



**VIRTUAL DESIGN PUBLIC HEARING**

**OCTOBER 29, 2020**

**FOR THE PROPOSED**

**LYNNFIELD STREET ROADWAY IMPROVEMENT PROJECT  
Project No.602077**

**IN THE CITY OF LYNN, 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. 602077**

A Virtual Design Public Hearing will be published on the MassDOT website below to present the design for the proposed Lynnfield Street Roadway Improvement project in Lynn, MA.

**WHEN:           Thursday, October 29, 2020**

**PURPOSE:**    The purpose of this hearing is to provide the public with the opportunity to become fully acquainted with the proposed Lynnfield Street Improvement 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 roadway and safety improvements along Lynnfield Street between Colonial Avenue and Cowdrey Avenue. The project includes the reconstruction of roadway pavement, new concrete sidewalks with granite curbing, new wheelchair ramps and drainage improvements. A new flashing beacon will be installed at Great Woods Road, and new pavement markings and signage will be provided throughout the project limits. Bicycle accommodations will be provided by exclusive bike lanes.

A secure right-of-way is necessary for this project. Acquisitions in fee and permanent or temporary easements may be required. The **City of Lynn** 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 Patricia A. Leavenworth, P.E., Chief Engineer, MassDOT, 10 Park Plaza, Boston, MA 02116, Attention: Project Management, Project File No. 602077. Mailed statements and exhibits intended for inclusion in the public hearing transcript must be postmarked no later than ten (10) business days after the hearing is posted to the MassDOT website listed below. Project inquiries may be emailed to [dot.feedback.highway@state.ma.us](mailto:dot.feedback.highway@state.ma.us).

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

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 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.



# **LYNNFIELD STREET IMPROVEMENT PROJECT LYNN, MASSACHUSETTS**

## **Location and Purpose**

The proposed project is located in East Lynn, Massachusetts. The project includes work on the portion of Lynnfield Street (Route 129) from Colonial Avenue to a point north of Cowdrey Avenue, a distance of Approximately 0.72 miles. Figure 1 shows the location of the project. The purpose of this project is to improve roadway conditions and improve the safety of vehicular, bicycle, and pedestrian operations within the project limits.

## **Existing Conditions**

Land use and density of development along Lynnfield Street is high. The southerly half of the project typically consists of residential development on the west and east sides of the roadway, interspersed with commercial centers. Approaching the middle section of the project, on the westerly side of Lynnfield Street, development gives way to the St Mary's Cemetery and eventually returns to a commercial/residential mix at Great Woods Road. On the easterly side, residential abutters continue up to the Knights of Columbus Hall. As the project continues north to Great Woods Road, some isolated woodlands are observed before returning to residential development.

Lynnfield Street is one lane in each direction within the limits of the project. During peak hours, Lynnfield Street carries a high traffic volume. The roadway serves as a major corridor to Route 128 and beyond. Observed physical conditions of the roadway include uneven and damaged sections of roadway pavement, poor sidewalks, faded pavement markings and lack of pedestrian ramps. A flashing warning beacon operates at Great Woods Road.

## **Proposed Improvements**

Proposed project improvements include reconstruction of the roadway within the project limits. The existing width of Lynnfield Street is to be maintained. Grading changes to the roadway are anticipated to be minimal, as are impacts to abutting properties. New concrete sidewalks with granite curbs are also proposed for the length of the project with the construction of wheelchair ramps at intersections. New pavement markings and signs are also proposed. At the intersection of Great Woods Road a new flashing warning beacon is planned to be installed.

**Right of Way Requirements**

The City of Lynn is responsible for acquiring all private and/or public land required for this project. Minor sidewalk easements and utility easements may be required. Temporary construction easements will be required from abutters for driveway and slope matching.

**Maintenance of Traffic During Construction**

All roadways in the project area will remain open to traffic throughout construction. Conditions of construction may require temporary lane closures, shifting or narrowing of lanes to accommodate traffic operations. Occasional short traffic disruptions may occur but every effort will be made to minimize inconvenience to the public. Pedestrian and vehicular access to abutting properties will be maintained at all times.

**Project Schedule**

The design plans presented here are preliminary (25% design level). Comments made at this public hearing will be incorporated to the extent feasible in the final design.





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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  
LYNNFIELD STREET ROADWAY IMPROVEMENT PROJECT  
**LYNN**  
Project File No. 602077  
Project Management Section

