



**VIRTUAL DESIGN PUBLIC HEARING**

**June 15, 2021**

**FOR THE PROPOSED**

**INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS ON ROUTE 2A AT WILLOW ROAD AND  
BRUCE STREET PROJECT**

**Project No. 608443  
Project Management**

**IN THE TOWNS OF LITTLETON AND AYER, 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 MEETING**  
**Project File No. 608443**

A Virtual Design Public Hearing will be published on the MassDOT website below to present the design for the proposed Intersection Improvements on Route 2A at Willow Road and Bruce Street project in Littleton and Ayer, Massachusetts.

**WHEN:           Tuesday, June 15, 2021**

**PURPOSE:**    The purpose of this hearing is to provide the public with the opportunity to become fully acquainted with the proposed Intersection Improvements on Route 2A at Willow Road and Bruce 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 replacement of the temporary traffic signal and the addition of left turn lanes on Route 2A/110. Bicycle and pedestrian accommodations consisting of an 8-foot shared-use path is proposed along both sides of Route 2A/110. Further safety improvements include in the project are advanced warning signs, advanced vehicle detection, designated pedestrian crossings, and drainage improvements 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. The **Commonwealth of Massachusetts** 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 Patricia A. Leavenworth, P.E., Chief Engineer, via e-mail to [MassDOTProjectManagement@dot.state.ma.us](mailto:MassDOTProjectManagement@dot.state.ma.us) or via US Mail to Suite 6340, 10 Park Plaza, Boston, MA 02116, Attention: **Project Management**, Project File No. **608443**. 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](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 business days before the hearing.

This Virtual Design Public Hearing or a cancellation announcement will be posted on the internet at [www.mass.gov/massdot-highway-design-public-hearings](http://www.mass.gov/massdot-highway-design-public-hearings).

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 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?**

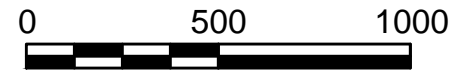
No. If, after the figure established as market value has been offered to the owner, the owner feels he or she is not being offered a fair price, he or she has the right, within three years, to appeal to the courts. Pending a court decision, he or she can be paid on a "pro-tanto" basis (or "for the time 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.



SCALE: 1" = 500'



GREEN INTERNATIONAL  
AFFILIATES, INC.

Project Locus  
Reconstruction of Route 2A/110 (Ayer Road) at Willow Road/Bruce Street  
Littleton and Ayer, Massachusetts

## **Project Location**

The proposed intersection reconstruction project is located in both Littleton and Ayer, Massachusetts. The project is approximately 0.4 miles in length and includes work on Route 2A/110, Willow Road and Bruce Street. Route 2A/110 provides a vital connection between Littleton and Ayer and also connects Ayer to I-495.

## **Project Purpose**

The purpose of this project is to address significant safety concerns at this intersection that need a permanent solution. The temporary traffic signal was installed on an interim basis in the Summer of 2016 after another serious crash that ultimately resulted in a fatality. This project entails replacing the existing temporary traffic signal equipment with a permanent traffic signal at the intersection of Route 2A/110 (Ayer Road) with Willow Road and Bruce Street. The improved intersection will also include pedestrian activated crosswalks and dedicated left turn lanes.

## **Existing Conditions**

Route 2A/110 is a two-lane, two-way roadway and is classified as an urban principal arterial. Route 2A/110 is within MassDOT jurisdiction and carries about 14,500 vehicles per day. Both Willow Road and Bruce Street are classified as urban collectors, and both are under town jurisdiction. A temporary traffic signal is currently in operation at the intersection. The posted speed limit within the project limits is 45 mph. The three roadways form a skewed intersection that is located within Littleton. There are neither bicycle nor pedestrian accommodations within the project limits. Most of the abutting properties along Route 2A/110 are residences or businesses including a pub and a gas station. Bruce Street services a residential area and a dairy farm. Willow Road services both residences and a large industrial area in Ayer that generates a high volume of truck traffic. The roadway edge treatment is typically sheet flow or bituminous berm with no sidewalks on either side of Route 2A/110, Willow Road or Bruce Street. Existing drainage consists of a small system with manholes and catch basins that flows north down Willow Road to an outfall to Bennett's Brook. Utility poles are located on the north side of Route 2A, the west side of Willow Road, and the west side of Bruce Street.

## **Project Improvements**

The project proposes to replace the temporary signal with permanent signal equipment based the standard signal warrants. Roadway widening is also proposed on Route 2A/110 to create left-turn lanes (in both directions) at Willow Road and Bruce Street. The turn lanes should reduce the risk of rear-end collisions typically seen at signalized intersections. Widening on Willow Road will provide two approach lanes at Route 2A/110, separate left-turning traffic from right-turning traffic, and improve efficiency of signal operations the intersection. The traffic volumes on Bruce Street do not warrant turn lanes.

An 8-foot shared-use path (excluding the curb) is proposed along both sides of Route 2A/110 to accommodate pedestrians and bicyclist by physically separating pedestrians and bicycles from vehicular traffic and provides an ADA accessible route where one does not currently exist. A 2-foot wide shoulder is proposed on Route 2A/110. A shared-use path is not proposed on Willow Road or Bruce Street.

The addition of the shared use path and curb clearly define driveways on the north side of Route 2A/110 and improve access management of the truck parking lot located at the northwest corner of the intersection. Crosswalks are proposed across all legs of the intersection (including signalized driveways) and will greatly improve pedestrian safety by clearly defining the location of pedestrian crossings. This safety improvement is further enhanced by the incorporation of an exclusive pedestrian phase. Upgrades to the closed drainage system are proposed to reduce spread into the roadway. Existing outfalls will be maintained and upgraded. Utility pole relocations are required on Route 2A/110, Willow Road and Bruce Street.

### **Traffic Management**

Two lane traffic will be maintained as much as possible. However, 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.

### **Right of Way Impacts**

Temporary and permanent construction 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 and new closed drainage. Fee takings will also be required for traffic signal equipment and sections of the newly constructed shared use path. MassDOT's policy concerning land acquisition will be discussed at this hearing.

### **Project Cost**

The current construction cost estimate for this project is approximately \$3.2 Million.

### **Project Schedule**

The design plans presented at the Virtual Design Public Hearing are preliminary design plans (25% Design Level). Design, permitting, and right-of-way acquisition is anticipated to be completed by the Fall of 2022. Construction is anticipated to begin in the Spring of 2023.



THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS  
MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
HIGHWAY DIVISION

FEDERAL AID PROJECT

Littleton and Ayer, MA  
Intersection Improvements on Route 2A at Willow Road and Bruce Street Project  
Project File No. 608443

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](mailto:MassDOTProjectManagement@dot.state.ma.us) or you may mail this sheet with any additional comments to:

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

RE: Virtual Public Hearing  
INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS ON ROUTE 2A AT WILLOW RD AND BRUCE ST  
**LITTLETON AND AYER**  
Project File No. 608443  
Attn: Project Management

