



DESIGN PUBLIC HEARING

MAY 29, 2019

AT

**MEDFORD CITY HALL
85 GEORGE P. HASSETT DRIVE, MEDFORD, MA 02155**

6:30 PM

FOR THE PROPOSED

**BROOKS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL PROJECT
PROJECT NO. 608835
ROADWAY PROJECT MANAGEMENT SECTION**

IN THE CITY OF MEDFORD, MASSACHUSETTS

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

**JONATHAN L. 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. 608835

A Design Public Hearing will be held by MassDOT to discuss the proposed Improvements at the Brooks Elementary School, a Safe Routes to School project, in Medford, MA.

WHERE: Medford City Hall Chambers
85 George P. Hassett Drive
Medford, MA 02155

WHEN: Wednesday, May 29, 2019 @ 6:30 PM

PURPOSE: The purpose of this hearing is to provide the public with the opportunity to become fully acquainted with the proposed Improvements at the Brooks Elementary School project. All views and comments made at the hearing will be reviewed and considered to the maximum extent possible.

PROPOSAL: This proposed project will improve the safety and accessibility for students walking and biking to the Brooks Elementary School from nearby neighborhoods. The project consists of construction of “bump-outs”, with ADA/AAB-compliant wheelchair ramps, sidewalk improvements, and upgraded pavement markings along 1,800 feet of High Street and at three intersections along High Street from Allston Street to Whitman Road. The proposed typical roadway cross-section will include one 11-foot travel lane, one 11-foot shared travel lane, and a 5-foot bike lane at select locations in each direction with a 6-foot to 8-foot wide shoulder/parking lane at select locations. Sidewalks with a 5-foot minimum width will be provided along each intersection leg on both sides of High Street. Pedestrian warning signs with push-button-controlled rectangular rapid flashing beacons will be installed at the High Street crosswalks near the intersections with Mystic Street, Walcott Street and Woburn Street/Hastings Street.

A secure right-of-way is necessary for this project. Acquisitions in fee and permanent or temporary easements may be required. The city is responsible for acquiring all needed rights in private or public lands. MassDOT’s policy concerning land acquisitions will be discussed at this hearing.

Written views received by MassDOT subsequent to the date of this notice and up to five (5) days prior to the date of the hearing shall be displayed for public inspection and copying at the time and date listed above. Plans will be on display one-half hour before the hearing begins, with an engineer in attendance to answer questions regarding this project. A project handout will be made available on the MassDOT website listed below.

Written statements and other exhibits in place of, or in addition to, oral statements made at the Public Hearing regarding the proposed undertaking are to be submitted to Patricia A. Leavenworth, P.E., Chief Engineer, MassDOT, 10 Park Plaza, Boston, MA 02116, Attention: **Roadway Project Management**, Project File No. **608835**. Such submissions will also be accepted at the hearing. Mailed statements and exhibits intended for inclusion in the public hearing transcript must be postmarked no later than ten (10) business days after this Public Hearing. Project inquiries may be emailed to dot.feedback.highway@state.ma.us

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 case of inclement weather, hearing cancellation announcements will be posted on the internet at <http://www.massdot.state.ma.us/Highway/>

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 ISSUES

A secure right of way is necessary for this project. Temporary construction easements may be required. Your municipality is responsible for acquiring all necessary rights in private or public lands. If your property is affected, your rights are fully protected under law.

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.



1" = 300'

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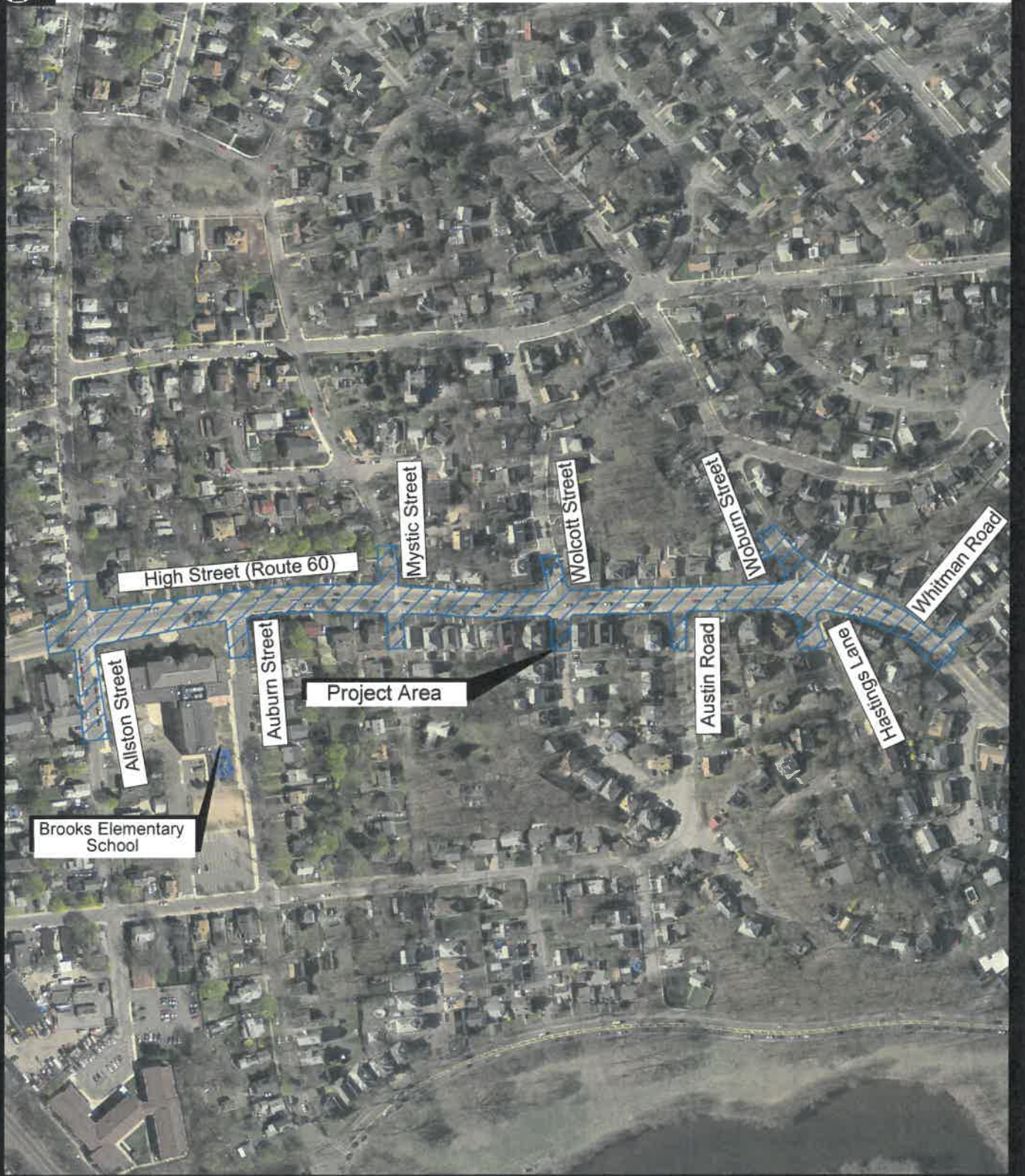


Figure 1

Project Location Map



PROJECT DESCRIPTION

PROJECT LOCATION AND PURPOSE

The Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) and the City of Medford are proposing pedestrian, bicyclist, and vehicular safety and mobility improvements along approximately 1,800 feet of High Street, between Allston Street and Whitman Road, including eight side street intersections. This proposed project is primarily intended to improve the safety and accessibility for students walking and biking to the Brooks Elementary School from nearby neighborhoods.

PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS

The project includes pedestrian safety improvements along High Street between Allston Street and Whitman Road. The proposed improvements include:

- Construction of curb extensions, or “bump-outs to provide reduced crossing distances, traffic calming, and improved lane delineation;
- Reconstruction of sidewalks on both sides of High Street within the project limits, which are currently in a deteriorated condition, to rectify non-compliant cross slopes, irregular/heaving surfaces, and dissimilar materials;
- Construction of Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) / Architectural Access Board (AAB) compliant accessible curb ramps within the project limits;
- Rapid Flashing Beacons will be installed at the High Street crosswalks near the intersections with Mystic Street, Walcott Street and Woburn Street/Hastings Street;
- Striping of 5-foot striped bike lanes in both directions along High Street, with a 6-foot to 8-foot wide shoulder/parking lane at select locations;
- Upgraded pavement markings along 1,800 feet of High Street and at three intersections along High Street from Allston Street to Whitman Road.

TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT

During typical construction operations, all roadways in the project area will remain open to residents and other traffic. Occasional short traffic disruptions and travel lane/shoulder/parking lane closures may occur, but every effort will be made to minimize inconvenience to the travelling public and abutting residents and businesses. Pedestrian and vehicular access to abutting properties will be maintained throughout construction.

RIGHT OF WAY IMPACTS

Temporary construction easements will be required for minor grading impacts to lawns, driveways, and walkways and to restore impacts to adjacent properties. The City of Medford will be responsible for securing all necessary easements.

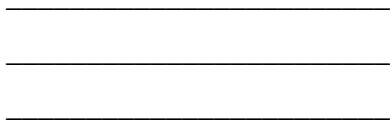
PROJECT COST

The current estimate of the total construction cost of this project is approximately \$1 million.

PROJECT SCHEDULE

The design plans on display are at the preliminary design stage. Comments made at this Public Hearing will be incorporated into the project's final design documents to the maximum extent feasible. This project is currently funded for construction in Fiscal Year 2021. Design, permitting and right of way acquisition must be completed by April 2020, with construction anticipated to begin in April 2021.

Please Fold and Tape



Please Place
Appropriate
Postage Here

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

RE: Public Hearing
Brooks Elementary School
Safe Routes to School Project
Medford, Massachusetts
Project File No. 608835
Roadway Project Management

