



**VIRTUAL DESIGN PUBLIC HEARING**

**March 30, 2022**

**6:0PM to 7:30PM**

**FOR THE PROPOSED**

**Resurfacing and Box Widening on Ayer Road Project**

**No. 609213**

**Project Management**

**IN THE TOWN OF HARVARD, 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 PUBLIC HEARING**  
**Project File No. 609213**

A Live Virtual Design Public Hearing will be hosted on the MassDOT website below to present the design for the proposed Resurfacing and Box Widening on Ayer Road, from Route 2 to the Ayer Town Line project in Harvard, MA.

**WHEN: 6:30 PM, Wednesday, March 30, 2022**

**PURPOSE:** The purpose of this hearing is to provide the public with the opportunity to become fully acquainted with the proposed resurfacing and box widening on Ayer Road, from Route 2 to the Ayer Town Line. 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 improvements to approximately 1.7 miles of Ayer Road (Route 110/111) from the Route 2 interchange to the Harvard/Ayer town line. The proposed improvements consist of reconstructing Ayer Road to provide a consistent roadway width with 11-foot lanes and 4-foot shoulders, widening to provide a left turn lane at Gebo Lane, and realigning approximately 650 feet of Gebo Lane to form a standard 90-degree T-intersection to improve vehicular sight distances. A new shared use path will be constructed along the west side of Ayer Road throughout the project limits to provide safe and appropriate pedestrian and bicycle facilities. The shared use path will be 10-feet wide with a 3 to 5-foot buffer area.

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. The Town'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., Acting Chief Engineer, via e-mail to [MassDOTProjectManagement@dot.state.ma.us](mailto:MassDOTProjectManagement@dot.state.ma.us) or via US Mail to Suite 6340, 10 Park Plaza, Boston, MA 02116, Attention: **Project Management, Project File No. 609213**. 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.

This Live Virtual Design Public Hearing or a cancellation announcement will be hosted 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

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.  
Acting 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).

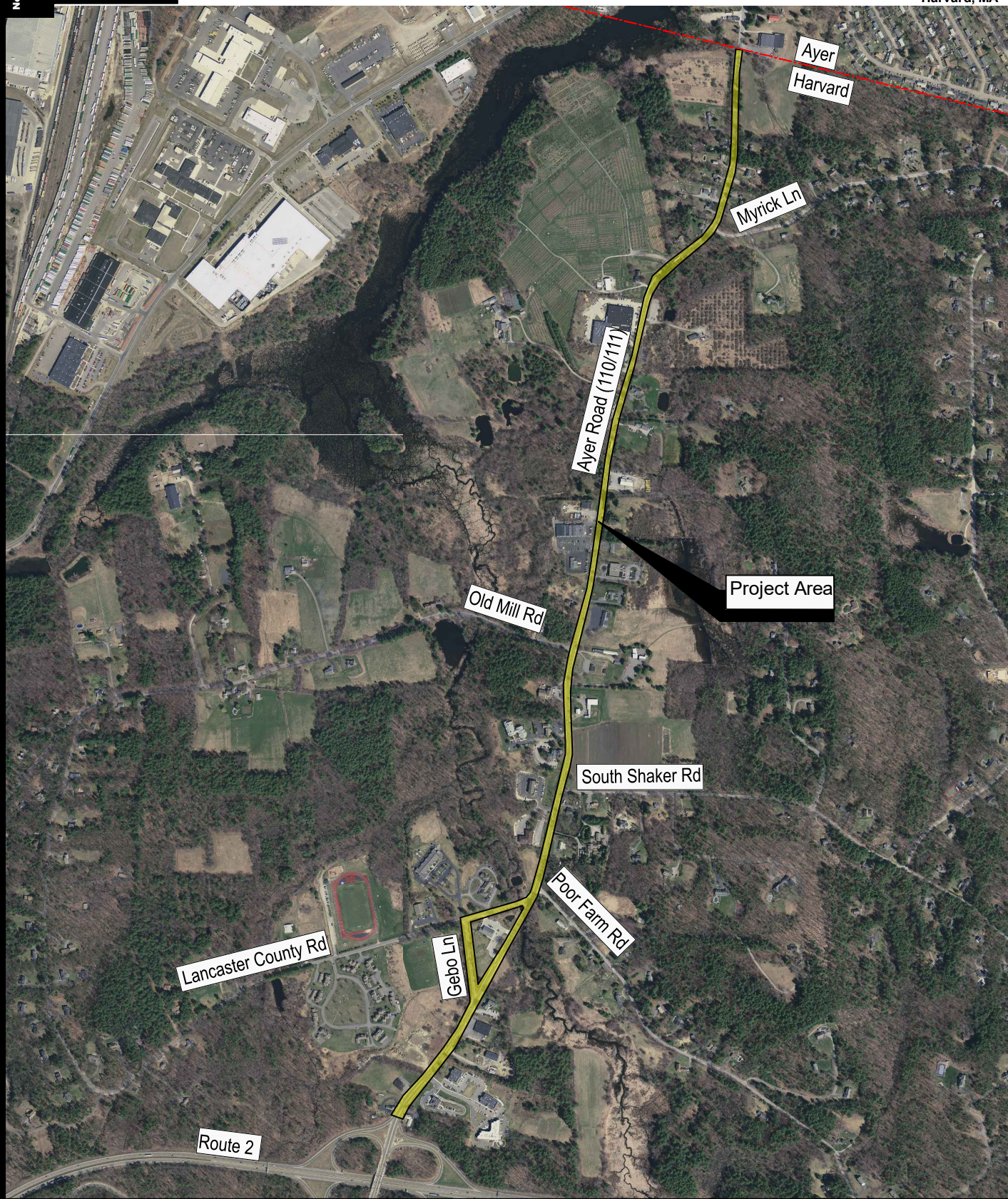
### **5. MUST I ACCEPT THE MUNICIPALITY OFFER?**

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.

North

1" = 1100'

# Ayer Road Corridor Improvements Harvard, MA



TEC, Inc.  
146 Dascomb Road  
Andover, MA 01810  
978-794-1792  
[www.TheEngineeringCorp.com](http://www.TheEngineeringCorp.com)

Locus Map

## **Project Purpose**

The purpose of this project is to modernize critical roadway infrastructure to correct safety and structural deficiencies, while providing necessary multi-modal accommodations along a high-volume roadway. The project will reconstruct approximately 1.7 miles of Ayer Road (Route 110/111) to provide a consistent roadway width with 11-foot lanes and 4-foot shoulders. The project also includes the construction of a new shared use path along the west side of Ayer Road throughout the project limits to provide safe and appropriate pedestrian and bicycle accommodations in both directions of travel.

## **Proposed Improvements**

The project includes roadway widening and safety improvements to provide a consistent roadway width with 11-foot lanes and 4-foot shoulders. It includes the construction of a 10-foot-wide shared use path with a 3 to 5-foot buffer along the west side of Ayer Road. Gebo Lane will be realigned to form a T-intersection to improve sight distances and a left-turn lane from Ayer Road to Gebo Lane will be constructed. Lancaster County Road at Ayer Road will be restricted to non-motorized traffic and emergency access only. Other enhancements include upgrading the storm drain infrastructure, pavement resurfacing, new pavement markings and signs, and installation of six new crosswalks with pedestrian-actuated warning beacons (a.k.a. Rectangular Rapid-Flashing Beacons, or RRFB).

## **Existing Conditions**

The proposed project is located entirely within the Town of Harvard, MA. The general footprint (i.e., public right-of-way) of Ayer Road (Route 110/111) is being utilized throughout the project. Ayer Road is a two lane, urban principal arterial roadway under the jurisdiction of the Town of Harvard. The posted speed limit is 40 miles per hour (MPH) south of Myrick Lane and 35 MPH to the north of Myrick Lane. There are no sidewalks or designated bike lanes present along Ayer Road.

## **Right of Way**

The Town of Harvard is responsible for acquiring all needed rights in private or public lands. The policies concerning land acquisitions will be presented in the hearing.

## **Maintenance of Traffic During Construction**

During typical construction operations, all roadways in the project area will remain open to residents and other traffic. Occasional short traffic disruptions and travel lane and shoulder closures may occur, but every effort will be made to minimize inconvenience to the travelling public and abutting residents and businesses. Access to abutting properties will be maintained throughout construction.

## **Project Status – Project Schedule**

The project has been programmed in the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program for Federal Fiscal Year 2026. The Plans on display this evening are at the 25% Design Stage (Preliminary Design Stage). Comments from this evening will be reviewed and considered to the maximum extent possible.

## **Project Construction Cost**

The project construction costs will be funded with a combination of moneys from the Federal Highway Administration and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and is currently estimated at approximately \$10 million.

THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS  
MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
HIGHWAY DIVISION

FEDERAL AID PROJECT

Harvard, MA  
Resurfacing and Box Widening on Ayer Road, from Route 2 to the Ayer Town Line  
Project File No. 609213

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](mailto: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: Virtual Public Hearing  
Resurfacing and Box Widening on Ayer Road, from Route 2 to the Ayer Town Line  
**TOWN OF HARVARD**  
Project File No. 609213  
Attn: Project Management

