



VIRTUAL DESIGN PUBLIC HEARING

Monday, May 10, 2021

FOR THE PROPOSED

**Replacement of Old Wales Road Bridge over Conant Brook
Project No. 608846
Bridge No. M-27-015
Project Management**

IN THE TOWN OF MONSON, MASSACHUSETTS

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

**JONATHAN 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
Project File No. 608846

A Virtual Design Public Hearing will be published on the MassDOT website below to present the design for the proposed Old Wales Road over Conant Brook Bridge Replacement project in **Monson, MA**.

WHEN: Monday, May 10, 2021 at 6:30 PM

PURPOSE: The purpose of this hearing is to provide the public with the opportunity to become fully acquainted with the proposed Bridge Replacement of Bridge No. M-27-015 carrying Old Wales Road over Conant Brook 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 the complete demolition of the existing single span bridge and replacement with a single span bridge consisting of precast, prestressed concrete spread deck beams supporting a concrete deck with an asphalt wearing surface. The proposed structure will be supported on concrete cantilever abutments at either end of the span. The bridge will carry two 11'-0" travel lanes and two 4'-0" usable shoulders. The overall bridge width will be 33'-3" with a span length of 26'-8". There will also be roadway improvements to the bridge approaches including new guardrails, planted slopes, and modified drainage swales.

A secure right-of-way is necessary for this project. Acquisitions in fee and permanent or temporary easements may be required. The Town of Monson 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 Patricia A. Leavenworth, P.E., Chief Engineer, via e-mail to MassDOTProjectManagement@dot.state.ma.us or via US Mail to Suite 6340, 10 Park Plaza, Boston, MA 02116, Attention: **Project Management**, Project File No. **608846**. 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.

This Virtual Design Public Hearing or a cancellation announcement will be posted on the internet at www.mass.gov/massdot-highway-design-public-hearings.

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 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.

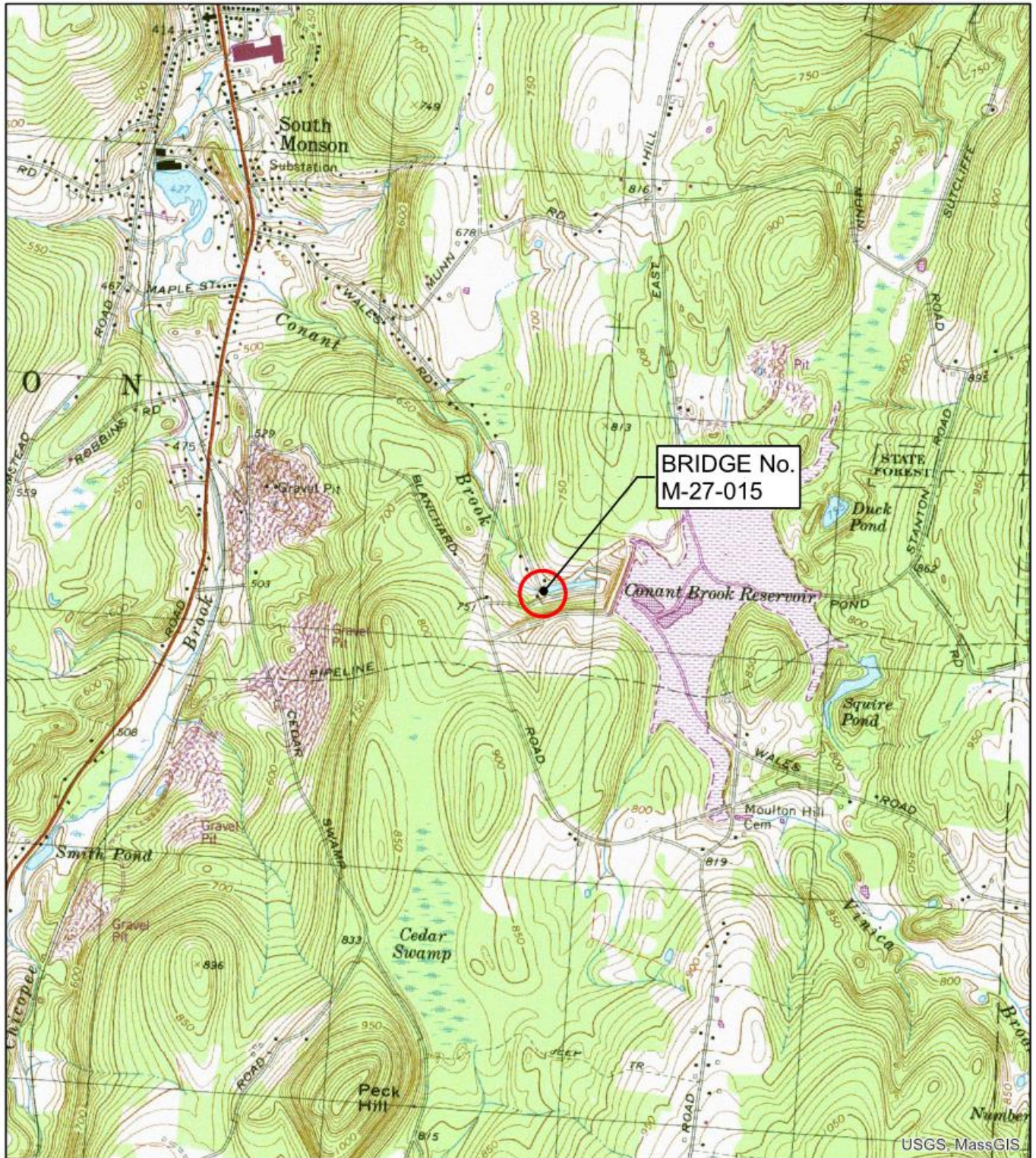
A Right of Entry is a document that is signed by the owner. It allows the Contractor to perform certain types of work on the owner's land. The work is usually minor in nature and frequently consists of loaming/seeding behind sidewalks, new driveway apron work, grading/sloping, and wetland protection, 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.



LOCUS MAP

SCALE: 1"=2,000'



8 BLACKSTONE VALLEY PLACE
LINCOLN, RI 02865
(401) 334-4100

10 LINCOLN ROAD, SUITE 210
FOXBORO, MA 02035
(508) 543-1755

PARE PROJECT No. 14199.16

NOVEMBER 2019

FIGURE 1

OLD WALES ROAD OVER CONANT BROOK
BRIDGE No. M-27-015
MONSON, MA

MassDOT PROJECT No. 608846

Monson, Massachusetts
Old Wales Road over Conant Brook
Bridge No. M-27-015 Replacement

PROJECT PURPOSE

The purpose of this project is to replace the existing, structurally deficient bridge that carries Old Wales Road over the Conant Brook, Bridge No. M-27-015. Work to improve the roadway approaches to the bridge are also be included as part of the construction of this project.

SCOPE OF WORK

The work will consist of replacing the existing bridge with a new precast, prestressed concrete spread deck beam bridge. New concrete cantilever abutments and wingwalls will replace the existing ones. The bridge will have a 30'-0" roadway width over a 26'-8" span. Metal bridge railings transitioning to metal guardrails along the roadway approaches are proposed. The approach roadways will be reconstructed for approximately 240 feet at the north approach and 135 feet at the south approach.

RIGHT OF WAY

Some work will need to be conducted outside the Old Wales Road right-of-way. Temporary construction easements will be needed. The Town of Monson will be responsible for securing all needed rights of way.

ENVIRONMENTAL PERMITS

All required environmental permits will be obtained prior to proceeding with the project. It is anticipated that any wetland or water quality impacts associated with this project will be both temporary and minimal in nature. This project is exempt from Massachusetts Environmental Protection Agency (MEPA), Wetlands Protection Act and Chapter 91 requirements. However, the project may need a Water Quality Certificate (WQC) and an Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) permit.

TRAFFIC DETOUR

The bridge will be closed to traffic during construction. Traffic will be detoured via Old Wales Road, Wales Road and Moores Cross Road. Local traffic will be maintained for residential access.

PROJECT STATUS

Plans are at the 25% Highway Design and Bridge Sketch Plan stage (Preliminary Design Stage). The next step will be to review the comments that we receive and make necessary revisions to the maximum extent feasible in the final design. Following the revisions, the project will progress to develop Final Plans, Specifications, and Estimate (PS&E), after which the project will be

advertised for construction. The construction for this project is tentatively set to begin in the fall of 2022.

PROJECT COST

At this time, the estimated construction cost is approximately \$2,420,000.

THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
HIGHWAY DIVISION

FEDERAL AID PROJECT

Monson, MA
Old Wales Road Over Conant Brook Bridge Replacement
Project File No. 608846

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 or you may mail this sheet with any additional comments to:

Patricia A. Leavenworth, 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.

Name: _____ Title: _____

Organization: _____

Address: _____

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: Virtual Public Hearing
OLD WALES ROAD BRIDGE NO. M-27-015
MONSON
Project File No. 608846
Attn: Project Management

