



DESIGN PUBLIC HEARING

January, 15, 2025

FOR THE PROPOSED

BRIDGE REPLACEMENT, DIVISION STREET OVER HOUSATONIC RIVER

Project No. 612183

Bridge Nos G-11-002

Project Managment

IN THE TOWN OF GREAT BARRINGTON, 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 File No. 612183**

A Design Public Hearing will be held to present the design for the proposed project in Bridge Replacement, Division Street over Housatonic River, Great Barrington, MA

WHERE: Town Hall
334 Main Street
Great Barrington, MA-01230

WHEN: Wednesday, January 15, 2025 @ 6:00 PM

PURPOSE: The purpose of this hearing is to provide the public with the opportunity to become fully acquainted with the proposed Division Street over the Housatonic River bridge replacement 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 replacing the temporary bridge carrying Division Street over the Housatonic River with a bridge that will be designed for a 75-year lifespan. The proposed roadway is planned to have two 11 feet wide travel lanes. Bicycle accommodation consisting of five feet wide usable shoulders have been provided in accordance with applicable design guides. The total project length is approximately 500 feet long.

A secure right-of-way is necessary for this project. Acquisitions in fee and permanent or temporary easements may be required. The town 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 or via US Mail to Suite 7550, 10 Park Plaza, Boston, MA 02116, Attention: Project Management, Project File No. 612183. 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. LAVALLEY, 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

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.



 GREEN INTERNATIONAL AFFILIATES, INC. CIVIL and Structural Engineers	PROJECT TITLE: GREAT BARRINGTON DIVISION STREET OVER HOUSATONIC RIVER	APPENDIX NO. 9.1 BRIDGE NO. G-11-002 (04F)
GREEN PROJ. NO.: 21056.0100 DATE: JUNE 2023 DESIGNED BY: MCL DRAWN BY: AD CHECKED BY: MAC	DRAWING TITLE: PROJECT LOCATION MAP	SKETCH/PAGE NO. 9.1.1

Proposed Improvements

The proposed project consists of replacing the temporary bridge carrying Division Street over the Housatonic River with a bridge that will be designed for a 75-year lifespan. Bridge construction will be completed under a total roadway closure. The total project length is approximately 500 feet long.

The existing abutments founded on timber piles were evaluated and deemed satisfactory for re-use. Re-use of the existing abutments requires the installation of scour countermeasures in the channel. Support of excavation will be used in the channel to install the countermeasures in front of both abutments, mitigating the potential risk of undermining and pile exposure. The existing abutments will be cut down to a specified elevation and re-capped, allowing for the proposed superstructure to be held above the base hundred year flood elevation.

The existing abutments are proposed to support a new superstructure consisting of six (6) welded steel plate girders composite with an 8-inch full depth cast-in-place deck and a 3 inch bituminous concrete wearing surface. The proposed superstructure replacement will not increase the base flood elevation.

The proposed roadway carried by the bridge will consist of two 11 feet wide travel lanes. Bicycle accommodation consisting of five feet wide usable shoulders on each side of the bridge have been provided in accordance with applicable design guides.

The approach roadways on either side of the bridge will transition to provide a curb-to-curb width of 28 feet, consisting of an eleven feet wide travel lane and 3 feet wide shoulder, for each direction of travel to blend into existing conditions. The proposed horizontal alignment will follow the existing roadway centerline. The vertical alignments will be raised for the proposed bridge to allow for proper waterway clearances. The approach guardrails will be upgraded to meet current MASH standards.

THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
HIGHWAY DIVISION

FEDERAL AID PROJECT

Great Barrington MA
BRIDGE REPLACEMENT , DIVISION STREET OVER HOUSATONIC RIVER
Project File No. 612183

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: Public Hearing
BRIDGE REPLACEMENT , DIVISION STREET OVER HOUSATONIC RIVER
GREAT BARRINGTON
Project File No. 612183
Attn: Project Management

