



**VIRTUAL DESIGN PUBLIC HEARING**

**Tuesday, January 11, 2022**

**7:00 – 8:00 PM**

**MASSDOT PUBLIC HEARING WEBSITE**

**<https://www.mass.gov/massdot-highway-design-public-hearings>**

**For the Proposed**

**Route 3A, Summer Street, Rotary and Rockland Street corridor project  
Project No.605168**

**IN THE TOWN OF HINGHAM, MASSACHUSETTS**

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

**JONATHAN GULLIVER  
HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATOR**

**CARRIE E. LAVALLEE, P.E.  
ACTING CHIEF ENGINEER**

**THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS**  
**MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION – HIGHWAY DIVISION**  
**NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING**  
**Project File No. 605168**

A Live Virtual Design Public Hearing will be hosted on the MassDOT website below to present the design for the proposed Route 3A, Summer Street, Rotary and Rockland Street corridor project in the Town of Hingham, MA.

WHEN: 7:00 PM Tuesday, January 11, 2022.

**PURPOSE:** The purpose of this hearing is for MassDOT and the Town of Hingham to provide the public with the opportunity to become fully acquainted with the proposed Route 3A, Summer Street, Rotary and Rockland Street corridor project. All views and comments submitted in response to the hearing will be reviewed and considered to the maximum extent possible.

**PROPOSAL:** This project includes safety and related improvements along Route 3A, Summer Street and Rockland Street from the intersection of Otis Street and Broad Cove Road south and east to the intersection of George Washington Boulevard and Rockland Street including the Hingham Rotary. The goal of this project is to improve the safety for motorists, pedestrians, and bicyclists. Specific improvements include: traffic signal and intersection improvements, redesign of the existing rotary to a modern roundabout, a permanent "road diet" on Summer Street between Martins Lane and the Rotary involving the elimination of one lane in each direction, new and reconstructed sidewalks, a 10-foot shared-use path with a buffer along the waterfront and landscaping.

A secure right-of-way is necessary for this project. Acquisitions in fee and permanent or temporary easements may be required. MassDOT 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., 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. **605168**. 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 is posted to 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 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 Live Virtual Design Public Hearing and any cancellation announcement will be 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.  
ACTING 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.  
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

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?

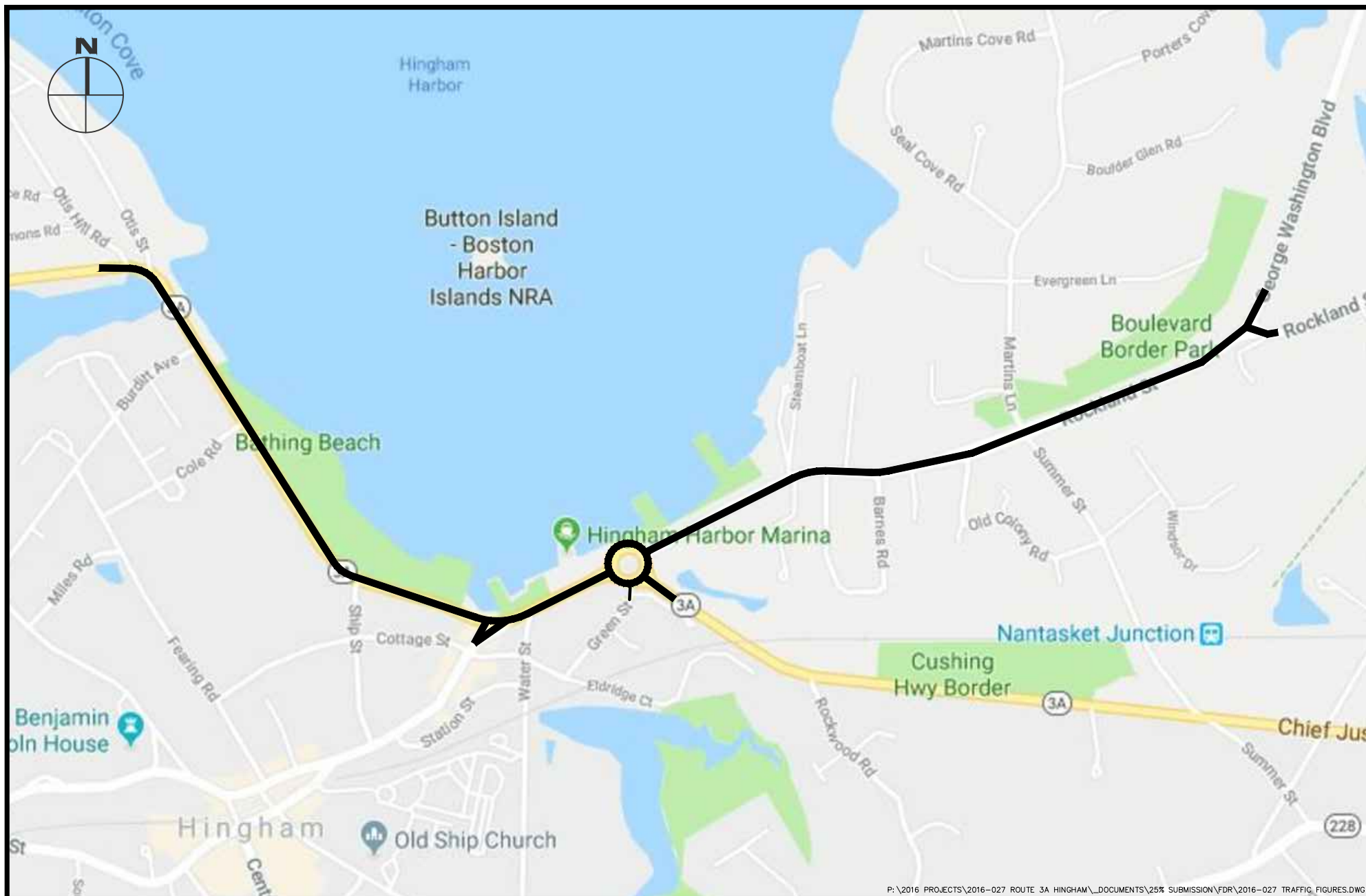
No. If, after the figure established as market value has been offered to the owner, the owner feels he or she is not being offered a fair price, he or she has the right, within three years, to appeal to the courts. Pending a court decision, he or she can be paid on a "pro-tanto" basis (or "for the time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



P:\2016 PROJECTS\2016-027 ROUTE 3A HINGHAM\DOCUMENTS\25% SUBMISSION\FDR\2016-027 TRAFFIC FIGURES.DWG



ROUTE 3A  
HINGHAM, MA

Project Locus

PROJECT NO.: 605168

DATE: MARCH 2019

SCALE: N.T.S.

FIGURE 2.1

## **PROJECT LOCATION**

The project limits along Route 3A, Summer Street, are from Otis Hill Road in the north to the rotary at the intersection of Summer Street, Green Street and Chief Justice Cushing Highway. The project continues northeasterly along Summer Street and Rockland Street to the intersection of Rockland Street and George Washington Boulevard. The project length is approximately 1.6 miles.

## **EXISTING CONDITIONS**

Route 3A, Summer Street, and Rockland Street are classified as urban arterials and both segments are designated as state highways and as such are under the jurisdiction and maintenance of MassDOT. The existing roadway includes two travel lanes in each direction with intermittent sections of sidewalk in varying levels of condition and walkability. The posted and statutory speed limits along the project limits vary at 25, 35 and 40 miles per hour. Parking is prohibited along the length of the project because it is a state highway.

Within the project area, the land use along Route 3A, Summer Street, between Otis Street and the North Street intersection include recreation areas such as Bathing Beach, the Town Boat Ramp, and Iron Horse Park. The segment between North Street and the rotary includes additional access to the waterfront at Whitney Wharf Park, the POW/MIA Memorial Park and the Hingham Harbor Marina. The south side of this segment of the roadway is comprised of local restaurants and shops. The remaining segment of the project from the rotary to the intersection of Rockland Street and George Washington Boulevard is primarily comprised of residential single-family homes with access to Barnes Wharf at the rotary and the Town of Hingham Conservation Land between Martins Lane and the end of the project.

## **PROJECT PURPOSE**

The purpose of the project is to improve safety for all users, including vehicular drivers, pedestrians, cyclists, and transit users, and to improve the existing infrastructure to include multimodal options and connect neighborhoods to the harbor, Bathing Beach, the local businesses, and conservation areas.

## **PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS**

The proposed improvements include reconstructing the roadway, construction of a 10-foot-wide multi-use path on the northerly side, or generally, the harborside of the roadway, and a 5-foot sidewalk along most of the southerly (landward) side. Sections of the existing roadway will consist of a “Road Diet” with a raised center median. A “Road Diet” involves reducing the numbering of travel lanes and existing paved width to better organize traffic flow and reduce travel speeds. Other proposed improvements include reconstructing the existing rotary to a modern roundabout, restriping Summer Street to add a southbound turn lane between the roundabout and North Street, reconstruction of the signalized intersections at Summer Street and North Street, Rockland Street and George Washington Boulevard and new signals at the entrance of Bathing Beach. All the improvements will be in full compliance with American Disabilities Act (ADA) requirements including accessible pedestrian signal systems, and compliant sidewalks and curb ramps. In addition to the traffic signal upgrades, the installation of Rapid Rectangular Flashing Beacons (RRFBs) will be installed at crosswalks along the corridor.

### **RIGHT OF WAY IMPACTS**

Forty-four temporary easements, and fifteen permanent easements will be required along the length of the project to accommodate the proposed work. The proposed improvements will require temporary easements to facilitate the work, permanent utility easements for relocated overhead utilities and permanent layout takings to accommodate the proposed width of the improvements. MassDOT is responsible for acquiring all needed rights in private and public lands. MassDOT's policy concerning **land acquisition will be discussed at this hearing.**

### **TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT**

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 closures will occur, but every effort will be made to minimize inconvenience to the public and abutting residents and businesses. Pedestrian and vehicular access to abutting properties will be maintained throughout construction. All construction activities will be coordinated with Town of Hingham.

### **PROJECT COST**

The 25 percent preliminary cost estimate for this project is approximately \$14,500,000.

### **PROJECT SCHEDULE**

The design plans presented this evening are at the 25% design stage. Final design, permitting, and right of way acquisition is anticipated to be completed by the Spring of 2024. Construction is anticipated to begin in the Spring of 2025. This project is planned to be funded through the 2025 Transportation Improvement Program for the Boston Metropolitan Planning Organization.



THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS  
MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
HIGHWAY DIVISION

FEDERAL AID PROJECT

Hingham, MA  
Route 3A, Summer Street, Rotary and Rockland Street Corridor Project  
Project File No. 605168

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., Acting 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.**

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Carrie E. Lavallee, P.E.  
Acting Chief Engineer  
MassDOT – Highway Division  
10 Park Plaza  
Boston, MA 02116-3973

RE: Virtual Public Hearing  
Route 3A, Summer Street, Rotary and Rockland Street Corridor Project  
Hingham, MA  
Project File No 605168  
Attn: Project Management

