



# **DESIGN PUBLIC HEARING**

**Monday, December 16, 2019**

**AT**

**FROST SCHOOL CAFETERIA  
33 HAMLET STREET**

**LAWRENCE, MASSACHUSETTS**

**7:00 PM**

**FOR THE PROPOSED  
South Broadway (Route 28) at Mount Vernon Street Intersection Improvements  
MassDOT Project No. 609251**

**IN THE CITY OF LAWRENCE, 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. 609251**

A Design Public Hearing will be held by MassDOT to discuss the proposed intersection improvement project at South Broadway (Route 28) and Mount Vernon Street in Lawrence, MA.

**WHERE: Frost School Cafeteria  
33 Hamlet Street  
Lawrence, MA 01843**

**WHEN: Monday, December 16, 2019 at 7:00 PM**

**PURPOSE:** The purpose of this hearing is to provide the public with the opportunity to become fully acquainted with the proposed intersection improvement project. All views and comments made at the hearing will be reviewed and considered to the maximum extent possible.

**PROPOSAL:** The project is located on South Broadway at the intersection with Mount Vernon Street and McKinley Avenue. The total project length is approximately 750 feet. The proposed improvements will enhance safety and operations at the signalized intersection and provide improved pedestrian and bicycle accommodations. The existing traffic signal system will be replaced to meet current standards and to include McKinley Avenue, with vehicle detection, side street split phasing, various time-of-day timing plans, accessible pedestrian signals, and emergency vehicle preemption. Under the recommended alternative, an exclusive left-turn lane will be introduced on the northbound approach to facilitate protected-permissive left-turn phasing, given the high volume of northbound left-turns (33% of northbound movements).

A secure right-of-way is necessary for this project. Acquisitions in fee and permanent or temporary easements may be required. The city 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. 609251. 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](mailto: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](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 (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.

## RIGHT OF WAY ISSUES

A secure right of way is necessary for this project. Temporary construction easements may be required. Your *municipality* is responsible for acquiring all necessary rights in private or public lands. If your property is affected, your rights are fully protected under law.

### 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.





1" = 150'

# South Broadway/Mt. Vernon St. Intersection Improvements Lawrence, Massachusetts

Project Area

Gorham Street

Lafayette Avenue

Mount Vernon Street

South Broadway

Mckinley Avenue

Lasalle Avenue

Shaw Street

South Street



TEC, Inc.  
146 Dascomb Road      169 Ocean Blvd  
Andover, MA 01810      Hampton, NH 03842  
978.794.1792      603.601.8154

Locus Map

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# **Intersection Improvement Project**

## **South Broadway at Mount Vernon Street in Lawrence**

### **PROJECT LOCATION**

The project includes safety and operational improvements to the intersection of South Broadway (Route 28) at Mount Vernon Street. The attached Locus Map shows the intersection location.

### **PROJECT PURPOSE**

The purpose of this project is to increase safety for all modes of transportation and improve intersection operation. The Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) and the City of Lawrence are proposing pedestrian, bicyclist, and vehicular safety and mobility improvements along approximately 700 feet of South Broadway (Route 28) and Mount Vernon Street, including the six adjacent intersections from South Street to Gorham Street. This proposed project is primarily intended to improve the safety and accessibility for pedestrians and bicyclists from the surrounding neighborhoods, and to improve safety and operations related to vehicles turning left from South Broadway onto Mount Vernon Street.

### **PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS**

The project includes pedestrian safety improvements along South Broadway (Route 28) between South Street and Gorham Street. The proposed improvements include:

- Construction of curb extensions, or sidewalk “bump-outs” at South Broadway (Route 28), Mount Vernon Street and McKinley Avenue to provide reduced crossing distances, traffic calming, and improved lane delineation;
- Resurfacing the roadway, resetting curb lines and modifying drainage infrastructure on South Broadway (Route 28), between South Street and Gorham Street within the project limits;
- Reconstruction of sidewalks on both sides of South Broadway (Route 28) within the project limits to rectify non-compliant cross slopes, irregular/heaving surfaces, deterioration and dissimilar materials;
- Construction of Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) / Architectural Access Board (AAB) compliant accessible curb ramps within the project limits;
- Placing of shared-use arrow markings within the roadway to accommodate bicyclists;
- Striping of new thermoplastic crosswalks, STOP lines, centerlines, lane lines, medians, parking lanes, and shoulder lines within the project limits.



- Construction of a new traffic signal at South Broadway and Mount Vernon Street that incorporates the McKinley Avenue approach, an exclusive left-turn lane with a dedicated left-turn signal phase northbound, and accessible pedestrian signals.

### **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/shoulder/parking lane closures may occur, but every effort will be made to minimize inconvenience to the travelling public and abutting residents and businesses. Pedestrian and vehicular access to abutting properties will be maintained throughout construction.

### **RIGHT OF WAY IMPACTS**

Temporary construction easements will be required for minor grading impacts to lawns, driveways, and walkways and to restore impacts to adjacent properties. Small permanent easements will also be required to reconstruct the existing sidewalk where it currently encroaches onto abutting properties by a few inches, up to the face of existing retaining walls. The City of Lawrence will be responsible for securing all necessary easements. MassDOT's policy concerning land acquisition will be discussed at this hearing.

### **PROJECT COST**

The current estimate of the total construction cost of this project is approximately \$1,015,000.

### **PROJECT SCHEDULE**

The design plans presented this evening are at the 25% design stage. Design, permitting and right of way acquisition must be completed by September 2020. Construction is anticipated to begin in the Spring of 2021 if the project can be advertised within the Fiscal Year (FY) 2020 State Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) year as a fill-in project. Otherwise, the project will need to be programmed for the FY 2021 TIP.





Please Fold and Tape

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Please Place  
Appropriate  
Postage Here

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

RE: Public Hearing  
South Broadway (Route 28) at Mount Vernon Street Intersection Improvements  
**LAWRENCE**  
**Project File No. 609251**  
Roadway Project Management