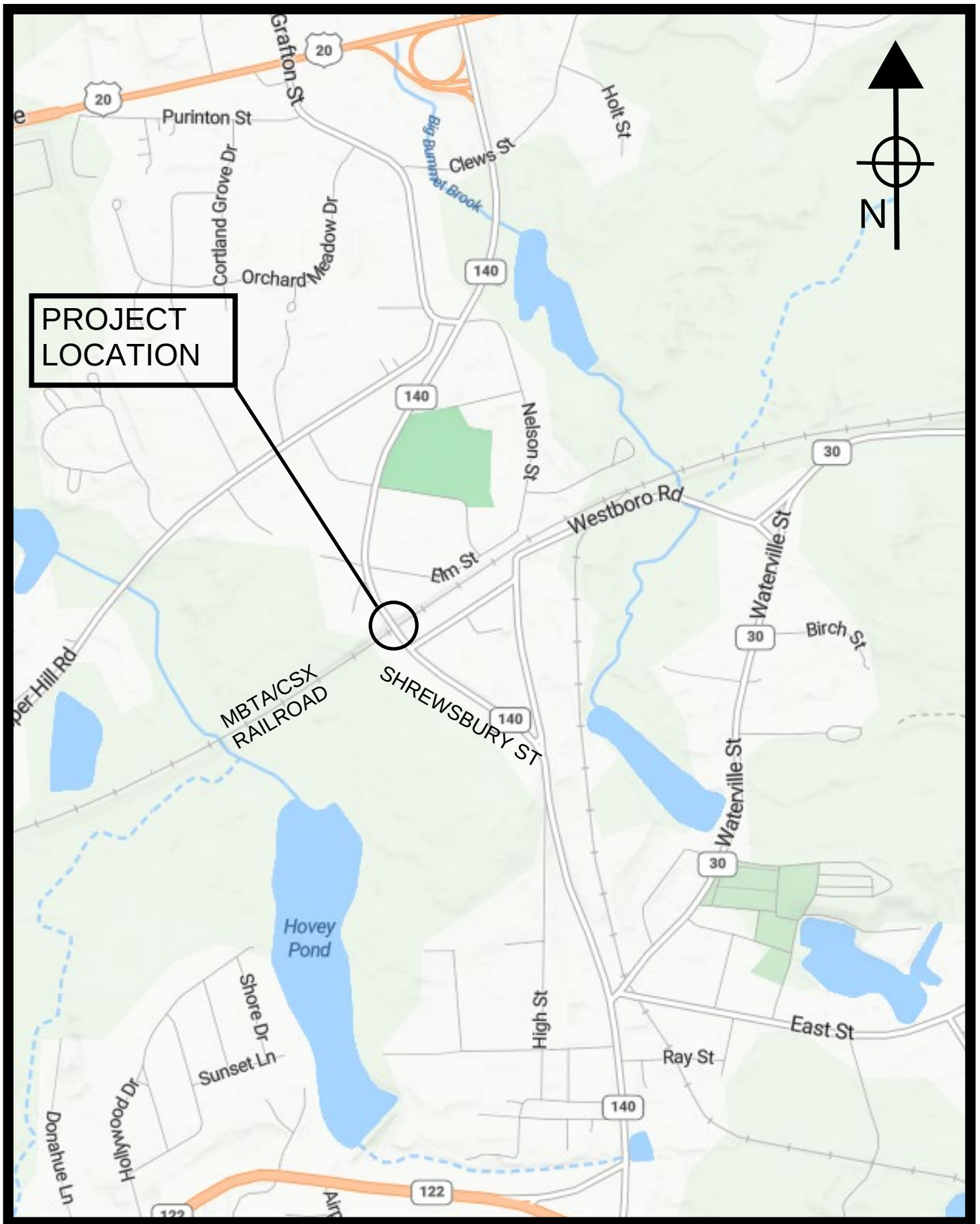
No. If, after the figure established as market value has been offered to the owner, the owner feels he or she is not being offered a fair price, he or she has the right, within three years, to appeal to the courts. Pending a court decision, he or she can be paid on a "pro-tanto" basis (or "for the time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



Grafton - Bridge Replacement Project Narrative

PROJECT LOCATION

The project site is located in Grafton, MA along Shrewsbury Street (Route 140) approximately 1.1 miles north of I-90 (Massachusetts Turnpike) and approximately 0.75 miles south of the Route 20 interchange.

PROJECT PURPOSE

This Project will replace the existing bridge carrying Shrewsbury Street over the MBTA/CSX Railroad with a new 3-span Steel Girder Structure supported on new reinforced concrete Abutments and Piers. The new bridge will include 11-foot-wide travel lanes, 9-foot-wide buffered bike lanes and 5.5-foot-wide sidewalks on both sides of the bridge with the goals of improving access, safety, and mobility for everyone.

PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS

The intent of the project is to improve roadway safety for all road users.

- Replace the existing bridge with a new bridge
- Reconstruct the approach roadway between Elm Street and Westboro Road
- Incorporate mobility improvements for pedestrians and bicyclists
- Intersection safety improvements

MAINTENANCE OF TRAFFIC DURING CONSTRUCTION

Shrewsbury Street will be limited to a single lane of bi-directional traffic controlled by temporary traffic signals located north and south of the bridge. Westboro Road will be closed at Shrewsbury Street for safety and detoured to North Main Street and/or Waterville Street (Route 30). Manning Lane and Elm Street to the north will remain open.

RIGHT OF WAY (ROW) IMPACTS

The proposed improvements will require temporary easements for the excavation and grading required to construct the new bridge adjacent to the abutting properties. One small permanent utility easement is required for the resetting of a utility pole and guy wire near the southwest corner of the bridge. A secure Right of Way is required to advertise this project for construction.

PROJECT COST

The preliminary construction cost of this project at this 25% design stage is approximately \$8,500,000. This cost does not include any ROW costs, utility costs or construction contingency costs.

PROJECT SCHEDULE

The design plans presented this evening represent 25% design plans. The project has been programmed in the Statewide Transportation Improvement Plan for Federal Fiscal Year 2027. Construction is anticipated to begin by Fall 2027 or Spring 2028. The construction duration will be a minimum of two construction seasons.

THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
HIGHWAY DIVISION

FEDERAL AID PROJECT

Grafton, MA
Shrewsbury Street (Route 140) over MBTA/CSX Railroad
Project File No. 612510
Bridge No. G-08-020

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

Carrie E. Lavallee, P.E., Chief Engineer
MassDOT – Highway Division
10 Park Plaza, Boston, MA 02116-3973
Attn: Project Management

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

RE: Design Public Hearing
Bridge Replacement - Shrewsbury Street (Route 140) over MBTA/CSX Railroad
GRAFTON
Project File No. 612510
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