



**VIRTUAL DESIGN PUBLIC HEARING**

**FEBRUARY 11, 2021**

**FOR THE PROPOSED**

**AZALEA DRIVE OVER HERRING RIVER**

**Project No. 608617**

**Bridge No. H-10-019 (43P)**

**Major Projects**

**IN THE TOWN OF HARWICH, MASSACHUSETTS**

**COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS  
MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
HIGHWAY DIVISION**

**JONATHAN GULLIVER  
HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATOR**

**PATRICIA A. LEAVENWORTH, P.E.  
CHIEF ENGINEER**

**THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS**  
**MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION – HIGHWAY DIVISION**  
**NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING MEETING**  
**Project File No. 608617**

A Virtual Design Public Hearing will be published on the MassDOT website below to present the design for the proposed Azalea Road over Herring River Bridge Replacement project in Harwich, MA.

WHEN: Thursday, February 11<sup>th</sup>, 2021

PURPOSE: The purpose of this hearing is to provide the public with the opportunity to become fully acquainted with the proposed Azalea Road over Herring 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 the replacement of the Bridge H-10-019 Azalea Drive, Harwich Massachusetts. The existing bridge, constructed in 1974, is a single 29'-0" clear span bridge that is approximately 32'-0" wide. It currently provides a curb-to-curb vehicular travel-way of 24'-0" and one sidewalk, 5'-7" in width, located on the east side. The proposed replacement bridge will similarly accommodate two lanes of traffic and one sidewalk on the east side. It shall span 46'-7 1/2" and be constructed on new pile-supported integral abutments constructed behind the existing substructures. The proposed curb-to-curb width shall be expanded to 26'-0". The project includes a number of safety improvements, including an increased sidewalk width of 6'-0" on the bridge and approaches with ADA compliant handicap ramps, new approach guardrail and bridge rail meeting current crash safety standards, roadway profile changes that will improve sight distances and a new 2'-0" shoulder on the west side of the roadway, all of which have been provided in accordance with the applicable design guides and specifications.

Since the travel-way is the only access to several residences to the north and west of the site, the replacement will be performed in stages in order to provide, at a minimum, one lane alternating traffic at all times throughout construction. Due to site constraints, a temporary pedestrian bridge will also be installed during the majority of construction to provide a separate and safe travel-way for pedestrians and cyclists.

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.

Written statements and other exhibits regarding the proposed undertaking are to be submitted to Patricia A. Leavenworth, P.E., Chief Engineer, MassDOT, 10 Park Plaza, Boston, MA 02116, Attention: Major Projects, Project File No. 608617. Mailed statements and exhibits intended for inclusion in the public hearing transcript must be postmarked no later than ten (10) business days after the hearing is posted to the MassDOT website listed below. Project inquiries may be emailed to [dot.feedback.highway@state.ma.us](mailto:dot.feedback.highway@state.ma.us).

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 prior to the meeting, 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 Virtual Design Public Hearing or a cancellation announcement will be posted 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

PATRICIA A. LEAVENWORTH, 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,

Patricia A Leavenworth, P. E.  
Chief Engineer

## **PUBLIC HEARING FAQ'S**

### **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.

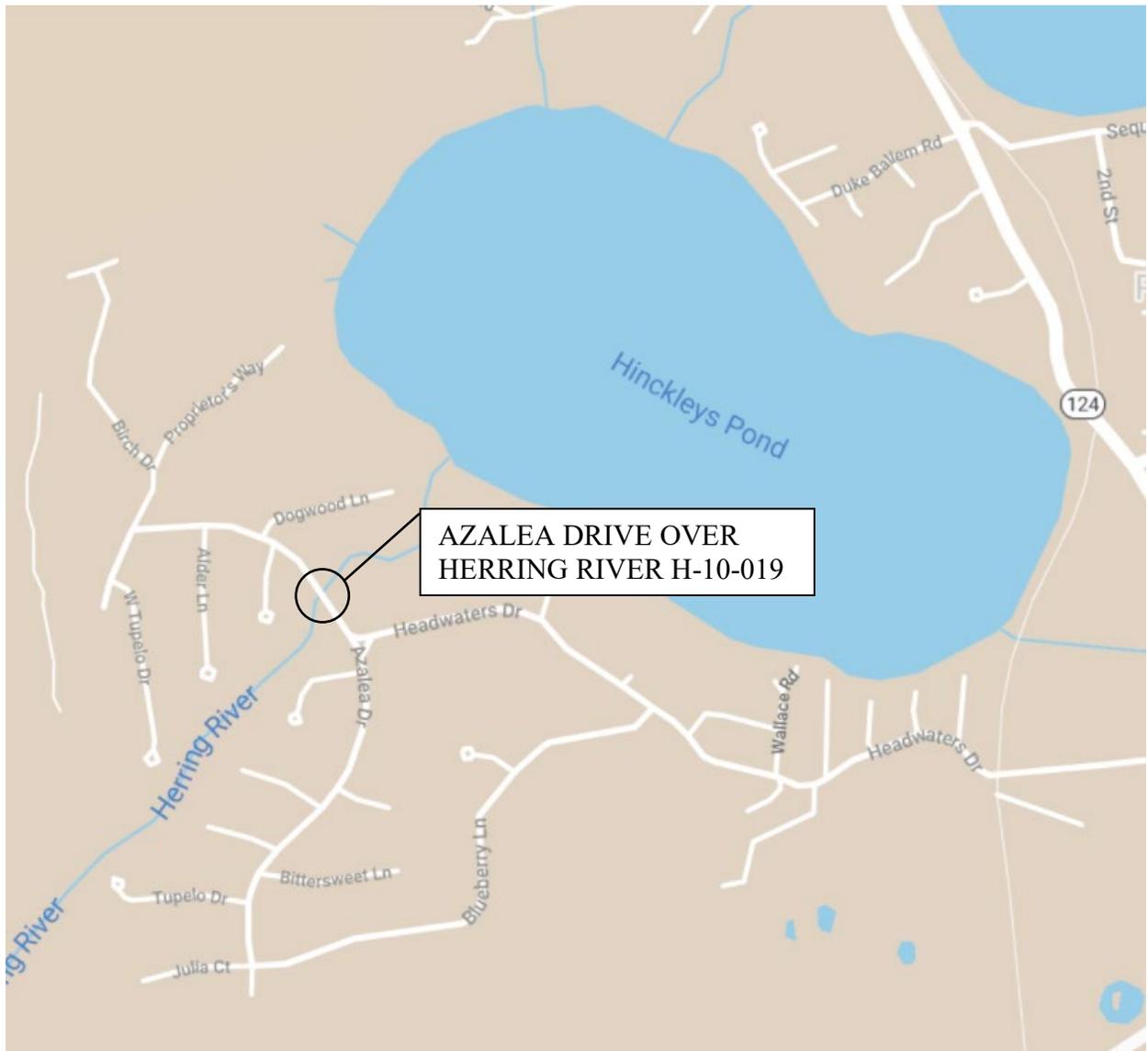
4. WHAT IS A FAIR PRICE FOR THE ACQUIRED PARCELS?

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.

# LOCUS MAP



## **PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

### **Project Location and Limits**

The project area extends along Azalea Drive from approximately 152 feet north of Headwaters Drive to 180 feet south of Sweetfern Lane for a total project length of 350 feet.

### **Project Purpose**

The purpose of this project is to replace the existing structurally deficient bridge that carried Azalea Drive over Herring River. The proposed project will increase the load carrying capacity of the bridge and improve vehicle and pedestrian safety in the area.

### **Existing Conditions**

Azalea Drive is a two-lane roadway with one lane in each direction. The existing bridge is a concrete adjacent box beam structure. Structural and maintenance issues include poor drainage leading to roadway ponding and water leakage through bridge deck and beams, substandard sidewalks and approach roadways, non-standard bridge railing, and non-standard live load capacity.

### **Proposed Improvements**

The work includes demolition of the existing concrete adjacent box beam bridge. The existing bridge will be replaced with a new concrete spread box beam and reinforced concrete deck supported on integral concrete abutments supported by piles. A sidewalk will be installed on the east side of the bridge.

Approximately 350 feet of Azalea Drive will be reconstructed as part of this project. A 6-foot sidewalk will be constructed along the easterly side of Azalea Drive which will extend across the bridge. Two 12-foot wide travel lanes and a 2-foot shoulder will be provided across the bridge and on the approaches leading up to the structure. The improvements include establishing a consistent roadway cross-section and roadway profile to improve drainage, and safety.

### **Traffic Management**

The bridge replacement will be done through stage construction. A temporary pedestrian bridge will be constructed to allow pedestrian traffic away from construction zones. One lane of the bridge will be replaced at a time which will allow the other side to remain open at all times. One lane of alternating traffic will be open at all times with a minimum of 12-foot wide travel lane.

### **Utilities**

Existing underground utility and water lines will be relocated and replaced to accommodate this project. Drainage will also be updated within the project limits.

### **Right of Way**

The Town of Harwich shall obtain the necessary rights to access property that is impacted by the construction of the improvements. Only temporary construction easements will be required for this project.

### **Project Cost**

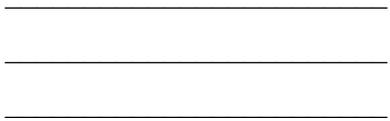
The cost of the proposed project is approximately \$2,100,000.

### **Project Status**

The design is currently at the 25% Design Stage. Comments received during the ten (10) day review period will be considered in determining the final design. The design is anticipated to be completed in 2021. The project will be advertised in 2022 and construction is anticipated to take approximately 18 months.



Please Fold and Tape



Please Place  
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Patricia A. Leavenworth, P.E.  
Chief Engineer  
MassDOT – Highway Division  
10 Park Plaza  
Boston, MA 02116-3973

RE: Virtual Public Hearing  
Azalea Drive over Herring River  
**HARWICH**  
Project File No. 608617  
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