



DESIGN PUBLIC HEARING

OCTOBER 27th, 2022

FOR THE PROPOSED

**ROUTE 28 AT CHICKATAWBUT ROAD INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS
PROJECT FILE NO. 607342
HIGHWAY DIVISION**

**IN THE TOWN of
MILTON, MASSACHUSETTS**

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

**JONATHAN GULLIVER
HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATOR**

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

THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION – HIGHWAY DIVISION
NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING MEETING
Project File No. 607342

A Live Virtual Design Public Hearing will be hosted to present the design for the proposed ROUTE 28 AT CHICKATAWBUT ROAD INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENT PROJECT in Milton, MA.

WHEN: **7:00PM, Thursday, October 27, 2022**

PURPOSE: The purpose of this hearing is to provide the public with the opportunity to become fully acquainted with the proposed Route 28 at Chickatawbut Road Intersection Improvements Project. All views and comments submitted in response to the hearing will be reviewed and considered to the maximum extent possible.

PROPOSAL: MassDOT proposes to redesign the Route 28 at Chickatawbut Road intersection to improve safety for all roadway users. MassDOT's proposed redesign will replace the current intersection with a roundabout. During the public hearing, MassDOT will review the proposed redesign, construction activities and schedule, traffic safety, improvements to bicycle and pedestrian connectivity, and impacts to the community. All comments submitted in response to this event will be reviewed and considered to the maximum extent possible.

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 dot.feedback.highway@state.ma.us or via US Mail to Suite 6340, 10 Park Plaza, Boston, MA 02116, Attention: **Major Projects**, Project File No. **607342**. 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 is posted to 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). 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/meeting.

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.

JONATHAN GULLIVER
HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATOR

CARRIE E. LAVALLEY, 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 Lavalley, 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 Commonwealth of Massachusetts is responsible for securing the right of way for this project. If your property, or a portion of it, must be acquired by the Commonwealth 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 Commonwealth 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. The Commonwealth 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 COMMONWEALTH'S 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.

PROJECT LOCUS MAP



Project Location:

The Route 28 (Randolph Avenue) at Chickatawbut Road intersection provides vehicle access between Milton, Randolph, and Quincy. Access to I-93 is provided along Route 28, south of the project intersection. The intersection is bounded to the north by Brook Lane and is a gateway intersection into the Blue Hills Reservation.

Purpose:

The purpose of this project is to improve safety and traffic conditions at the intersection of Route 28 (Randolph Avenue) at Chickatawbut Road in Milton, which consistently ranks in the Top 5 High Crash Locations in Massachusetts. The project will improve vehicular, pedestrian, and bicyclist safety, and include aesthetic improvements to this important gateway intersection into the Town of Milton and Metropolitan Boston.

Existing Conditions:

The MassDOT Top Crash Locations Report identifies the intersection of Route 28 at Chickatawbut Road as a Top 5 High Crash Location in Massachusetts. The intersection is currently signalized. Most of these crashes involved vehicles turning left-turning from Route 28 onto Chickatawbut Road crashing into Route 28 through traffic. The intersection is characterized by high vehicle speeds, congestion, and a lack of safe pedestrian and cyclist access.

Proposed Project:

The proposed re-design will replace the intersection with a roundabout to reduce the likelihood of fatal and injury crashes at the intersection and improve intersection safety. The proposed design takes into consideration improving vehicle safety, access to pedestrians and cyclists, and reducing congestion on Route 28.

Traffic Management During Construction:

Construction of the proposed design will include staged construction maintaining two-way traffic. Long-term detours are not anticipated, and Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (MBTA) service will remain uninterrupted.

Project Schedule:

After this Design Public Hearing, the project team will review and respond to comments. In January 2023, the project designer, Howard Stein Hudson (HSH) will submit a 75% design. Between February 2023 and November 2023, the project team will coordinate with the Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act Office (MEPA), MassWildlife, and the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR), complete the permitting process, and HSH will submit a 100% design. In February 2024, HSH will submit a final submission with construction anticipated to start in Spring 2024.

Project Cost: \$7,200,000.00

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q: Why does this project need to happen?

A: The Route 28 at Chickatawbut Road intersection has been identified by MassDOT as consistently being in the Top 5 High Crash Location in Massachusetts. That is why the primary goal of this project is to improve safety at the intersection and reduce the likelihood of fatal and injury crashes.

Q: Why is a roundabout the preferred design for this intersection?

A: The roundabout design is the most effective safety solution and will improve safety by eliminating worst case crash scenario conflicts, reduce vehicle speeds, and improve traffic flow. Modern roundabouts are proven to reduce fatal and injury crashes more than signalized intersections. Safety analysis has shown that a roundabout would significantly reduce the number of fatal and injury related crashes. This project's primary goal is to improve roadway safety.

Q: Why can't you just reduce the speed?

A: Roundabouts are proven to be effective at lowering vehicle speeds approaching and traveling through them. Changing speed limit signs within the context of this corridor would not be as effective as the physical changes to the road will be at reducing vehicle speeds. Additionally, speed limit reductions must comply with state law. Visit [mass.gov/massdot-speed-zoning](https://www.mass.gov/massdot-speed-zoning) for more information regarding the speed management process.

Q: How will I exit my driveway after the proposed redesign is constructed?

A: The roundabout can be used to make U-turns. In addition, the roundabout would reduce backups and reduce speeds making gaps easier to judge.

Q: How will I exit my neighborhood after the proposed redesign is constructed?

A: Residents in the neighborhood west of Route 28 will be able to safely utilize Chickatawbut Road to access Route 28. Residents of the same neighborhood can also utilize the Hillside Street intersection.

Q: How long will construction take?

A: It is anticipated that the project will be built in two construction seasons.

Q: Are detours anticipated?

A: The construction staging is still being refined and developed in more detail. At this time, we do not anticipate significant detours will be required.

THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
HIGHWAY DIVISION

FEDERAL AID PROJECT

MILTON, MA
ROUTE 28 AT CHICKATAWBUT ROAD INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENT
Project File No. 607342

This sheet is provided for your comments. Your input is solicited and appreciated. Please mail this sheet with any additional comments to:

Carrie Lavalley, P.E., Chief Engineer
MassDOT – Highway Division
10 Park Plaza, Boston, MA 02116-3973
Attn: Major Projects

The final date for receipt of written statements and exhibits for inclusion into the official hearing transcript will be ten (10) days after the Public Hearing Webinar.

PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT LEGIBLY.

Name: _____ Title: _____

Organization: _____

Address: _____

Please Fold and Tape



Please Place
Appropriate
Postage Here

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

RE: Virtual Design Public Hearing
**INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS AT ROUTE 28 (RANDOLPH AVENUE) &
CHICKATAWBUT ROAD
MILTON**
Project File No. 607342
Attn: Major Projects

