



DESIGN PUBLIC HEARING

MAY 8, 2025

AT

HARVARD TOWN HALL

HARVARD, MASSACHUSETTS

6:30 PM

FOR THE PROPOSED

JACKSON ROAD OVER NASHUA RIVER BRIDGE REPLACEMENT PROJECT

Project No. 612883

Bridge No. H-09-019/L-02-020

Project Management

IN THE TOWNS OF HARVARD AND LANCASTER, 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. 612883

An In-Person Design Public Hearing will be conducted to present the design for the proposed full Bridge Replacement project on Jackson Road in the town of Harvard, MA.

WHEN: Thursday, May 8, 2025 @ 6:30–7:30 PM
WHERE: Harvard Town Hall - Upper Town Hall (Second floor)
13 Ayer Road, Harvard, MA 01451

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 the full replacement of the bridge which carries Jackson Road over the Nashua River in the Towns of Harvard and Lancaster, MA. The existing bridge structure will be replaced with a 145'-0" single-span, metalized steel plate girder bridge supported on steel piles.

The bridge will be widened to accommodate an additional shoulder width and a new southbound traffic lane. The new structure will carry three (3) 12'-0" lanes of traffic and provide two (2) 4'-0" shoulders. The bridge will also have two (2) safety curbs. Jackson Road is an Urban Local Road and currently does not have any sidewalks.

The proposed work includes approach roadway work that will extend approximately 180 feet to the west and 770 feet east from each end of the bridge and will involve a full-depth reconstruction of Jackson Road. The proposed bridge will be constructed in two stages. During construction, a minimum of one travel lane will be maintained via alternating traffic with temporary signals.

A secure right-of-way is necessary for this project. Acquisitions in fee and permanent or temporary easements may be required; however, they are not anticipated. 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. 612883. Statements and exhibits intended for inclusion in the hearing transcript must be emailed or postmarked no later than ten (10) business days (14 calendar days) after the hearing is hosted.

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.

This hearing will be hosted, or a cancellation announcement 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?

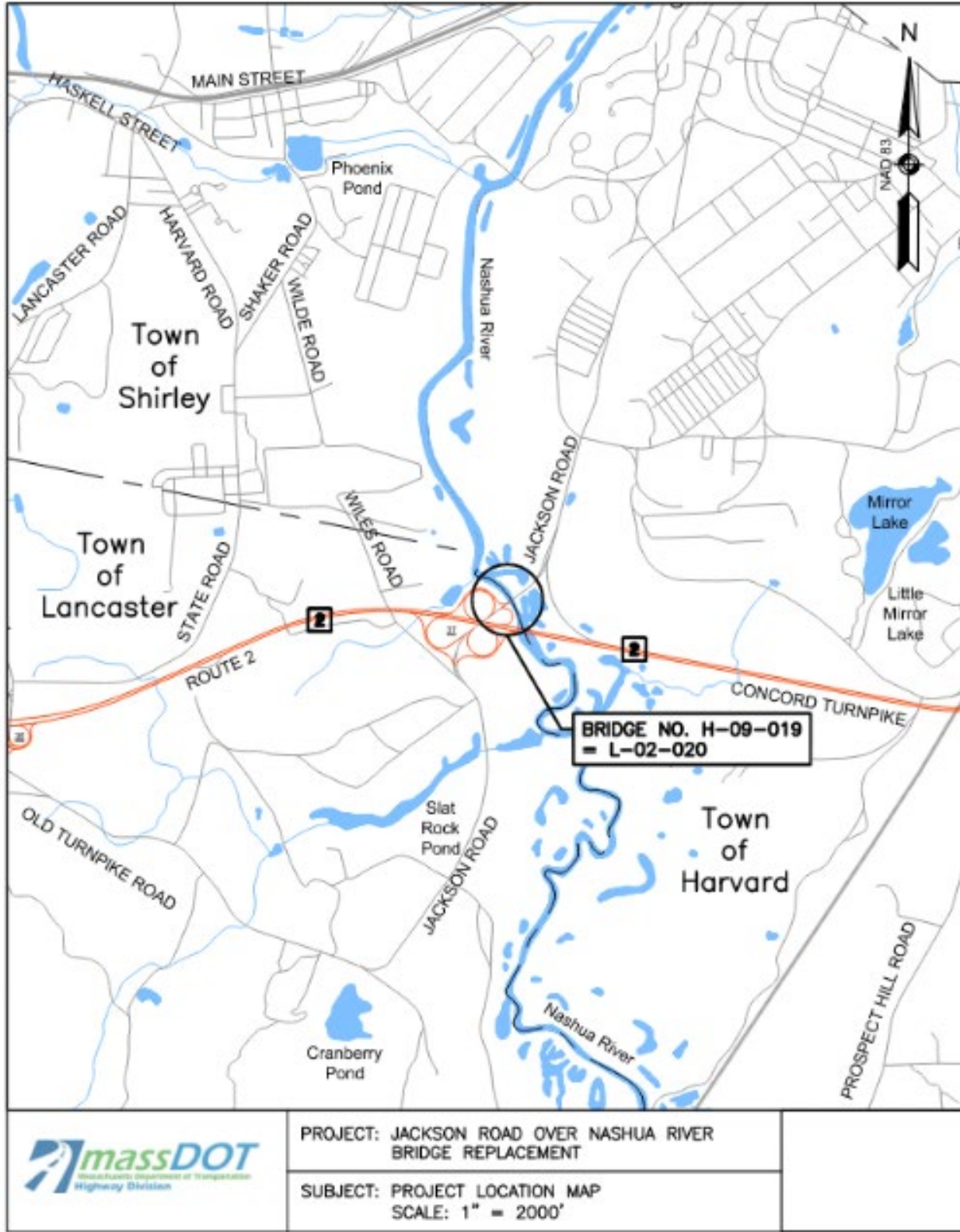
No. If, after the figure established as market value has been offered to the owner, the owner feels he or she is not being offered a fair price, he or she has the right, within three years, to appeal to the courts. Pending a court decision, he or she can be paid on a "pro-tanto" basis (or "for the time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



Project Description

Jackson Road over Nashua River Bridge Replacement (Harvard and Lancaster), MA

Project Purpose and Limits of Work

The purpose of the project is to replace the existing bridge due to its deteriorating condition and limited capacity. In addition to replacing the bridge, the approach roadways will be reconstructed and widened, adding a new lane in the southbound direction. The ramp from Jackson Road to Route 2 westbound will also be reconstructed. The new pavement will extend 180 feet west of the bridge and 770 feet east of the bridge, resulting in a total project length of approximately 1060 feet along Jackson Road.

Scope of Proposed Work

The primary work on this project involves replacing the existing bridge structure and roadway approaches. The current bridge is a 110-foot-long, two-span steel beam structure with concrete abutments. The new bridge will occupy the same general area as the existing bridge and will span 145 feet, creating banks under the bridge on both sides of the Nashua River. The bridge will be widened and will feature steel beams and a high-performance concrete deck. These steel beams will be supported on new foundations placed behind parts of the existing foundations that will remain in place.

The new bridge will be about 17 feet wider than the current one, with a 44-foot-wide roadway compared to the existing 26-foot-wide roadway. Each side of the structure will have bridge railings. Pedestrians and bicycles are discouraged from using this section of Jackson Road, as the only destinations are Route 2, a restricted access highway, and Fort Devens South Post, a U.S. Army Reserve military installation restricted to military personnel only.

Work on the roadway approaches to the bridge includes reconstructing and widening the existing roadway to transition to the new bridge. Additionally, retaining walls will be built at the northwest, northeast, and southeast corners of the bridge. Other improvements include drainage enhancements and new guardrails.

Traffic Management

Jackson Road will stay open to traffic during the construction of the new bridge, except on certain nights when a detour will be in place. Stage 1A will involve the construction of a temporary Route 2 westbound on-ramp. Stage 1B will necessitate a temporary traffic signal with one-way alternating traffic on the south side of the bridge to demolish and build the north side of the bridge along with its retaining walls. Stage 2A will also require a temporary traffic signal with one-way alternating traffic on the south side of the bridge to construct the northeast retaining wall. Finally, Stage 2B will need a temporary traffic signal with one-way alternating traffic on the north side of the bridge to demolish and build the south side of the bridge and its retaining walls.

Utilities

There are existing overhead wires along the south side of Jackson Road that will need to be removed. Utilities will be relocated underground and on the proposed bridge.

Right of Way

The project will be undertaken entirely within MassDOT State Highway Layout. No temporary or permanent easements are anticipated.

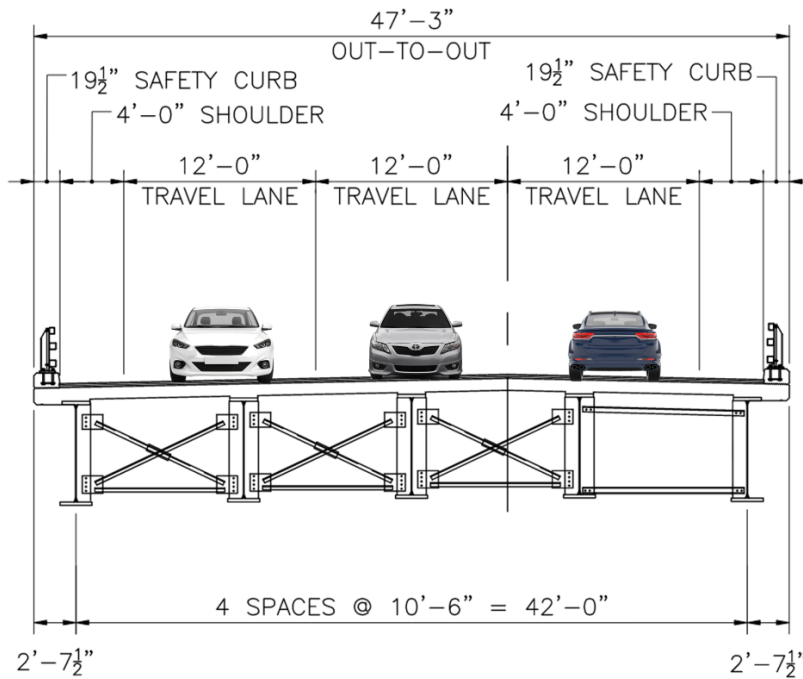
Project Status and Anticipated Schedule

The project plans on display this evening are at the 25%/preliminary design stage.

- Advertisement for Construction Fall 2026
- Start of Construction Spring 2027
- Construction Completed Late Fall 2028

Project Cost

The preliminary/25% estimate of the construction cost is \$19,100,000.



PROPOSED BRIDGE CROSS SECTION



EXISTING BRIDGE ELEVATION VIEW

PROJECT QUESTIONS

1. What is the purpose of this project?
 - a. The purpose of this project is to replace the existing bridge on Jackson Road over Nashua River due to its deteriorating structural condition.

THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
HIGHWAY DIVISION

FEDERAL AID PROJECT

(Harvard and Lancaster), MA
Jackson Road over Nashua River Bridge Replacement
Project File No. 612883

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
Jackson Road over Nashua River Bridge Replacement Project
(HARVARD & LANCASTER, MA)
Project File No. 612883
Attn: Project Management

