



**VIRTUAL DESIGN PUBLIC HEARING**

**November 10, 2021**

**FOR THE PROPOSED**

**Resurfacing and Related Work on Cabot Street and Race Street (Center City Connector)  
Project No. 609065  
Project Management**

**IN THE CITY OF HOLYOKE, 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 MEETING**  
**Project File No. 609065**

A Live Virtual Design Public Hearing will be hosted on the MassDOT website below to present the design for the proposed Resurfacing and Related Work on Cabot Street and Race Street (Center City Connector) project in Holyoke, MA.

**WHEN: 7:00PM, Wednesday, November 10, 2021**

**PURPOSE:** The purpose of this hearing is to provide the public with the opportunity to become fully acquainted with the proposed Resurfacing and Related Work on Cabot Street and Race Street (Center City Connector) project. All views and comments submitted in response to the hearing will be reviewed and considered to the maximum extent possible.

**PROPOSAL:** The project begins at the intersection of Race Street and Appleton Street. The project runs along Race Street between Appleton Street and Cabot Street before turning south and continuing southerly along Cabot Street to the Canal Street Intersection and extends just north of Middle Water Street, approximately 3,110 feet. The project improvements traffic signal reconstruction at the intersections of Cabot Street and Main Street and at the intersection of Cabot and North and South Canal Streets. Other project features include sidewalk improvements along Cabot Street, bike lanes along Cabot Street, a Shared-Use path and sidewalk improvements along Race Street, pavement rehabilitation along Cabot and Race Streets, and pedestrian improvements at intersections.

A secure right-of-way is necessary for this project. Acquisitions in fee and permanent or temporary easements may be required. The City of Holyoke is responsible for acquiring all needed rights in private or public lands. MassDOT 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. **609065**. 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 or a cancellation announcement will be published 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. 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.

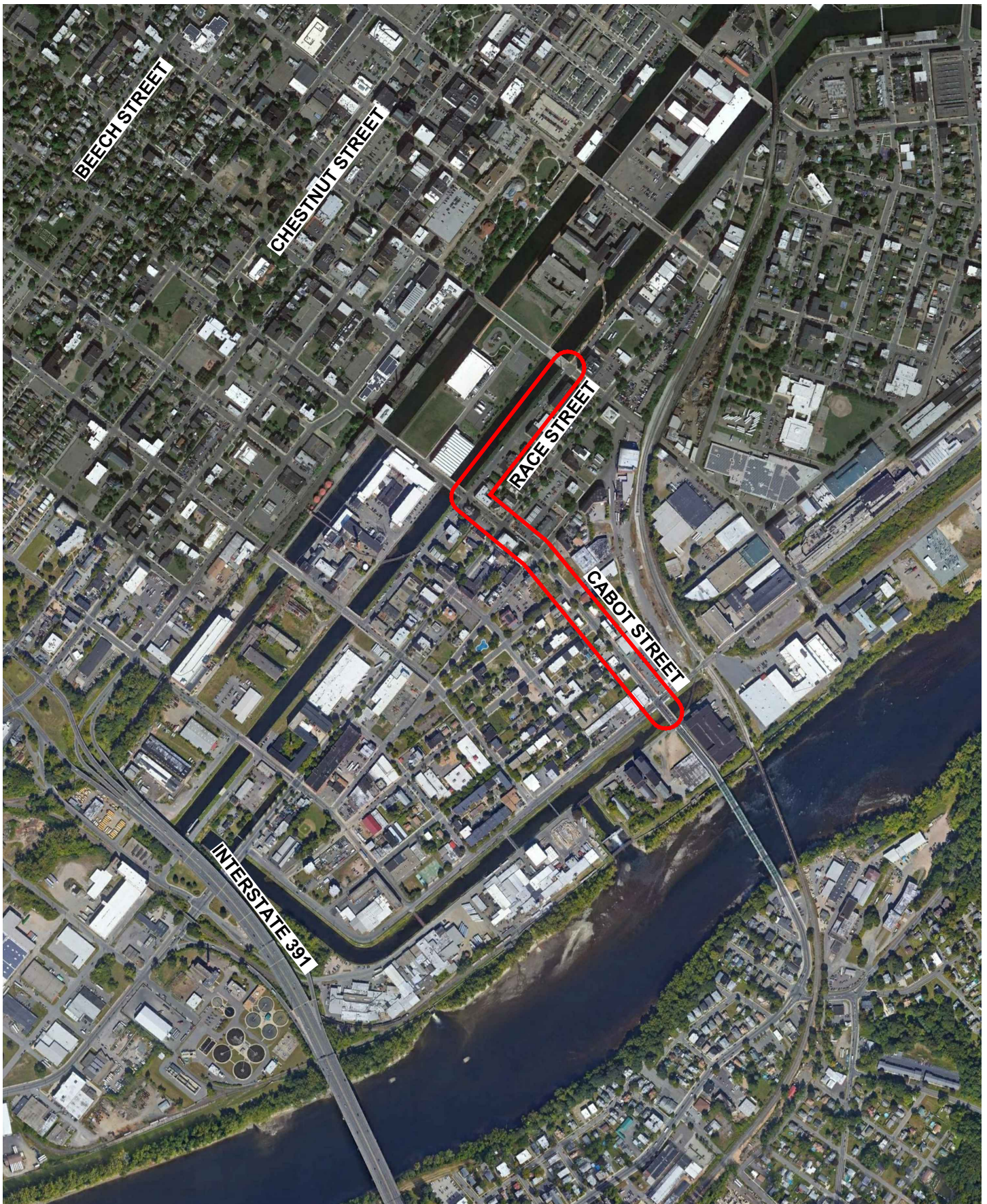
4. WHAT IS A FAIR PRICE FOR THE ACQUIRED PARCELS?

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.





0 400 800 FEET



LOCUS  
RESURFACING AND RELATED WORK ON CABOT  
STREET AND RACE STREET (CENTER CITY CONNECTOR)  
HOLYOKE, MA

609065

**FIGURE 1**



## **PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS:**

This project has a complete street focus improving the corridor with enhanced pedestrian and bicycle accommodations. The project begins at the limits of Phase 2 of the Canal Walk at the intersection of Race Street and Appleton Street. The project runs along Race Street between Appleton Street and Cabot Street before turning south and continuing southerly along Cabot Street to the Canal Street Intersection and to meet the construction limits for the Willimansett Bridge Project completed in 2015.

- Pavement rehabilitation along Cabot Street;
- Pavement rehabilitation along Race Street;
- Reconstructed sidewalks are proposed on both sides of the street along Cabot Street providing improved accessibility;
- Reconstructed sidewalks are proposed along the southern side of Race Street and a 9-foot “river walk” is proposed along the northern side of the roadway overlooking the canals;
- New wheelchair ramps and crosswalks within the project area;
- Designated bicycle accommodations including bike lanes for Cabot and Race Streets;
- Traffic signal reconstruction at the intersection of Route 116 (Cabot Street) at Main Street including pedestrian upgrades;
- Traffic signal reconstruction at the intersection of Route 116 (Cabot Street) at South Canal Street including pedestrian upgrades;
- Pedestrian improvements at intersections that include bump-outs, ramps, and crosswalks, and
- Relocation of existing bus stops.

THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS  
MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
HIGHWAY DIVISION

FEDERAL AID PROJECT

Holyoke, MA  
Resurfacing and Related Work on Cabot Street and Race Street (Center City Connector)  
Project File No. 609065

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.**

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Organization: \_\_\_\_\_



Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Please Fold and Tape

Please Place  
Appropriate  
Postage Here

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

RE: Virtual Public Hearing  
**Resurfacing and Related Work on Cabot Street and Race Street**  
**CITY OF HOLYOKE**  
Project File No. 609065  
Attn: Project Management