



**VIRTUAL DESIGN PUBLIC HEARING**

**SEPTEMBER 22, 2022**

**7:00 PM**

**FOR THE PROPOSED**

**Resurfacing and Related Work on Route 16  
Project No. 608491**

**Project Management**

**IN THE TOWN OF MENDON, 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 HEARING  
Project File No. 608491**

A Live Virtual Design Public Hearing will be hosted on the MassDOT website below to present the design for the proposed Resurfacing and Related Work – Route 16 project in Mendon, Massachusetts.

**WHEN: 7:00 PM, September 22, 2022**

**PURPOSE:** The purpose of this hearing is to provide the public with the opportunity to become fully acquainted with the proposed Resurfacing and Related Work – Route 16 project. The project limits start on Uxbridge Road (Route 16) in Mendon just west of Taft Avenue and continues east for 1.9 miles on Route 16 to the Hopedale Town line just east of Harrington Street. 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 reconstructing the roadway corridor using a “complete streets” design template to improve multi-modal accommodation in the town center. The design promotes walkability and provide measures of traffic calming at several intersections. Bicycle accommodations consisting of a shared use path have been provided in accordance with applicable design guides. In addition, stormwater best management practices will be used to upgrade the existing drainage infrastructure, existing utilities will be upgraded and the roadway pavement will be resurfaced.

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 Carrie E. Lavalley, 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 7550, 10 Park Plaza, Boston, MA 02116, Attention: **Project Management, Project File No. 608491**. 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 and prior to the hearing, 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.  
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?**

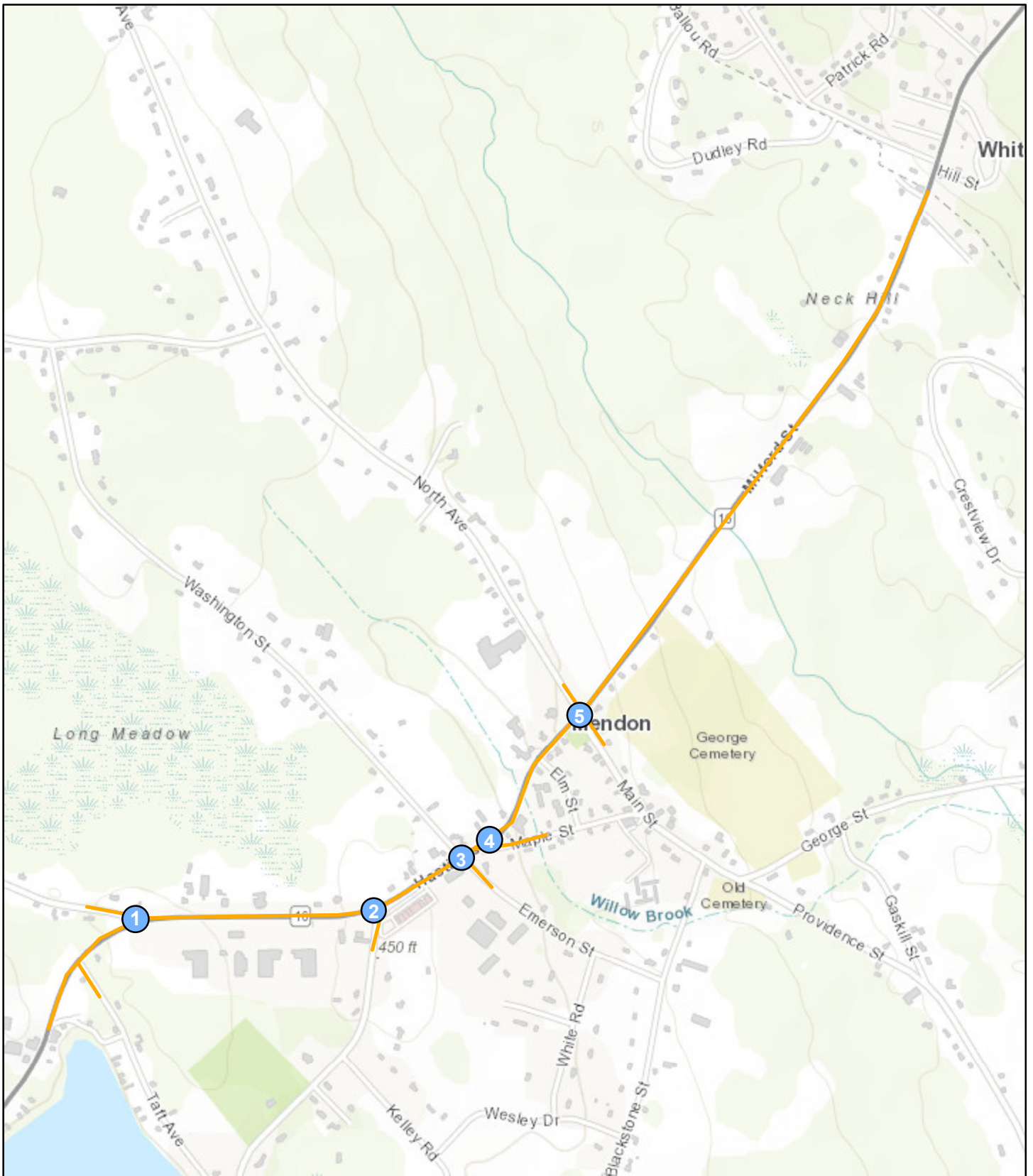
No. If, after the figure established as market value has been offered to the owner, the owner feels he or she is not being offered a fair price, he or she has the right, within three years, to appeal to the courts. Pending a court decision, he or she can be paid on a "pro-tanto" basis (or "for the time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



**massDOT**  
Massachusetts Department of Transportation

0 0.1 0.2 0.4 Miles

**Legend**

— Project Corridor

**Project Intersections**

- ① Route 16 at Hartford Avenue West
- ② Route 16 at Millville Road
- ③ Route 16 at Emerson Street/  
Washington Street
- ④ Route 16 at Millville Road
- ⑤ Route 16 at Main Street/  
North Avenue

**Resurfacing and Related Work on Route 16  
Mendon, MA**

MassDOT Project No. 608491

Figure 1: Project Corridor

July 2021

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## **PROJECT BACKGROUND**

The project limits start on Uxbridge Road (Route 16) in Mendon just west of Taft Avenue and continues east for 1.9 miles on Route 16 to the Hopedale Town line just east of Harrington Street. In addition to the corridor, the following intersections and their roadway approaches constitute the project limits:

- Route 16 and Hartford Avenue West
- Route 16 and Millville Street
- Route 16 and Emerson Street / Washington Street
- Route 16 and Maple Street
- Route 16 and Main Street / North Avenue

## **PROJECT NEED**

The Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) is proposing to reconstruct the State Highway Route 16 in Mendon, MA (The Project). The Project is needed because of gaps in the sidewalk network and limited crosswalks which negatively impact pedestrian connectivity.

A Road Safety Audit (RSA) was completed in September 2018 and identified safety issues relating to pavement marking and signage, traffic signal equipment and operations, pedestrians and bicycles, intersection geometry, high speeds, and congestion.

There is a sidewalk on the north side of Route 16 for the majority of section between Hartford Avenue West and North Avenue as well as intermittent sidewalks on the south side of the roadway. Currently there is no bicycle accommodation on Route 16. Route 16 also has several substandard design features including insufficient stopping sight and decision sight distance, instability in the asphalt pavement and current geometrics of the roadway lead to excessive vehicle speeds.

## **PROJECT PURPOSE**

The purpose of the Project is to improve safety, operations and connectivity for all users, consistent with MassDOT's Healthy Transportation Directive. Specifically, the Project will;

- Enhance safety and connectivity by closing gaps in the sidewalk network and improve bicycle accommodations by providing a shared use path.
- Encourage safe vehicle speeds by updating intersection geometrics to MassDOT standards at all intersections throughout the project corridor.
- Improve pavement conditions and rideability of Route 16.
- Improve and update existing utility infrastructure throughout the project corridor.

## **PROJECT GOALS**

In addition to the stated purpose of the project, the project will achieve the following goals. These are preliminary goals and will be developed further with input from multiple state agencies, town officials and the general public.

- Improve access management to/from the state highway from businesses and local residences.
- Avoid adverse impacts to historic structures or sites.
- Avoid, minimize and mitigate environmental impacts.
- Avoid, minimize and mitigate State Right-of-Way impacts.
- Avoid, minimize and mitigate roadway widening at the Muddy Brook.
- Improve pedestrian and bicycle mobility with continuous, uninterrupted sidewalks and bike lanes.
- Implement best design practices to manage and reduce vehicle speed.
- Maintain sensitivity and awareness to abutter needs throughout the project, as well as keep the public involved and informed throughout the design and construction process.

## **PROJECT COST**

The preliminary construction cost of this project at this design stage is approximately \$11.3 Million.

## **PROJECT SCHEDULE**

The design plans presented this evening represent a 25% design. The project has been programmed in the Statewide Transportation Improvement Plan for Federal Fiscal Year 2024. Construction is anticipated to be approximately 18 months beginning in the Spring of 2025.



THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS  
MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
HIGHWAY DIVISION

FEDERAL AID PROJECT

Mendon, MA  
Resurfacing and Related Work on Route 16  
Project File No. 608491

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. Lavalley, 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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Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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

RE: Virtual Public Hearing  
Resurfacing and Related Work on Route 16  
**MENDON**  
Project File No. 608491  
Attn: Project Management

