



VIRTUAL DESIGN PUBLIC HEARING

January 25, 2023

FOR THE PROPOSED

**Roadway Reconstruction on North Avenue
Project No. 608788
Project Management**

IN THE CITY OF HAVERHILL, 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. 608788

A Live Virtual Design Public Hearing will be hosted on the MassDOT website below to present the design for the proposed Roadway Reconstruction on North Avenue, from Main Street (Rte 125) to Plaistow, NH project in **Haverhill, MA.**

WHEN: 6:30 PM, Wednesday, January 25, 2023

PURPOSE: The purpose of this hearing is to provide the public with the opportunity to become fully acquainted with the proposed Roadway Reconstruction on North Avenue, from Main Street (Rte 125) to Plaistow, NH 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 reconstruction of North Avenue in Haverhill from the intersection with Main Street (Route 125) to the Plaistow, NH state border, a total project length of approximately 1.86 miles. As part of the project, new ADA compliant sidewalks and granite curbing will be installed along both sides of North Avenue as well as bike lanes, narrower vehicular lanes, drainage and other utility upgrades and relocations. All intersections within the project limits will be reconstructed, with geometric improvements at the Gile Street intersection and installation of a mini-roundabout at the Marsh Avenue intersection. The existing North Avenue bridge over Snows Brook will be replaced with a bridge structure meeting current stream crossing standards. The existing Frye Pond dam, integral with the existing North Avenue bridge, will be removed and Frye Pond will be drained to restore Snows Brook to its natural condition.

A secure right-of-way is necessary for this project. Acquisitions in fee and permanent or temporary easements may be required. **The municipality is responsible for acquiring all needed rights in private or public lands.** The City'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. 608788**. 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.

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.

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 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 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?

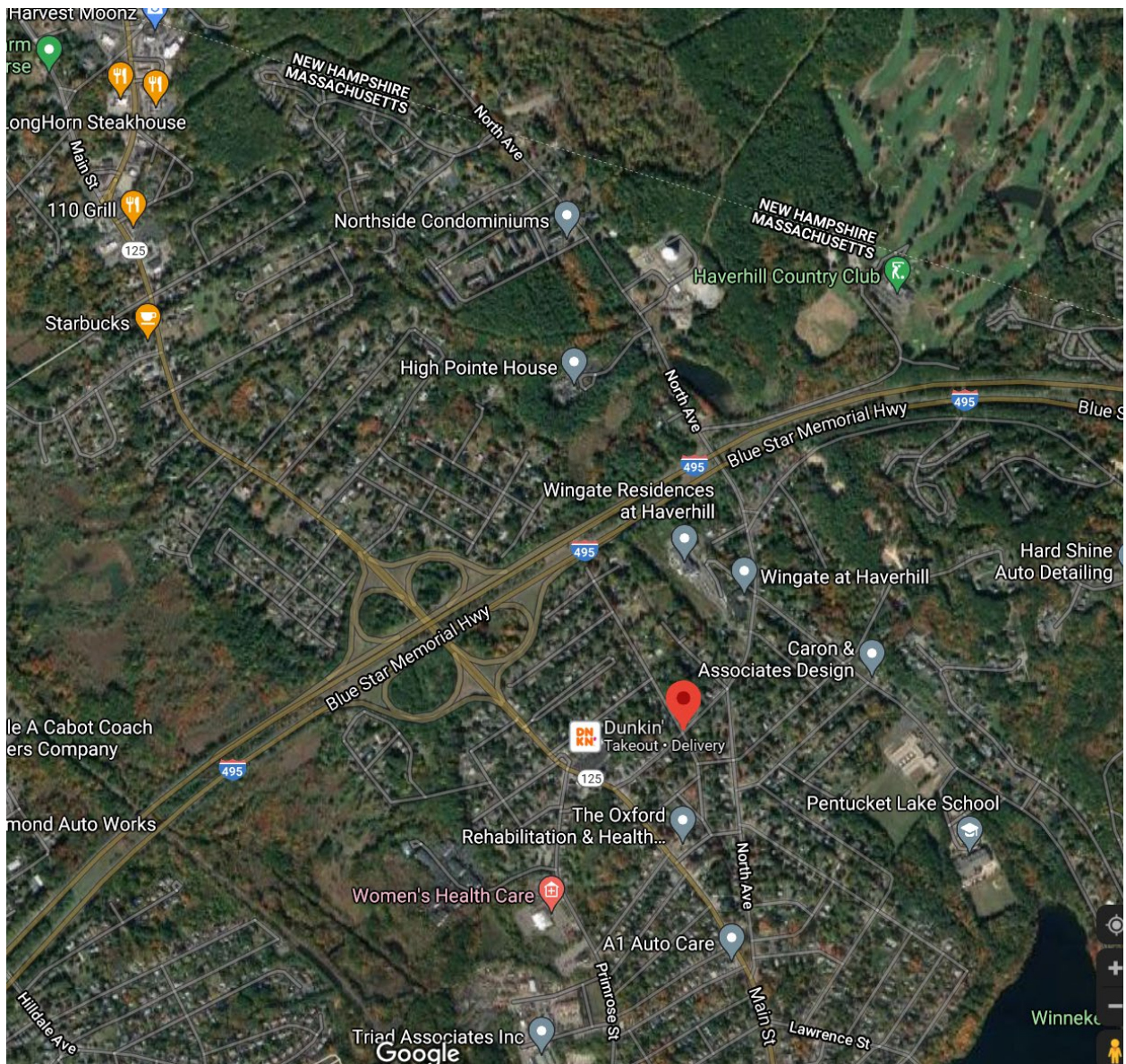
No, if the owner feels that the offer is not fair the owner may petition the courts. This action does not stop or delay the acquisition. The action must occur within 3 years. The owner(s) may be paid pro tanto (for the time being). The pro tanto payment will not prejudice the court's final decision.

608788

Reconstruction on North Ave

Haverhill, MA

LOCUS MAP



PROJECT LOCATION

North Avenue is aligned primarily in a north-south direction, spanning two municipalities and totaling approximately 2 miles in length. This project will reconstruct the approximately 1.5 miles within the City of Haverhill, between Main Street (Route 125) and the New Hampshire town line.

PROJECT PURPOSE

The purpose of this project is to reconstruct North Avenue to address safety and mobility concerns of the existing roadway, along with the replacement of a structurally deficient bridge.

EXISTING CONDITIONS

North Avenue is located in a primarily residential area and functionally classified as an urban minor arterial with one lane in each direction and shoulders of variable width. North Avenue is under stop-control where it intersects with Route 125 (Main Street) and with Marsh Avenue. All other intersections along North Avenue are stop-controlled from the intersecting street. Sidewalks of variable width are present consistently on at least one side from Route 125 (Main Street) to Crosby Street. The only other sidewalks within the project limits are in the vicinity of the North Avenue bridge over I-495. The walks that are existing within the project limits are not ADA compliant and are generally in a state of disrepair.

The existing combined bridge/dam structure that carries North Avenue over Snows Brook and retains Frye Pond is in poor to serious condition and in need of replacement.

PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS

The proposed project consists of the reconstruction of North Avenue beginning at Route 125 (Main Street) and at the Massachusetts/New Hampshire state line. Roadway reconstruction will consist of full depth pavement with sections of milling and overlay at the project limits of work. Reconstruction will occur largely in place, with the following exceptions:

- At Route 125 (Main St) - Realignment of the intersection to slow turning movements and reduce the surplus of pavement within the existing intersection, as well as create a more visible pedestrian crossing.
- At Marsh Ave/Tenadel Ave - Installation of a mini-roundabout to remove the existing stop controls.
- At Concord St - Realignment of Concord St to slow turning movements, improve vehicle sight distance, and shorten pedestrian crossing.
- At Gile Street - Realignment of Gile Street to eliminate the large channelizing island and create a perpendicular intersection. Exclusive turn lanes from Gile Street are proposed.

New sidewalks with ADA compliant pedestrian curb ramps and new crosswalks at intersections will be constructed on both sides of the roadway for the entire project length, including the reconstruction of existing sidewalks and curb ramps. Bicycle accommodations will consist of a 5 foot bike lane for the entire project length.

The bridge of North Avenue over Snows Brook will be fully reconstructed, along with the removal of Frye Pond Dam and restoration of the Frye Pond area as a shrub wetland. No work will occur on the bridge of North Avenue over I-495 other than the replacement of pavement markings.

Additional work to be done as part of this project will include a full replacement of the existing drainage system and the relocation of several utility poles to accommodate changes to the roadway.

TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT

One lane of travel in each direction will be maintained through the majority of construction phases, primarily utilizing lane shift temporary traffic setups. Lane closures may be required for construction at certain intersections, in which case alternating traffic will be facilitated by police control. Detailed Temporary Traffic Control Plans (TTCP) will be developed for the project with the primary goal of preventing unnecessary delays to the traveling public.

RIGHT OF WAY IMPACTS

To construct the proposed improvements, temporary construction easements will be required for approximately 50 properties for the purpose of minor grading, driveway and walkway reconstruction, and restoration of property. Pedestrian and vehicle access to abutting properties will be maintained throughout construction. The project will require permanent easements for approximately 8 properties for the purpose of maintaining utilities, sidewalk and the new bridge structure after construction is completed.

PROJECT COST

The total preliminary construction cost estimate for the project is approximately \$19 million.

PROJECT STATUS

The design plans presented at this hearing represent 25% level design development. Comments made at this public hearing will be incorporated to the maximum extent feasible in final design documents.

Design, permitting and right of way acquisition are scheduled to be completed in Fall 2024. The project will be advertised in Winter 2025 with construction beginning the following Spring.

THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
HIGHWAY DIVISION

FEDERAL AID PROJECT

Haverhill, MA
Roadway Reconstruction on North Avenue
Project File No. 608788

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: Virtual Public Hearing
Roadway Reconstruction on North Avenue
CITY OF HAVERHILL
Project File No. 608788
Attn: Project Management

