



**DESIGN PUBLIC HEARING**

**MAY 21, 2026**

**FOR THE PROPOSED**

**BRIDGE REPLACEMENT, G-11-006, COTTAGE STREET OVER THE HOUSATONIC  
RIVER**

**Project File No. 609076**

**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 Description: Great Barrington – Bridge Replacement, Br# G-11-006, Cottage Street over the  
Housatonic River  
Project File No. 609076**

A Design Public Hearing will be held to present the design for the proposed project in Great Barrington, MA.

WHERE: Great Barrington Fire Station  
37 State Road  
Great Barrington, MA 01230

WHEN: Thursday, May 21, 2026 @ 6:00 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 a complete replacement of bridge G-11-006; this existing truss bridge structure, which carries Cottage Street over the Housatonic River, is currently closed to vehicular traffic due to its deteriorated condition and is in need of a new bridge structure, wearing surface and railing system on and off the bridge to bring it up to current design standards. The project also includes improvements to the sidewalk facilities. The replacement bridge will be a 149'-6" single-span steel bridge. The bridge will be closed for the duration of construction; a detour will be provided for vehicular traffic; pedestrian traffic will be maintained with a temporary bridge.

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 [MassDOTMajorProjects@dot.state.ma.us](mailto:MassDOTMajorProjects@dot.state.ma.us) or via US Mail to Suite 7550, 10 Park Plaza, Boston, MA 02116, Attention: Project Management, Project File No. 609076. 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](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.

Visit <https://www.mass.gov/orgs/highway-division/events> for more information or to view a recording of the presentation if you are unable to attend. In case of inclement weather, a cancellation announcement will be posted on the website above.

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 about 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 the 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.



**LOCUS MAP**

## **PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS**

Existing Bridge G-11-006 was formally built in 1934 in North Adams, then reconstructed in 1961 and consists of a pony truss (Camelback Pratt) superstructure that carries Cottage Street in an east-west direction over the Housatonic River. The bridge has a 128-foot clear span and is 30 feet wide out to out. MassDOT determined that the existing bridge is in need of either a superstructure replacement or a full replacement. After a full analysis was completed, a full replacement of the existing bridge is the selected alternative. The proposed bridge will consist of steel stringer superstructure with a concrete deck supported on integral abutments, which are supported on drilled secant piles.

The proposed bridge has a clear span of 149' - 6" to reduce impacts to the channel; the existing eastern abutment will be completely removed and replaced while the proposed western abutment will be located just behind the existing one, with a portion of the existing abutment left in place.

The proposed roadway horizontal alignment and vertical profile will match the existing conditions. The proposed roadway cross section will consist of two 10' lanes, two 5' shoulders and two 5'-6" wide sidewalks on both the North and South side of the bridge and tie into existing sidewalks in the vicinity of Stanley Park. The bridge will also carry two 10-foot lanes, matching the roadway section. The total width of the bridge increases to 43'-9" to allow standard metal bridge railings to be installed.

Bridge rail and standard precast highway guardrail transitions are proposed on both ends of the bridge, which will improve compliance with MassDOT standards and regulations. The existing intersection with Main Street will remain unchanged.

Existing overhead utilities will be permanently relocated as required to accommodate construction of the new bridge.



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Carrie E. Lavalley, P.E.  
Chief Engineer  
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Boston, MA 02116-3973

RE: Public Hearing  
Bridge Replacement, G-11-006, Cottage Street over the Housatonic River  
**GREAT BARRINGTON**  
Project File No. 609076  
Attn: Project Management

