



LIVE VIRTUAL DESIGN PUBLIC HEARING

OCTOBER 7, 2021

ON

MASSDOT PUBLIC HEARING WEBSITE

<https://www.mass.gov/massdot-highway-design-public-hearings>

7:00 PM

FOR THE PROPOSED

**Viscoloid Avenue Improvements
Safe Routes to School Project
Project No. 609529**

Roadway Project Management

IN THE CITY OF LEOMINSTER, 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
Project File No. 609529

A Live Virtual Design Public Hearing will be hosted on the MassDOT website below to present the design for the proposed Viscoloid Avenue Improvements, a Safe Routes to School project in the City of Leominster, MA.

WHEN: Thursday, October 7 @ 7:00 PM

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

PROPOSAL: The project proposes to reconstruct Viscoloid Avenue from Mechanic Street to Lancaster Street to provide enhanced pedestrian safety and mobility and improved bicycle accommodation with specific emphasis on safe access to the Frances Drake Elementary School. Pedestrian improvements include construction of new sidewalks and reconstruction of the sidewalks curb ramps and crosswalks for pedestrian accommodation meeting ADA/AAB requirements on both sides of Viscoloid Avenue and bicycle improvements include striped bicycle lanes on both sides of Viscoloid Avenue with a striped buffer to provide additional separation from vehicles. Intersection improvements include additional signalized crossings at the intersection of Viscoloid Avenue with Johnson Street along with new flashing beacons at strategic crossing locations on Viscoloid Avenue. Minor geometric improvements are proposed along with milling and overlaying of the roadway pavement prior to the application of new pavement markings.

A secure right-of-way is necessary for this project. Acquisitions in fee and permanent or temporary easements may be required. The City of Leominster is responsible for acquiring all needed rights in private or public lands. MassDOT's policy concerning land acquisitions will be discussed at this hearing.

Project inquiries, written statements and other exhibits regarding the proposed undertaking may be submitted to Carrie E. Lavalley, P.E., Acting Chief Engineer, via e-mail to MassDOTProjectManagement@dot.state.ma.us or via US Mail to Suite 6340, 10 Park Plaza, Boston, MA 02116, Attention: Project Management, Project File No. 609529. Statements and exhibits intended for inclusion in the public hearing transcript must be emailed or postmarked no later than fourteen (14) days after the October 7th, 2021 hearing date.

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 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.

Hearing webinar or cancellation announcements will be posted on this website: [MassDOT Highway Design Public Hearings | Mass.gov](#).

JONATHAN GULLIVER
HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATOR

CARRIE E. LAVALLEY, 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 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.

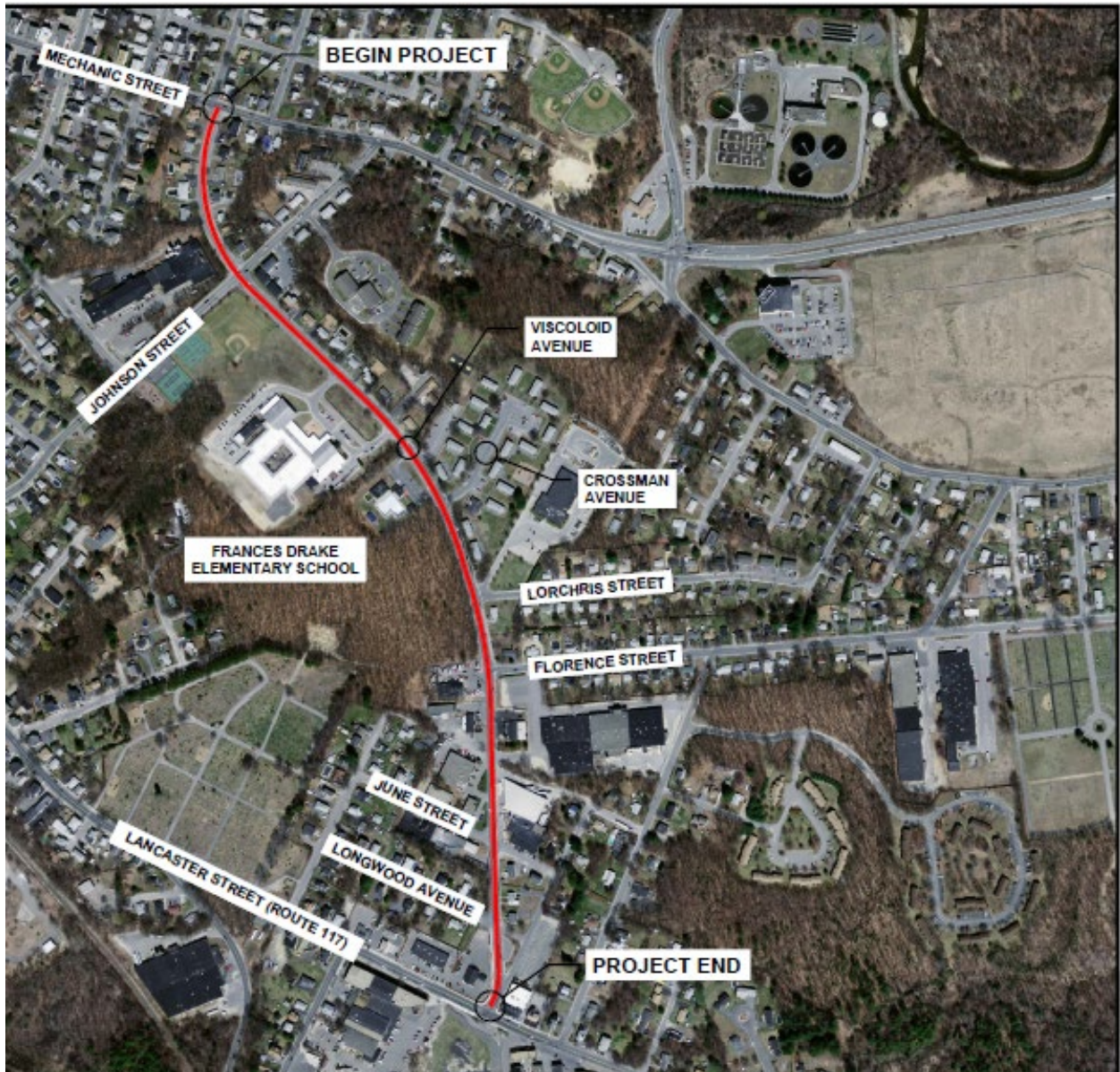
A Right of Entry is a document that is signed by the owner. It allows the Contractor to perform certain types of work on the owner's land. The work is usually minor in nature and frequently consists of loaming/seeding behind sidewalks, new driveway apron work, grading/sloping, and wetland protection, 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.



PROJECT LIMITS

PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS

The proposed improvements are targeted to provide safe pedestrian and bicycle access to the Frances Drake Elementary School and will include construction of new cement concrete sidewalks, five-foot bicycle lanes with two-foot striped buffers the length of Viscoloid Avenue. Work will also include installation of flashing beacons at select crosswalks, and new traffic signal equipment at the intersection of Viscoloid Avenue and Johnson Street. This includes accessible pedestrian push buttons for all four crosswalks at the intersection. The proposed work will extend along Viscoloid Avenue from Mechanic Street to Lancaster Street. Side street treatments will primarily replicate existing conditions while improving geometry at select locations.

New ADA compliant sidewalks and curb ramps are proposed along both sides of Viscoloid Avenue for the length of the entire project. Proposed crosswalks will be reconstructed with high visibility ladder crosswalk treatment and appropriate signage. The roadways within the project limits will be milled and overlaid with a new pavement surface. Stormwater drainage improvements will be kept at a minimum to accommodate other proposed improvements.

The project is expected to begin construction in the fall of 2022, and construction is expected to be completed in one year. The contractor will be required to maintain access to abutters at all times except for short periods, and abutters will be notified in advance as needed. Proper traffic management will promote access, and a police detail will be present during construction. Two lanes of traffic will be maintained during sidewalk construction and alternating one way traffic will be required during milling and paving.

THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
HIGHWAY DIVISION

FEDERAL AID PROJECT

Leominster, MA
Reconstruction of Viscoloid Avenue
Safe Routes to School
Project File No. 609529

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:

Carrie E. Lavallee, P.E., Acting Chief Engineer
MassDOT – Highway Division
10 Park Plaza, Boston, MA 02116-3973
Attn: Fil Yee, Roadway/Bridge Project Management

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.

Name: _____ Title: _____

Organization: _____

Address: _____

Please Fold and Tape



Please Place
Appropriate
Postage Here

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

RE: Live Virtual Design Public Hearing
Reconstruction of Viscoloid Avenue
Leominster
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