



IN-PERSON PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING

JUNE 18, 2024

FOR THE PROPOSED

RESURFACING AND RELATED WORK ON ROUTE 110

608816

HIGHWAY DESIGN

IN LOWELL/ DRACUT/ METHUEN, 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 INFORMATIONAL MEETING
Project File No. 608816**

A Public Informational Meeting will be held by MassDOT to discuss the proposed Lowell – Dracut – Methuen – Resurfacing and Related Work on Route 110 project in Lowell, Dracut, and Methuen, MA.

WHERE: Harmony Hall
1624 Lakeview Avenue,
Dracut, MA 01826

WHEN: **6:00 PM, Tuesday, June 18, 2024**

PURPOSE: The purpose of this meeting is to provide the public with the opportunity to become fully acquainted with the proposed Lowell – Dracut – Methuen – Resurfacing and Related Work on Route 110 project. All views and comments made at the meeting will be reviewed and considered to the maximum extent possible.

PROPOSAL: The proposed work includes resurfacing 6.3-miles of Route 110 in Lowell, Dracut, and Methuen, from the Merrimack River bike path in Lowell in the west to Riverside Drive in Methuen in the east. The revised design moving forward will no longer be proposing a shared use path along the south side of the road. Instead, there will be bike lanes on either side of the road, buffered from the vehicle lanes by area painted buffer with sinusoidal (rumble) strips as well as in the centerline of the roadway. Flex posts will be provided in conflict areas within the buffer spaced approximately 40 feet apart and will be coordinated with driveway openings and side streets. All MassDOT projects need to include considerations for bikes and pedestrians. We also agree that the speeds on the road need to slow down. Providing narrower lanes, and now buffered bike lanes, will help with that speed reduction, as roadway narrowing is a proven traffic calming technique as are median islands which are also proposed at various locations. Other ways we are working to reduce speeds include implementing a work zone speed limit during construction and doing a speed study at the end of construction to be able to permanently reduce the speed limit. Your curb cut will be free from any obstruction. The sidewalk along the north side of the roadway will be reconstructed to be 5-ft wide and ADA compliant. All work will be done within the state-owned layout. There will be breaks in the flex posts for all driveways with plenty of space for access to your property for vehicle maneuvers, trash pick-up, and mail or other delivery.

This location is accessible to people with disabilities. MassDOT provides reasonable accommodations and/or language assistance free of charge upon request (including but not limited to interpreters in American Sign Language and languages other than English, open or closed captioning for videos, assistive listening devices and alternate material formats, such as audio tapes, Braille and large print), as available. For accommodation or language assistance, please contact MassDOT's Chief Diversity and Civil Rights Officer by phone (857-368-8580), fax (857-368-0602), TTD/TTY (857-368-0603) 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 (10) business days before the meeting.

In the event 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
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.

608816 Lowell-Dracut-Methuen
Resurfacing and Related Work on Route 110



The purpose of this project is to resurface a 6.3-mile portion of the Route 110 corridor and provide overall improvements to the existing infrastructure. The project limits being in Lowell near the entrance to the Merrimack River Bike Path and end in Methuen at the intersection of Riverside Drive. In addition to pavement preservation, the goals of the project also include safety for all roadway users with complete streets improvements, and slow traffic down while keeping all work within the State Highway Layout. Given that this project originated as a maintenance/resurfacing project, the design maintains the existing curb to curb width for a majority of the corridor with isolated areas of roadway widening where additional width is needed for turn lanes.

The project will provide new pedestrian and bicycle accommodations as well as update existing pedestrian accommodations to ADA compliance. The sidewalk along the north side of the road will be reconstructed to be a 5.5-foot ADA compliant sidewalk with compliant curb ramps and crossings at side streets. The proposed work will include pavement mill and overlay, striping, and new signage. There will be a new roadway cross section consisting of 11-foot travel lanes in each direction and 5-foot bike lanes separated from vehicle lanes by 4-foot buffers with a sinusoidal (rumble) strip in the buffer as well as in the centerline. This buffer is typically 4-ft wide but narrows down to 2-ft in isolated areas where turn lanes are needed and there are physical constraints preventing further widening. Flex posts will be provided in conflict areas within the buffer spaced approximately 40 feet apart and will be coordinated with driveway openings and side streets.

Other improvements are aimed at safety and speed management. The design includes narrowing vehicle lanes and shoulders which is a traffic calming countermeasure. Another traffic calming element proposed are center median islands at various locations which create a slight horizontal shift and a physical element to help slow vehicle traffic. During construction a work zone speed limit will be implemented which will be lower than the existing posted speed limit. At the end of construction, a speed zoning study will be done to assess if the posted speed limit can be reduced based on the new roadway design.

This project will be advertised to be constructed by late summer 2024.

THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
HIGHWAY DIVISION

FEDERAL AID PROJECT

Lowell- Dracut- Methuen, MA
Resurfacing and Related Work on Route 110

Project File No. 608816

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 meeting transcript must be emailed or postmarked no later than ten (10) business days after the meeting.

PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT LEGIBLY.

Name: _____ Title: _____

Organization: _____

Address: _____

Please Fold and Tape



Please Place
Appropriate
Postage Here

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

RE: Virtual Public Information Meeting
RESURFACING AND RELATED WORK ON ROUTE 110
LOWELL- DRACUT- METHUEN
Project File No. 608816
Attn: Project Management

