



**VIRTUAL DESIGN PUBLIC HEARING**

**JANUARY 25, 2022**

**FOR THE PROPOSED**

**MANSFIELD BRIDGE REPLACEMENT, M-03-003 & M-03-045 = M-03-003 (C6R),  
BALCOM STREET OVER WADING RIVER INCLUDING ROADWAY  
IMPROVEMENTS ON BALCOM STREET  
PROJECT FILE NO. 603796  
PROJECT MANAGEMENT**

**IN THE TOWN OF MANSFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS**

**COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS  
MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
HIGHWAY DIVISION**

**JONATHAN GULLIVER  
HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATOR**

**CARRIE E. LAVALLEE, P.E.  
ACTING CHIEF ENGINEER**

THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS  
MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION – HIGHWAY DIVISION  
**NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING**  
**Project File No. 603796**

A Live Virtual Design Public Hearing will be hosted on the MassDOT website below to present the design for the proposed Bridge Replacement, Balcom Street over the Wading River project in **Mansfield, MA**.

**WHEN: 7:00PM, Tuesday January 25, 2022**

**PURPOSE:** The purpose of this hearing is to provide the public with the opportunity to become fully acquainted with the proposed Bridge Replacement, Balcom Street over the Wading River 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 two bridges will both be removed and replaced with one structure that will span over both existing bridge openings and the land that exists between the bridges.

A secure right-of-way is necessary for this project. Acquisitions in fee and permanent or temporary easements may be required. The **Town of Mansfield is responsible for acquiring all needed rights in private or public lands**. The Town'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., Acting 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. 603796**. Statements and exhibits intended for inclusion in the public hearing transcript must be emailed or postmarked no later than ten (10) business days (14 calendar days) after the hearing is hosted on 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 Live Virtual Design Public Hearing or a cancellation announcement will be hosted 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

CARRIE E. LAVALLEE, P.E.  
ACTING 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 Lavalee, P. E.  
Acting 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.

Bridge Replacement, M-03-003 & M-03-045, Balcom Street Over The Wading River – Mansfield, Massachusetts

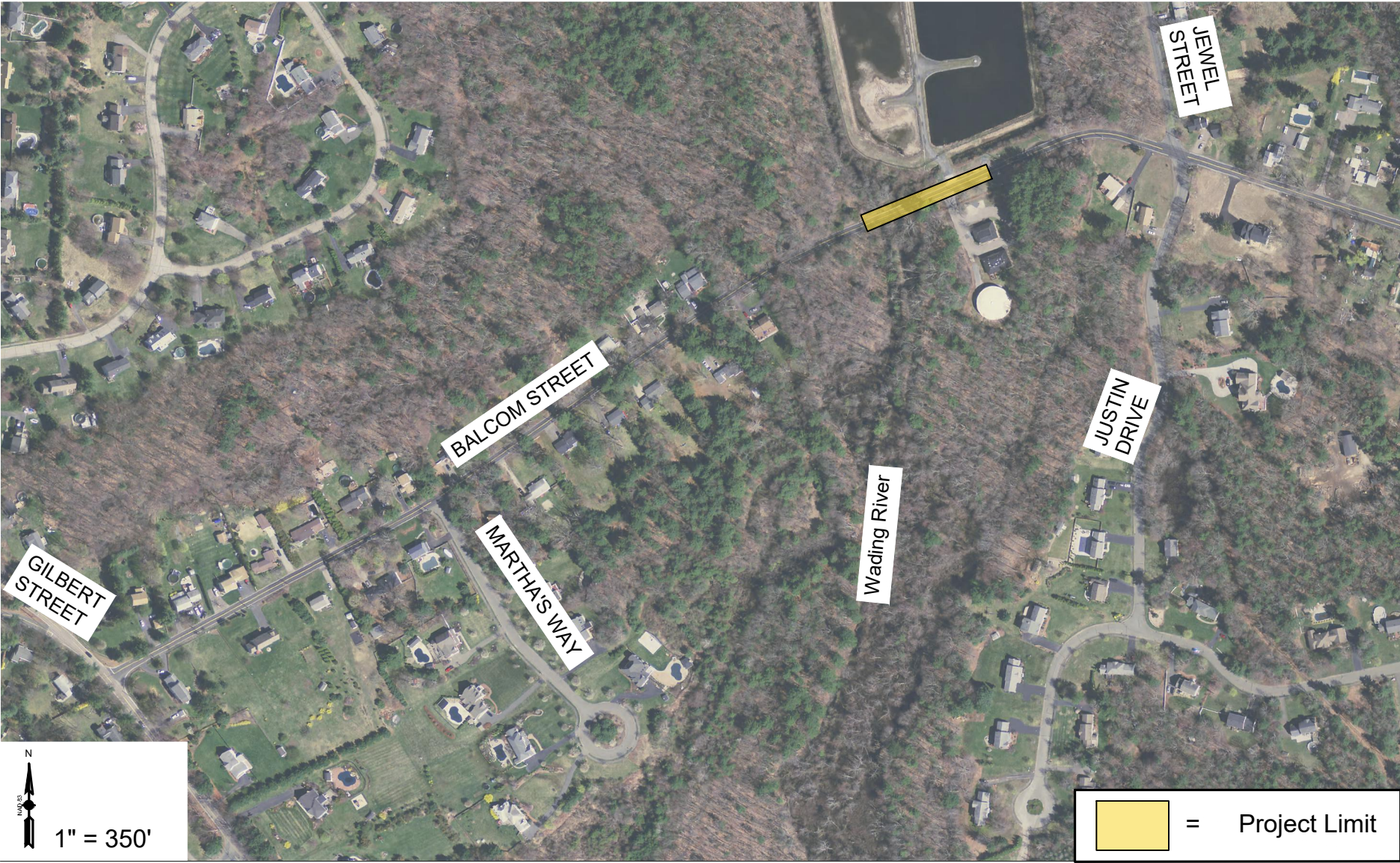


Figure 1  
PROJECT LOCUS MAP

**Project Location:**

The project covers approximately 700 ft on Balcom Street in Mansfield. The limits begin (from the west) halfway between Martha's Way to the Wading River Pumping Station and ends between the pumping station and the intersection of Balcom Street, Jewell Street, and Justin Drive. The project will involve widening the road but will not involve major changes to the road alignment.

**Purpose:**

The purpose of this project is to address the deficiencies in the existing bridges over the Wading River, and to provide additional safety for vehicles, cyclists, and pedestrians. The project will replace the two existing deficient bridges over Wading River with a single span concrete beam bridge.

**Existing Conditions:**

The two existing bridges cross two channels of the Wading River. There are a number of deficiencies in the abutments, the concrete of the structure, and with the road surface. There are cracks and other deterioration in the concrete of the beams and bridge barriers. There is vegetation growing through the abutments, and evidence of scouring. The bridge joints show signs of separation, and there are cracks and holes in the roadway pavement on the bridge. Additionally, there are no pedestrian or bicycle accommodations, and the existing guardrail does not meet MassDOT standards.

**Proposed Project:**

The proposed project will replace the two structurally deficient bridges with a single span concrete beam bridge. The proposed bridge will meet current MassDOT standards for structural stability and roadway safety. The bridge will be widened to the north to accommodate a sidewalk and will include shoulders large enough to accommodate bicycles on both sides of the road. The bridge elevation and roadway profile will also be raised to accommodate the deeper superstructure as well as the current design flood elevations. There will be new guardrails and bridge barriers that meet current MassDOT standards. A utility bay will be designed to carry future utilities across the bridge. Abutments will be designed to resist scouring from the River, and by combining the two bridges into a single span, there will be less environmental impacts on the river.

**Right of Way:**

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 webinar. Right-of-way plans can be made available to affected property owners upon request.

**Maintenance of Traffic During Construction:**

Balcom Street and Jewell Street will be closed during construction, allowing only local traffic. There are several detour routes proposed for the duration of construction depending on which direction vehicles are approaching the project location. One option is to go north of Balcom Street by taking West Street and Williams Street. This detour is approximately 2.3 miles. In another option south of the project, vehicles traveling along Gilbert Street will be directed along two different routes. Smaller vehicles may take Gilbert Street and Otis Street, while trucks would need to take Gilbert Street and Elm Street due to a weight limit on Otis Street that prevents truck traffic. The small vehicle detour is around 2 miles, and the truck detour is 3.75 miles.

**Project Schedule:**

Comments from the public hearing will be incorporated into the final design plans to the maximum extent possible. It is anticipated that the final design plans and environmental permits will be submitted for approval in November of 2022. The project will be advertised for bidding in March 2023, and construction will begin in summer of 2023.

**Project Cost:**

The estimated construction cost for the bridge replacement and road improvements is approximately \$3 million. Funding for this project will be by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and the Federal Highway Administration.

THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS  
MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
HIGHWAY DIVISION

FEDERAL AID PROJECT

Mansfield, MA  
Balcom Street Bridge Replacement, M-03-003 (C6R),  
Balcom Street over Wading River  
Project File No. 603796

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:

Carrie E. Lavallee, P.E., Acting 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  
Appropriate  
Postage Here

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

RE: Virtual Public Hearing  
MANSFIELD BRIDGE REPLACEMENT, M-03-003 & M-03-045 = M-03-003 (C6R),  
BALCOM STREET OVER WADING RIVER INCLUDING ROADWAY  
IMPROVEMENTS ON BALCOM STREET  
**MANSFIELD, MA**  
Project File No. 603796  
Attn: Highway Division