



**VIRTUAL DESIGN PUBLIC HEARING**

**JANUARY 7, 2026**

**FOR THE PROPOSED**

**MAPLE STREET (ROUTE 62) BRIDGE REPLACEMENT OVER THE IPSWICH RIVER**

**Project No. 608522**

**Bridge Nos M-20-003**

**Major Projects**

**IN THE TOWN OF MIDDLETON, MASSACHUSETTS**

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

**JONATHAN GULLIVER  
HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATOR**

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

**COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS  
MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION – HIGHWAY DIVISION  
NOTICE OF A VIRTUAL DESIGN PUBLIC HEARING**

**Project Description: Middleton – Bridge Replacement – M-20-003, Route 62 (Maple St.) over Ipswich River**

**Project File No. 608522**

A Virtual Design Public Hearing will be hosted on the MassDOT website below to present the design for the proposed project in Middleton, MA.

WHEN: 7.00 PM, Wednesday, January 7<sup>th</sup> 2026

**PURPOSE:** The purpose of this hearing is to provide the public with the opportunity to become fully acquainted with the proposed 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 replacing the existing bridge over the Ipswich River. A second bridge will be built alongside to accommodate a multi-use path and relocated utilities. When complete the roadway bridge will accommodate one 11-foot lane in each direction, a 5-foot shoulder and 6-foot sidewalk on both sides. Pedestrians and bikes will be accommodated on the roadway bridge but also on the multi-use path and bridge.

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. Lavallee, P.E., Chief Engineer, via e-mail to [massdotmajorprojects@dot.state.ma.us](mailto:massdotmajorprojects@dot.state.ma.us) or via US Mail to Suite 7210, 10 Park Plaza, Boston, MA 02116, Attention: Major Projects, Project File No. 608522. Statements and exhibits intended for inclusion in the hearing transcript must be emailed or postmarked no later than ten (10) business days after the hearing is hosted.

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 hearing will be hosted, or a cancellation announcement posted, on the internet at <https://www.mass.gov/orgs/highway-division/events>.

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,

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.

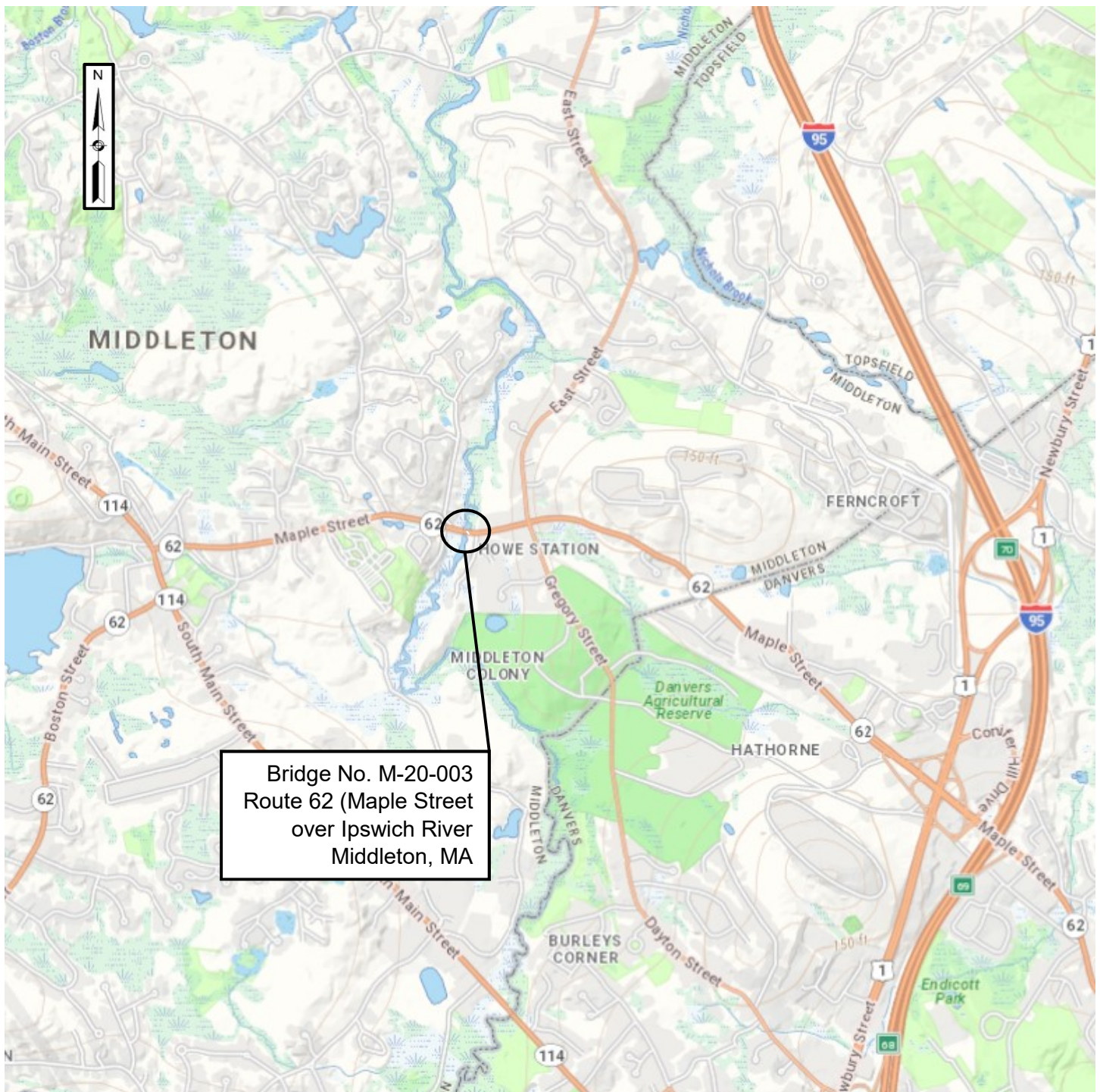
### **4. WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO MY HOUSE?**

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.

# MIDDLETON – Route 62 (Maple Street) over Ipswich River



## LOCATION MAP



## **Scope of Work**

The work under this contract consists of the replacement of US-62 (Maple Street) Bridge, over the Ipswich River, Middleton, MA. Included in the work are various roadway improvements within the project limits roughly between Oak Street and Perkins Road.

The existing granite block walls, concrete abutments and tee beam superstructure will be replaced with a spread deck beam bridge in approximately the same alignment. The bridge span will be lengthened from an existing span length of approximately 24'-8" to a new span of 50'-9". The existing bridge width will be widened from approximately 39'-1¼" to 46'-9". The new bridge structure will be supported with integral abutments, supported on piles driven to bedrock, and will accommodate two (2) 11'-0" travel lanes (one eastbound & one westbound); two (2) 5'-0" shoulders; two (2) 6'-0" sidewalks; with S3-MLT4 bridge railing on each side. The approach roadways will be widened to fit the proposed bridge cross-section. The roadway improvements will extend approximately 355 feet to the west, and 384 feet to the east of the bridge.

Also as part of this work, a new shared use path is being constructed just south and parallel to Maple Street along the abandoned railroad right-of-way, which will include a new utility & pedestrian bridge over the Ipswich River. The new utility/pedestrian bridge will provide a 14'-0" rail-to-rail width, which accommodated two (2) 5'-0" shared use lanes and two (2) 2'-0" shoulders. The new utility/pedestrian bridge will provide a 70'-0" span over the river and will be supported by integral abutments supported on piles driven to bedrock. The utility/pedestrian bridge superstructure shall consist of a single NEXT 36F Precast Beam with an exposed concrete deck wearing surface.

The work is comprised of, but is not limited to:

- De-energizing and permanently relocating existing overhead wires
- Clearing, grubbing and tree removal
- Lowering the grade of the railroad right-of-way approximately 4'-0"
- Installation of cofferdams and control of water within the Ipswich River
- Demolition of existing granite block channel walls, concrete abutments and existing concrete tee beam superstructure.
- Construction of the new utility/pedestrian bridge, consisting of class B rock excavation, reinforced concrete excavation, temporary support of excavation system, bridge excavation, H-piles, test piles, reinforced cast-in-place concrete integral abutments, damp-proofing, NEXT 36F precast beam, reinforced cast-in-place concrete wingwalls and bridge deck, installing bridge rail, backfilling, and other items considered incidental to complete the utility/pedestrian bridge.
- Extending the share-use path from Oak Street to the new bridge and on to Perkins Road, which includes re-grading, paving, installing plantable soil and seed, landscaping, and the installation of a bike rail fence.
- Construction of the new vehicular bridge (Maple Street), consisting of class B rock excavation, reinforced concrete excavation, temporary support of excavation system, bridge excavation, H-piles, test piles, reinforced cast-in-place concrete integral abutments, damp-proofing, S36-21 deck beams, reinforced cast-in-place concrete wingwalls, approach slabs, and bridge deck, membrane waterproofing, SUPERPAVE polymer modified wearing surface, type S3-MTL4 bridge rail, highway guardrail transitions, backfilling, and other items considered incidental to complete the utility/pedestrian bridge.
- Re-grading of the existing channel and stream bed bank restoration.
- Permanent relocation of water and gas line utilities.
- Full-depth reconstruction of the approach roadways including excavation and removal of the existing pavement, new gravel sub-base and new SUPERPAVE pavement.
- New guardrail for the bridge approaches.

- New pavement markings.
- Modifications and improvements to the existing canoe launch area and parking.



THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS  
MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
HIGHWAY DIVISION

NON FEDERAL AID PROJECT

Middleton, MA  
Bridge Replacement, M-20-003, Route 62 (Maple Street) over Ipswich River  
Project File No. 608522

This sheet is provided for your comments. Your input is solicited and appreciated. You may e-mail comments directly to [massdotmajorprojects@dot.state.ma.us](mailto:massdotmajorprojects@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: Major Projects

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

RE: Virtual Public Hearing  
Route 62 over Ipswich River  
**MIDDLETON**  
Project File No. 608522  
Attn: Major Projects

