

DESIGN PUBLIC HEARING

APRIL 1, 2025

FOR THE PROPOSED

EMERGENCY RECOVERY FOR VARIOUS PROJECT LOCATIONS

Highway Design

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 DESIGN PUBLIC HEARING

Project Description: Leominster – Emergency Recovery for Various Project Locations
Project File Nos. 613865, 613830, 613829

A Design Public Hearing will be held to present the design for the three proposed projects in Leominster, MA.

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

WHEN: 6:00 PM, Tuesday, April 1, 2025

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

PROPOSAL: The proposed projects consists of various infrastructure repairs throughout the City of Leominster as a result of the flooding experienced in September 2023. The repairs include a full replacement of the culvert structure carrying Pleasant Street near the intersection with Colburn Street; the replacement of the retaining wall and sidewalk along Lancaster Street near the intersection with Malburn Street; slope stabilization around the culvert structure carrying Union Street; and the replacement of the sidewalk slab and wingwall stabilization at the Mechanic Street bridge over the Monoosnoc Brook.

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 presented in the hearing.

Project inquiries, written statements and other exhibits regarding the proposed undertaking may be submitted to Carrie E. Lavallee, 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. 613865, 613830, 613829. 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.

In case of inclement weather, a cancellation announcement will be posted on the internet at https://www.mass.gov/orgs/highway-division/events.

JONATHAN GULLIVER
HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATOR

CARRIE E. 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

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 construction of this project will serve the needs of local users as well as those of the greater surrounding communities. The proposed enhancement has been designed to service 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 process and procedures used in acquiring any necessary rights required for the proposed project.

3. APPRAISALS, DONATIONS, RIGHTS OF ENTRY?

   Impacted Property owners are entitled to an appraisal and Just Compensation, however, municipalities will often seek donations of parcels as 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 temporary 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, etc.

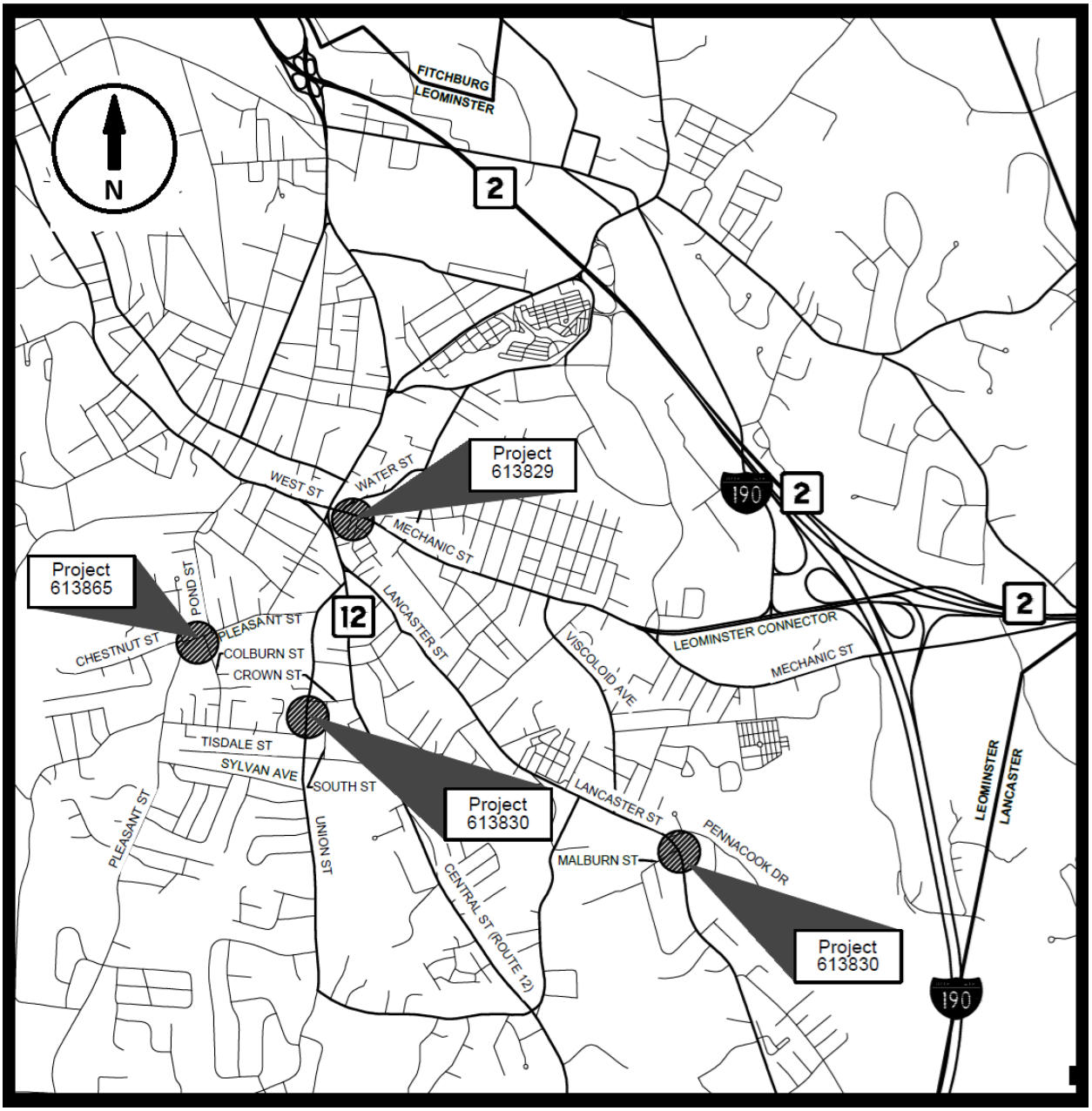
4. WHAT IS A FAIR PRICE FOR THE ACQUIRED PARCELS?

   When donations or Rights of Entry 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 and review 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 (Just compensation), for the rights to be acquired.

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 from the date of the recording of the acquired parcel(s). 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


N
FITCHBURG
LEOMINSTER
2
Project
613829
WEST ST
WATER ST
MECHANIC ST
190
2
Project
613865
POND ST
PLEASANT ST
CHESTNUT ST
COLBURN ST
CROWN ST
12
LANCASTER ST
VISCOLOID AVE
LEOMINSTER CONNECTOR
MECHANIC ST
2
TISDALE ST
SYLVAN AVE
SOUTH ST
Project
613830
LANCASTER ST
PENNACOOK DR
MALBURN ST
PLEASANT ST
UNION ST
CENTRAL ST (ROUTE 12)
LEOMINSTER
LANCASTER
Project
613830
190

Scope of work of Projects

Background

The Leominster floods that took place in September of 2023 caused significant damage to the City's existing infrastructure. The projects to be discussed in this public hearing are all related to this historic flooding.

Pleasant Street

The historic flooding of September 2023 caused a complete failure to the culvert beneath Pleasant Street. The proposed plan includes the installation of a 3' x 5' precast concrete box culvert matching the size of the existing structure that failed during the historic flooding. This new structure will replace the temporary plastic pipe that was inserted after the flood. This new culvert will be aligned to the pre-flood stream alignment and slope. The sidewalks along Pleasant Street and Colburn Street shall be replaced and enhanced with pedestrian curb ramps and new crosswalks. The construction of the culvert shall be accomplished with a full road closure during the summer months so as to not affect school operations.

Lancaster Street

The flooding caused a failure of the retaining wall and sidewalk to the wall along Lancaster Street adjacent to Malburn Street. This project shall reconstruct the retaining wall and the adjoining sidewalk. The project shall also repair the driveway apron at the neighboring property that was damaged. The final condition will provide increased pedestrian connectivity with new pedestrian ramps.

Union Street

During the flooding, the downstream granite canal walls failed due to the heavy flows. The project at this location shall consist of regrading around the upstream and downstream canal walls. The downstream canal walls shall be eliminated and soil nails shall be installed to stabilize the downstream walls. The new rock slope grading will provide a more resilient permanent solution to the channel.

Mechanic Street

The north sidewalk slab and northeast wingwall failed during the flooding and has since remained closed to the public. At this location, the work shall consist of reinstalling the failed sidewalk slab and a more permanent and resilient solution to the northeast wingwall. Drainage improvements shall be incorporated into the project to reduce future maintenance concerns.

THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
HIGHWAY DIVISION

FEDERAL AID PROJECT

Leominster, MA
Emergency Recovery for Various Project Locations
Project File No. 613865, 613829, 613830

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.

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Name: _____ Title: _____

Organization: _____

Address: _____

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Please Fold and Tape

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Please Place Appropriate Postage Here

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

RE: Public Hearing
EMERGENCY RECOVERY FOR VARIOUS PROJECT LOCATIONS
LEOMINSTER
Project File No. 613865, 613829, 613830
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