



VIRTUAL DESIGN PUBLIC HEARING

APRIL 30TH, 2025

FOR THE PROPOSED

**Bridge Replacement, Short Street over Spicket River
Project No. 612074
Bridge Nos L-04-012,
PROJECT MANAGMENT**

IN THE CITY OF LAWRENCE, MASSACHUSETTS

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

**JONATHAN GULLIVER
HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATOR**

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

THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION – HIGHWAY DIVISION
NOTICE OF A VIRTUAL DESIGN PUBLIC HEARING

Project Description: Lawrence – Bridge Replacement, L-04-012, Short Street over Spicket River
Project File No. 612074

A Virtual Design Public Hearing will be hosted on the MassDOT website below to present the design for the proposed project in Lawrence, MA.

WHEN: 7:00pm, 30th, April, 2025

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

PROPOSAL: The proposed project includes the replacement of the bridge carrying Short Street over the Spicket River. The project intends to replace the aging bridge with a wider structure that better accommodates and protects all roadway users. The new bridge will include a shared use path, parking lane, one sidewalk, and two travel lanes with shoulders. Outdated traffic safety features would also be upgraded to meet to current design standards. Minor improvements will be provided at approach roadways.

A secure right-of-way is necessary for this project. Acquisitions in fee and permanent or temporary easements may be required. The city of Lawrence 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. Lavalley, P.E., Chief Engineer, via e-mail to MassDOTProjectManagement@dot.state.ma.us or via US Mail to Suite 7550, 10 Park Plaza, Boston, MA 02116, Attention: Project Management, Project File No. 612074. Statements and exhibits intended for inclusion in the hearing transcript must be emailed or postmarked no later than ten (10) business days (14 calendar days) after the hearing is hosted.

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). Requests should be made as soon as possible and prior to the hearing, 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 hearing will be hosted, or a cancellation announcement posted, on the internet at <https://www.mass.gov/orgs/highway-division/events>.

JONATHAN GULLIVER
HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATOR

CARRIE E. LAVALLEY, 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,

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

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.

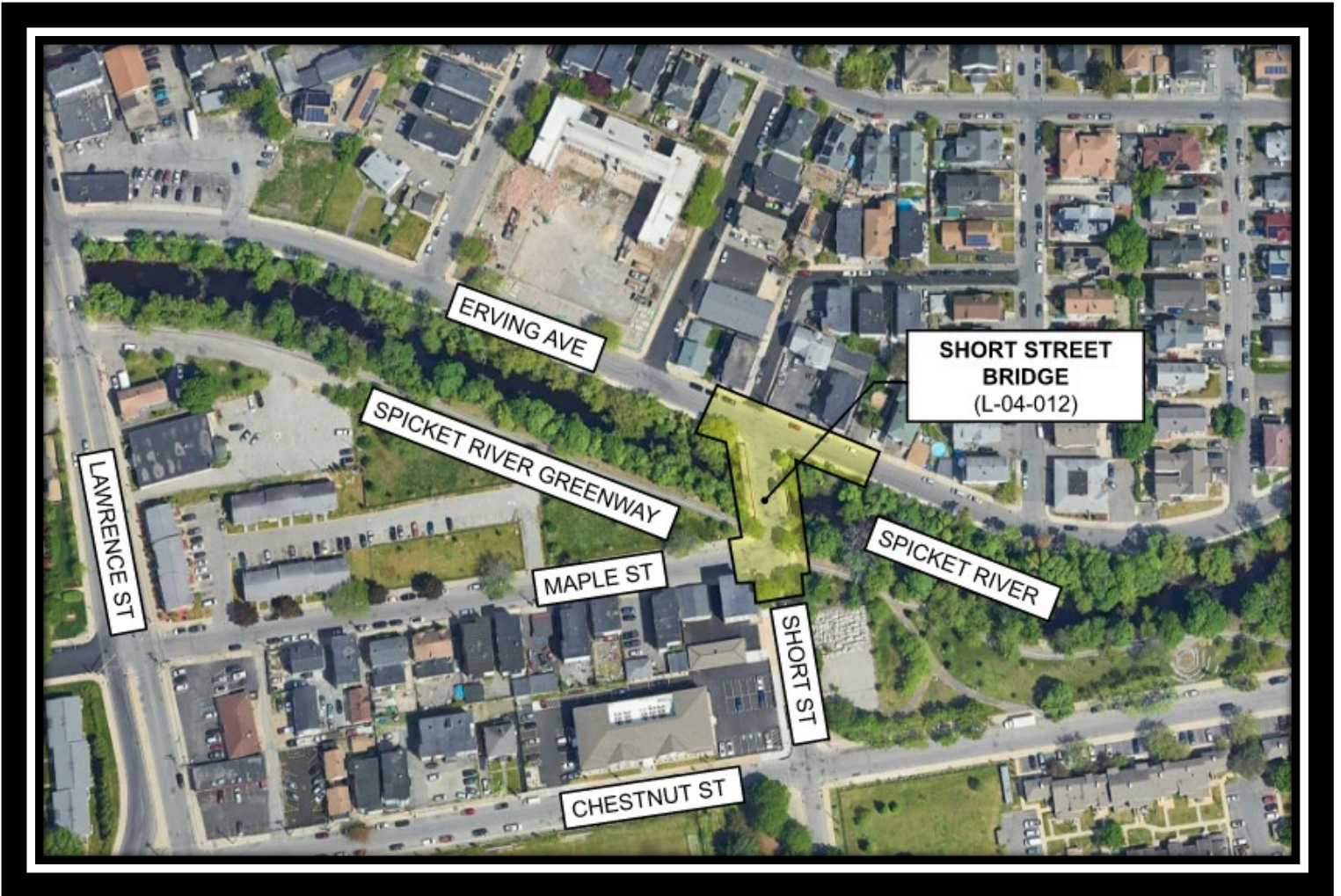
4. WHAT IS A FAIR PRICE FOR THE ACQUIRED PARCELS?

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.

LOCUS MAP



Project Location Map (File No. 612074)



282 Merrimack Street, 2nd Floor
Lawrence, MA01843
978-794-1792

Bridge No. L-04-012 (CQT)
Short Street over the Spicket River
Lawrence, MA 01841

Bridge Replacement, Short Street over the Spicket River

Bridge No. L-04-012 (CQT)

Lawrence, MA

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

BACKGROUND

Short Street is a two-lane, north-south, Urban Local roadway owned and maintained by the City of Lawrence. At the bridge over the Spicket River (L-04-012), the roadway is approximately 34-ft wide and carries two unstriped lanes of vehicular traffic, two concrete sidewalks, and an unstriped parking lane. There is a concrete bridge railing situated at the back of each sidewalk. The existing structure is comprised of concrete encased steel beams founded on concrete abutments that are in line with the banks of the Spicket River. The bridge is located immediately north of the intersection with Maple Street, and immediately south of the intersection with Erving Avenue; the Spicket River Greenway bisects the south bridge approach. Generally, the bridge is in a residential area.

The original structure was built in 1850 (with portions rebuilt in 1938) and has begun to show advanced signs of deterioration, most notably including holes in the bridge deck that have led to the closure of the west sidewalk. Recent MassDOT Inspection Reports have identified various deficiencies throughout main structural elements that have been categorized as “severe” and requiring repair “as-soon-as-possible”.

PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS

The primary goal of this project is to replace the bridge carrying Short Street over the Spicket River to provide the city with a new, low-maintenance structure. The new bridge will be designed with a 75-year design life and is expected to be comprised of concrete box beams and a concrete deck founded on concrete abutments.

The bridge will be widened to include a 10-foot-wide shared use path that will provide connectivity to the Spicket River Greenway to the south. In addition to the new shared use path, the bridge will accommodate two 11-ft wide striped travel lanes, two 5-foot-wide striped shoulders, one 8-foot-wide striped parking lane, and one 7-foot-wide sidewalk. Code compliant, crash tested bridge railings will be provided over the bridge, while approach guardrail will continue into the bridge approaches.

Additional improvements will include repaving approach roadways, providing striped crosswalks at approach roadways (including access points to the Spicket River Greenway), upgrading the accessible ramps at approach roadways, and stormwater drainage improvements.

CONSTRUCTION IMPACTS

To construct the proposed improvements, Short Street will be fully closed during construction. Vehicular traffic will be detoured onto approach roadways while pedestrian and bicycle traffic will be detoured onto the Spicket River Greenway and approach sidewalks. Erving Avenue will remain open to two-way traffic during construction and will be subject to temporary parking bans. Maple Street and the southern portion of Short Street will remain open to local traffic only. Proper road closure and detour signage will be placed along the detour route to guide road users to correct locations.

Please Fold and Tape



Please Place
Appropriate
Postage Here

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

RE: Virtual Public Hearing
Bridge Replacement, L-04-012, Short Street over Spicket River
LAWRENCE
Project File No. 612074
Attn: Project Management

