



DESIGN PUBLIC HEARING WEBINAR PRESENTATION

JULY 15, 2020

FOR THE PROPOSED

**Rehabilitation of Route 5
Project No. 604209
Roadway Project Management**

**IN THE CITY OF HOLYOKE AND THE TOWN OF
WEST SPRINGFIELD, 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 WEBINAR
Project File No. 604209

A Design Public Hearing Webinar will be published on the MassDOT website to present the design for the proposed rehabilitation of Route 5 & shared use path in Holyoke and West Springfield, MA.

WHEN: July 15, 2020

PURPOSE: The purpose of this hearing webinar is to provide the public with the opportunity to become fully acquainted with the proposed rehabilitation of Route 5 and shared use path project. All views and comments submitted in response to the webinar will be reviewed and considered to the maximum extent possible.

PROPOSAL: The project consists of two locations; the first location includes concrete pavement rehabilitation and full depth replacement along the Route 5 corridor beginning at Main Street in Holyoke, MA, and ending at the Interstate 91 interchange in West Springfield, MA. The second location includes pedestrian and bicycle improvements beginning at Monterey Drive and ending at East Elm Street. The proposed improvements consist of narrowing the roadway from Main street to Highland Avenue, realignment of Brush Hill Avenue and Wayside Avenue to form “T” intersections, traffic improvements, a shared use path, bicycle accommodations, drainage and utility modifications and ADA/AAAB crossing enhancements.

A secure right-of-way is necessary for this project. Acquisitions in fee and permanent or temporary easements may be required. 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 webinar.

Written views received by MassDOT subsequent to the date of this notice and up to five (5) days prior to the date of the webinar, plans and a project handout will be made available on the MassDOT website listed below. 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: Roadway Project Management, Project File No. 604209. Such submissions will also be accepted at the hearing webinar. Mailed statements and exhibits intended for inclusion in the public hearing transcript must be postmarked no later than ten (10) business days after this Public Hearing webinar. Project inquiries may be emailed to dot.feedback.highway@state.ma.us.

This location is accessible to people with disabilities. MassDOT provides reasonable accommodations and/or language assistance free of charge upon request (including but not limited to interpreters in American Sign Language and languages other than English, open or closed captioning for videos, assistive listening devices and alternate material formats, such as audio tapes, Braille and large print), as available. For accommodation or language assistance, please contact MassDOT's Chief Diversity and Civil Rights Officer by phone (857) 368-8580, fax (857) 368-0602, TTD/TTY (857) 368-0603 or by email 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 meeting. Hearing webinar cancellation announcements will be posted on the internet at: <http://www.massdot.state.ma.us/Highway/>

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

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.

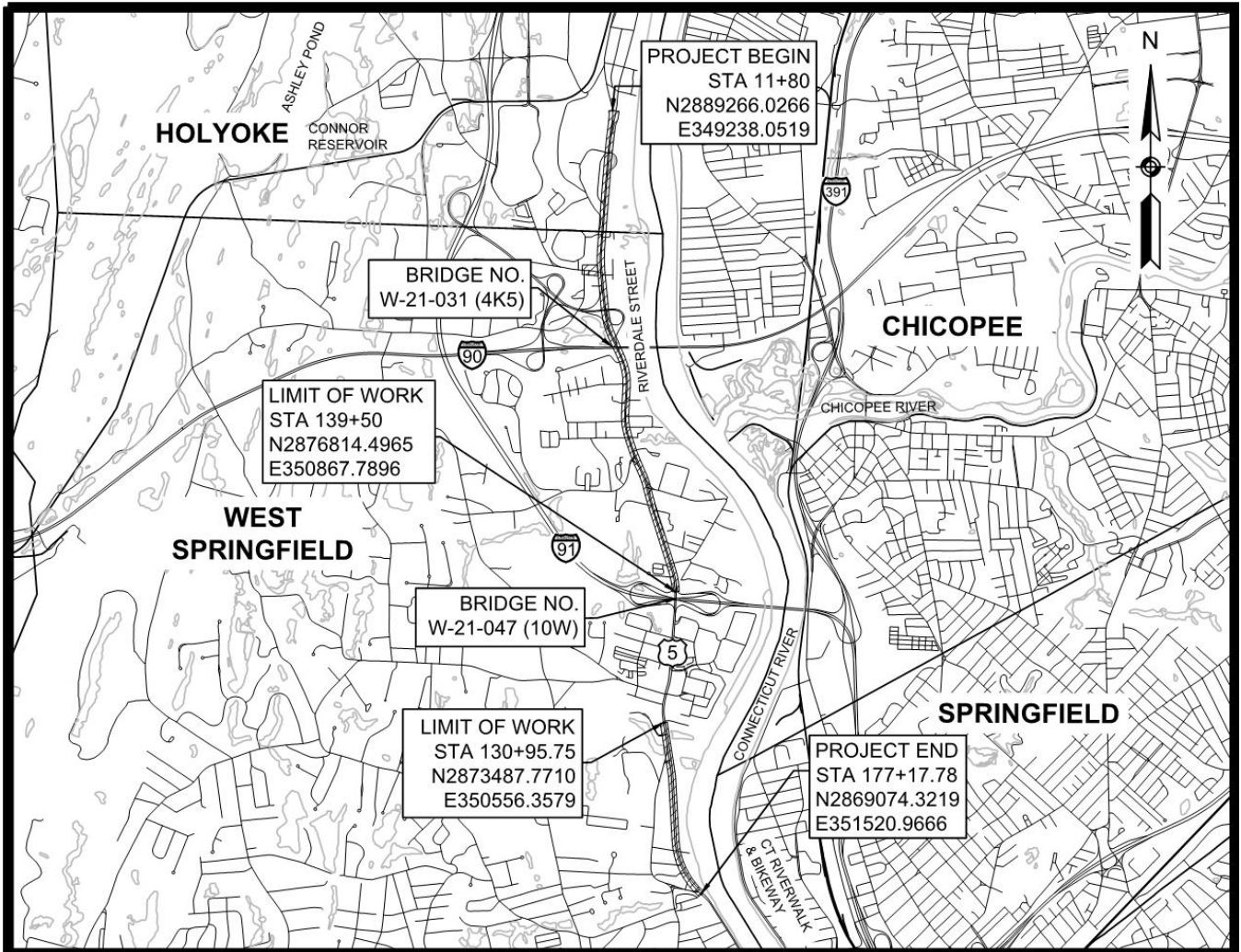


Figure 1: Project Locus

MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
HIGHWAY DIVISION
PUBLIC HEARING

REHABILITATION OF ROUTE 5
PROJECT FILE NO. 604209
Roadway Project Management

**IN THE CITY OF HOLYOKE AND THE TOWN OF
WEST SPRINGFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS**

Project Location and Limits:

The project is located in the City of Holyoke and Town of West Springfield, Massachusetts and includes two locations; the first location includes concrete pavement rehabilitation and full depth replacement along the Route 5 corridor beginning at Main Street in Holyoke, MA, and ending at the Interstate 91 interchange in West Springfield, MA. The second location includes pedestrian and bicycle improvements beginning at Monterey Drive and ending at East Elm Street.

Purpose and Need:

The purpose of this project is to rehabilitate the deteriorating Route 5 concrete pavement riding surface, reduce congestion, enhance drainage features, and to improve pedestrian and bicyclist accommodations.

Existing Conditions:

Roadway Characteristics -

- The corridor was constructed in the mid-1940s as a concrete slab pavement roadway providing a north-south connection between Holyoke and West Springfield.
- The roadway generally consists of two 23 foot wide concrete slab travel lanes in each direction.
- A pavement condition evaluation was performed by Gannet Fleming in 2016 and concluded that roughly 25% of the pavement slabs were in need of replacement.
- There have been several roadway rehabilitations projects, concrete spot repairs, utility installations, and asphalt pavement overlays that have provided quick fixes to the corridor as repairs have been needed.

Intersection Safety and Congestion -

- A Roadway Safety Audit (RSA) was conducted in 2016 by McMahon Associates Inc. detailing safety concerns at Highland Avenue, Ashley Avenue, Elm Street, and East Elm Street.
- There is a consistent crash history at Brightside Drive and Ashley Avenue.
- There are conflicting vehicle movements at Brush Hill Avenue and Wayside Avenue.
- There are high vehicle queues at Highland Avenue and Ashley Avenue in the Northbound approach.

Drainage -

- During rain events, ponding arises at driveways along the corridor.
- Catchment locations are in inefficient locations, affect guardrail requirements, and collect debris.
- Structure installations have required removal of concrete pavement at some locations.

Environmental -

- The project is located within Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program (NHESP) Priority and Estimated Habitat.
- There are no properties or structures listed on the National Register of Historic Places within or adjacent to the project corridor

Proposed Design:

Roadway Improvements

- The Route 5 concrete pavement will be rehabilitated. Rehabilitation methods are to be determined but generally include the following treatments: diamond grinding, full depth replacement, spot repairs, joint repairs, subsurface repairs, and other standard repair methods.
- A Road Diet, which reduces travel lanes, will be constructed between Main Street and Highland Avenue.

Drainage -

- Inlet structures will be relocated to the new curb line accordingly to maintain drainage patterns.
- Investigate potential locations for stormwater improvements.

Bicycle and Pedestrian Accommodation -

- A shared use path and sidewalk are proposed along both sides of the entire corridor.
- Wheelchair ramps, sidewalks, and driveways are to be brought up to the latest design standards.
- Bus Stop visibility, pull-offs, crossings, and locations are to be enhanced along the northern section of the project.
- Pedestrian crossing locations, signal timings, and visibility are to be improved at all intersections along the corridor.
- Safer on-road bicycle facilities are to be installed on both sections of the project.

Environmental -

- Work is proposed within the vicinity of the Holyoke and Springdale Local Protection Project, a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) federally authorized civil works projects. However, no work is proposed on the levee system itself.

Traffic Management -

- Staged Construction: Several stages as discussed in PowerPoint Presentation will be required to construct this project
- Number of Lanes to be reduced during construction to one lane in each direction in each stage.
- Brief roadway shutdowns at ramps are anticipated.

Right of Way -

- The current design plans indicate that there are 41 permanent easements, and 62 temporary easements required.
- The property owners impacted by this project will be contacted by MassDOT ROW Bureau officials. They will present the proposed impacts to each owner and discuss the methods with which they may acquire the needed rights for the project.

Utility Relocation -

- Utilities will generally remain in place unless space is needed for the shared use path in some instances.

Project Cost -

The estimated cost of the proposed Rehabilitation of Route 5 is approximately \$24,000,000.

Construction Duration -

With a spring Notice to Proceed, construction would span over the winter with potential snow shutdowns. Thirty months construction duration is estimated as per the preliminary Construction Time Determination.

Project Status -

The plans on display tonight are at the 25% Design Stage. Comments received this evening will be considered in determining the final design. The design of this project is anticipated to be completed and advertised by late November 2022.

THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
HIGHWAY DIVISION

FEDERAL AID PROJECT

Holyoke and West Springfield, MA
Rehabilitation of Route 5
Project File No. 604209

This sheet is provided for your comments. Your input is solicited and appreciated. Please mail this sheet with any additional comments to:

Patricia A. Leavenworth, P.E., Chief Engineer
MassDOT – Highway Division
10 Park Plaza, Boston, MA 02116-3973
Attn: Gautam Sen

The final date for receipt of written statements and exhibits for inclusion into the official hearing transcript will be ten (10) days after the Public Hearing Webinar.

PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT LEGIBLY.

Name: _____ Title: _____

Organization:

Address: _____

Please Fold and Tape



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

RE: Public Hearing Webinar
Holyoke- West Springfield-
Rehabilitation of Route 5
Project File No. 604209
Gautam Sen

