



DESIGN PUBLIC HEARING

December 1, 2022

FOR THE PROPOSED

**Reconstruction of Route 12 (Central Street) from Sterling Town Line to Tocci Street
including Bridge No. L-08-022 (6RC) over Fall Brook
Project No. 604499**

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.
CHIEF ENGINEER**

**THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION – HIGHWAY DIVISION
NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING
Project File No. 604499**

A Design Public Hearing will be held by MassDOT to present the design for the proposed Reconstruction of Route 12 (Central Street) from the Sterling Town Line to Tocci Street and the Bridge No. L-08-022 (6RC) over Fall Brook, in **Leominster, MA**.

WHERE: Leominster City Hall
 City Hall Auditorium
 25 West Street
 Leominster, MA 01453

WHEN: **Thursday, December 1, 2022 @ 6:30PM**

PURPOSE: The purpose of this hearing is to provide the public with the opportunity to become fully acquainted with the proposed Reconstruction of Route 12 (Central Street) 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 consists of the reconstruction of Route 12 (Central Street) and intersecting side streets in Leominster, MA, between the Sterling Town Line and Tocci Street. Two existing signals will be reconstructed at Willard Street and the Fire Station driveway. A new roundabout will be installed at Litchfield Street to replace the existing traffic signal. The bridge over Fall Brook will be reconstructed. New sidewalks will be installed on both sides of the road between Legate Hill Road and Tocci Street where existing sidewalks do not meet ADA/MAAB requirements. A new sidewalk will also be constructed on the west side of Route 12 between the Sterling Town Line and Legate Hill Road. Five-foot bicycle lanes will be installed throughout the project corridor on both sides of the roadway, except at Litchfield Street, where shared-use paths will accommodate both pedestrians and bicyclists. Additional improvements include updated signage, pavement markings, drainage improvements and utility pole relocations within the project limits.

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

Written statements and other exhibits regarding the proposed undertaking are to be submitted to Carrie Lavallee, P.E., Acting Chief Engineer, MassDOT, 10 Park Plaza, Boston, MA 02116, Attention: **Project Management**, Project File No. 604003. Statements and exhibits intended for inclusion in the public hearing transcript must be emailed or postmarked no later than ten (10) business days after the hearing is posted to the MassDOT website listed below.

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.

This Design Public Hearing or a cancellation announcement will be posted on the internet at www.mass.gov/massdot-highway-design-public-hearings.

JONATHAN GULLIVER
HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATOR

CARRIE LAVALLEE, 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. Lavallee, 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.

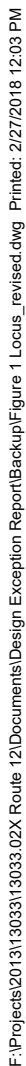


FIGURE 1

Project Location

The proposed corridor reconstruction project is located in Leominster, Massachusetts. The project is approximately 2.6 miles in length and includes work on Route 12 (Central Street) between the Sterling town line and Tocci Street. The project also encompasses work on intersecting side streets, including a new roundabout at Litchfield Street. The project also includes the reconstruction of Bridge No. L-08-022 (6RC) over Fall Brook. Route 12 provides a vital connection to both Route 2 and I-190 for Leominster.

Project Purpose

The purpose of this project is to rehabilitate Route 12 (Central Street) and to provide safety improvements along the corridor. The project will provide improved pedestrian, bicycle, and vehicular facilities throughout the corridor. Safety improvements include signal improvements Willard Street and the Fire Station Driveway, and the installation of a roundabout at the Litchfield Street intersection. This project also includes the reconstruction of the bridge over Fall Brook, improving the structure of the bridge originally built in 1915.

Existing Conditions

Route 12 (Central Street) is a two-lane, two-way roadway and is classified as an urban principal arterial. Route 12 is within MassDOT jurisdiction and carries about 15,000 vehicles per day. Route 12 is approximately 35 to 40-feet wide and has a travel lane and shoulder in each direction of travel. Pedestrian accommodations are present within the project limits; however, bicycle accommodations are not present. The posted speed limit within the project limits varies between 40 and 45 MPH. The abutting properties along Route 12 are a mixture of commercial, residential and industrial properties.

Project Improvements

The project proposes a typical cross section on Route 12 of two 11-foot lanes with 5-foot bikeable shoulders. Minor roadway widening will be required in various locations to provide the proposed cross section. New cement concrete sidewalks are proposed on the west side of Route 12 from the Sterling Town Line to Legate Hill Road, at which point sidewalks are being proposed on both sides of Route 12 up to the project limit at Tocci Street.

Upgraded traffic signals are proposed at Willard Street and the Fire Station driveway to improve vehicular and pedestrian safety. At Litchfield Street, the existing signalized intersection will be replaced by a roundabout. Shared use paths are proposed around the roundabout to facilitate both pedestrian and bicycle movements through the intersection.

Bridge L-08-022 (6RC) over Fall Brook will be replaced with a new structure constructed of prestressed concrete deck beams. The new bridge will have two 11-foot travel lanes, 5-foot shoulders and sidewalks on both sides of the roadway.

Upgrades to the closed drainage system are proposed to improve roadway surface drainage. Existing outfalls will be maintained and upgraded, and cross culverts will be maintained and upgraded where necessary. Utility pole relocations are required on Route 12 and Litchfield Street.

Traffic Management

Two-lane traffic will be maintained as much as possible during construction. Occasional short traffic disruptions and travel lane/shoulder closures will occur. Impacts to the travelling public and abutting residents will be minimized to the maximum extent practicable. Pedestrian and vehicular access to abutting properties will be maintained throughout construction. Short term detours may be required to install portions of the closed drainage system.

One lane alternating traffic controlled by a temporary traffic signal will be required to facilitate the construction of Bridge L-08-022 (6RC) over Fall Brook. Increased traffic management measures will be required at Litchfield Street to construct the roundabout. Detours may be required at Litchfield Street for large tractor trailer units during some construction phases.

Right of Way Impacts

Temporary easements, takings and permanent easements will be required throughout the project. Temporary easements will be required for grading impacts to lawns, driveways and walkways. These activities will restore impacts to the adjacent properties. Permanent easements will be required for utility pole relocations, overhead utility wires, lighting and new drainage. Fee takings will also be required for sections of the newly constructed sidewalk and shared use path.

Project Cost

The current construction cost estimate for this project is approximately \$18.5 Million, including cost to construct, police details, construction engineering and utility pole relocations.

Project Schedule

The design plans presented at the Design Public Hearing are preliminary design plans (25% Design Level). Design, permitting, and right-of-way acquisition will be completed by September 2024. Construction is anticipated to begin by Spring 2025.

THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
HIGHWAY DIVISION

FEDERAL AID PROJECT

Leominster, MA
Reconstruction of Route 12 (Central Street) from Sterling Town Line to Tocci Street including
Bridge No. L-08-022 (6RC) over Fall Brook
Project File No. 604499

This sheet is provided for your comments. Your input is solicited and appreciated. You may e-mail comments directly to MassDOTProjectManagement@dot.state.ma.us or you may mail this sheet with any additional comments to:

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

Statements and exhibits intended for inclusion in the public hearing transcript must be emailed or postmarked no later than ten (10) business days after the hearing.

PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT LEGIBLY.

Name: _____ Title: _____

Organization: _____

Address: _____

Please Fold and Tape



Please Place
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Postage Here

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

RE: Design Public Hearing
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