



DESIGN PUBLIC HEARING

FEBRUARY 25, 2020

AT

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS, COMMUNITY ROOM

HUDSON, MASSACHUSETTS

7:00 PM

FOR THE PROPOSED

I-495 SB to I-290 WB RAMP IMPROVEMENTS

IN THE TOWN OF HUDSON AND CITY OF MARLBOROUGH, 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**

Project File No. 610552

A Design Public Hearing will be held by MassDOT to discuss the proposed I-495 SB to I-290 WB Ramp Improvements project in Hudson and Marlborough, MA.

**WHERE: Department of Public Works, Community Room
1 Municipal Drive
Hudson, MA 01749**

WHEN: Tuesday, February 25, 2020 @ 7:00PM

PURPOSE: The purpose of this hearing is to provide the public with the opportunity to become fully acquainted with the proposed I-495 SB to I-290 WB Ramp Improvements project. All views and comments made at the hearing will be reviewed and considered to the maximum extent possible.

PROPOSAL: The proposed project consists of widening the I-495 SB Exit 25B ramp, which carries traffic from I-495 SB to I-290 WB. The ramp is proposed to be widened from 1 lane to 2 lanes in order to increase capacity, reduce delay, shorten queue lengths, and improve safety. The approach to the ramp on I-495 SB and the merge with I-290 WB will be reconfigured to allow for the 2 lane ramp. The design will include new roadway geometry, roadway resurfacing, pavement markings, signage, guardrail, retaining walls, and storm drainage.

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 discussed at this hearing.

Written views received by MassDOT subsequent to the date of this notice and up to five (5) days prior to the date of the hearing shall be displayed for public inspection and copying at the time and date listed above. Plans will be on display one-half hour before the hearing begins, with an engineer in attendance to answer questions regarding this project. A project handout will be made available on the MassDOT website listed below.

Written statements and other exhibits in place of, or in addition to, oral statements made at the Public Hearing 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. 610552. Such submissions will also be accepted at the hearing. 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. 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 (10) business days before the meeting.

In case of inclement weather, hearing 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.

TO SAFEGUARD THE PROPERTY OWNER

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.

Locus Map



Project Description

The Massachusetts Department of Transportation – Highway Division (MassDOT) is proposing the reconstruction of the I-495 SB to I-290 WB ramp in Marlborough and Hudson, Massachusetts. The total length of the project is approximately 0.42 miles.

Proposed Improvements

The proposed project consists of widening the I-495 SB Exit 25B ramp, which carries traffic from I-495 SB to I-290 WB. The ramp is proposed to be widened from 1 lane to 2 lanes in order to increase capacity, reduce delay, shorten queue lengths, and improve safety. The approach to the ramp on I-495 SB and the merge with I-290 WB will be reconfigured to allow for the 2 lane ramp. The design will include new roadway geometry, roadway resurfacing, pavement markings, signage, guardrail, retaining walls, and storm drainage.

Existing Conditions

The proposed project is located within the City of Marlborough and Town of Hudson, MA. The current I-495 SB Exit 25B ramp to I-290 WB consists of one travel lane with a design speed of 30 mph. The ramp carries approximately 20,000 vehicles per day and experiences congestion and queuing during the peak hours, resulting in over 130 crashes within the project area over the last 3-year period. I-495, I-290, and the ramp are on the Interstate system and under the Massachusetts Department of Transportation jurisdiction.

Right of Way Impacts

It is not anticipated that permanent acquisitions or easements by the Massachusetts Department of Transportation will be required. However, MassDOT's policy regarding land acquisitions will be discussed at this hearing.

Maintenance of Traffic During Construction

The intent of this project is that all roadways remain open to through traffic during construction. However, some temporary lane reductions and detours will be required to facilitate the construction process.

Project Status – Project Schedule

The Plans on display this evening are at the 25% Design Stage (Preliminary Design Stage). Comments from this evening will be incorporated to the maximum extent feasible. The project is expected to be advertised in the Spring of 2020 subject to obtaining necessary environmental permits and ROW certificate. The project must be programmed in the statewide Transportation Improvement program in the appropriate Federal Fiscal year in order MassDOT to solicit bids and eventual construction.

Project Construction Cost

The project construction costs will be funded with a combination of funds from the Federal Highway Administration and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and is currently estimated at \$6 million.

THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
HIGHWAY DIVISION

FEDERAL AID PROJECT

Hudson and Marlborough, MA
I-495 SB to I-290 WB Ramp Improvements Project
Project File No. 610552

This sheet is provided for your comments. Your input is solicited and appreciated. Please return your sheet, with comments, to a staff member at the meeting, or mail to:

Patricia A. Leavenworth, P.E., Chief Engineer
MassDOT – Highway Division
10 Park Plaza, Boston, MA 02116-3973
Attn: Roadway Project Management Section

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.

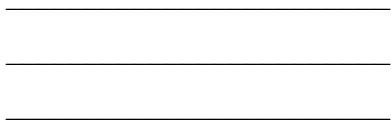
PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT LEGIBLY.

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

RE: Public Hearing
I-495 SB to I-290 WB Ramp Improvements Project
HUDSON and MARLBOROUGH
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