



VIRTUAL DESIGN PUBLIC HEARING

**Thursday, June 15, 2023
7:00 PM**

FOR THE PROPOSED

**BRIDGE REPLACEMENT OF ROUTE 27 (NORTH MAIN STREET) OVER ROUTE 9
(WORCESTER STREET) AND INTERCHANGE IMPROVEMENTS**

Project No. 605313

Bridge No. N-03-020

Major Projects

IN THE TOWN OF NATICK, 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. 605313

A Live Virtual Design Public Hearing will be hosted on the MassDOT website below to present the design for the proposed North Main Street (Route 27) over Route 9 Bridge Replacement Project in **Natick, MA**.

WHEN: 7:00 PM, Thursday, June 15, 2023

PURPOSE: The purpose of this hearing is to provide the public with the opportunity to become fully acquainted with the proposed bridge replacement project and interchange improvements. 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 structurally deficient Bridge No. N-03-020 which carries North Main Street (Route 27) over Worcester Street (Route 9) and includes the reconfiguration of the interchange to a modified Diverging Diamond Interchange (DDI) configuration. The reconfiguration will provide safety improvements, reduced traffic congestion through the interchange and improved bicycle and pedestrian facilities. The project length includes approximately 3,850 feet along Route 9 from just east of Cochituate Rail Trail to Linden Street, and 2,120 feet along Route 27 from Running Brook Circle to Bacon Street. Separated shared use paths along North Main Street will be constructed throughout the interchange for bicycle and pedestrian accommodation. The project will also include proposed transit stops along Route 27 and Route 9 along with reconstructed sidewalks, drainage improvements, traffic signals, retaining walls, utility relocations, signing, roadway lighting and landscaping.

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 at 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 massdotmajorprojects@dot.state.ma.us or via US Mail to Suite 7210, 10 Park Plaza, Boston, MA 02116, Attention: Major Projects, Project File No. 605313. 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). 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. 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 E. Lavalley, P. E.
Chief Engineer

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?

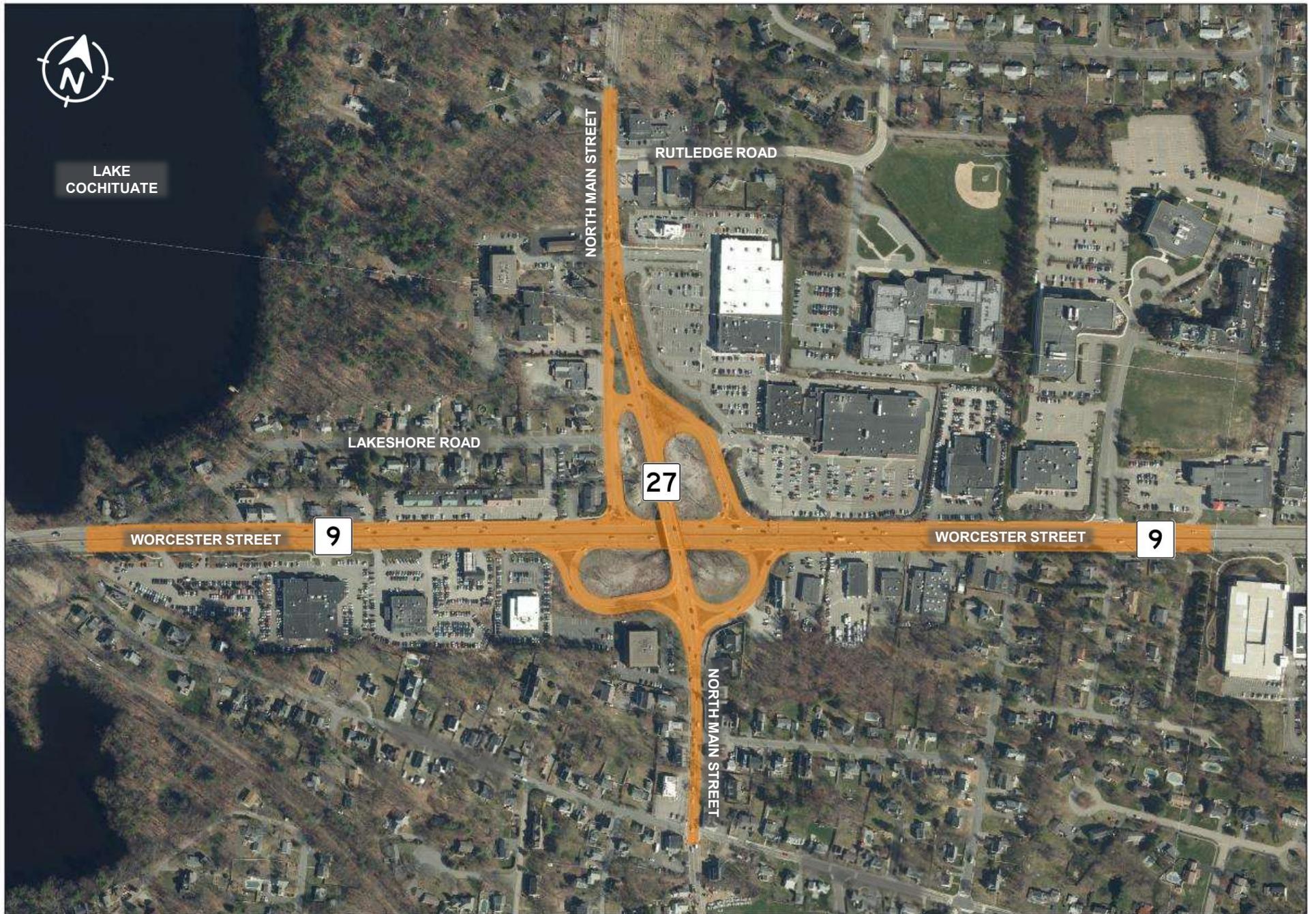
The owner will have the opportunity to buy back his or her house, provided he or she has a location to which it can be moved, and the proper permits for its removal. If the owner does not wish to repurchase, the house will be advertised for bids. The highest bidder, who must also have a location and 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.



LAKE
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Greenman-Pedersen, Inc. || 181 Ballardvale Street, Suite 202, Wilmington, MA 01887
ROUTE 27 OVER ROUTE 9 – NATICK, MASSACHUSETTS

Locus Map

**BRIDGE REPLACEMENT OF ROUTE 27 (NORTH MAIN STREET)
OVER ROUTE 9 (WORCESTER STREET) AND INTERCHANGE
IMPROVEMENTS
PROJECT NO. 605313**

PROJECT LOCATION

The project is located at the interchange of Route 27 (North Main Street) over Route 9 (Worcester Street) in Natick, MA. The project length includes approximately 3,850 feet along Route 9 from just east of the Cochituate Rail Trail to Linden Street, and 2,120 feet along Route 27 from Running Brook Circle to Bacon Street.

PURPOSE

The purpose of the project is to replace the structurally deficient Bridge No. N-03-020 which carries Route 27 (North Main Street) over Route 9 (Worcester Street) and to improve safety, operations, and mobility through the interchange with a focus on improving bicycle, pedestrian, and transit accommodations.

EXISTING CONDITIONS

Route 9 (Worcester Street) is a four-lane divided roadway with an east-west orientation and is classified as an urban principal arterial within the project area and is under the jurisdiction of the MassDOT and is part of the National Highway System (NHS). The posted speed limit along Route 9 in both the eastbound and westbound directions is 50 miles per hour (mph) within the project vicinity. Route 9 (Worcester Street) is constructed within a variable width right of way; however, the highway layout is typically 90-feet in width, with the roadway cross section generally consisting of two 11-foot travel lanes in each direction with 8-foot shoulders separated by a raised asphalt median approximately 7-feet wide that contains a double-faced guardrail. Variable width concrete and asphalt sidewalks exist along both sides of Route 9 (Worcester Street).

Route 27 (North Main Street) is a two-lane roadway with a north-south orientation and is classified as an urban principal arterial within the project area and is part of the NHS. It is under the jurisdiction of MassDOT between #222 North Main Street and #186 North Main Street and is otherwise under the jurisdiction of the Town of Natick. The posted speed limit along Route 27 in both the northbound and southbound directions is 30 mph. Route 27 is constructed within a variable width of right-of-way, with a roadway cross section generally consisting of one 12- to 13-foot travel lane in each direction, with additional turn lanes at major intersections. Variable width shoulders are provided for each direction. North of Route 9, a variable-width asphalt sidewalk is provided on both sides of the roadway. South of Route 9, a variable-width asphalt sidewalk is provided on only the west side of Route 27 until North Pleasant Street. South of North Pleasant Street, cement concrete sidewalks have been recently constructed on both sides of the roadway.

The Average Daily Traffic (ADT) along Route 9 is approximately 65,000 while the ADT along Route 27 is approximately 23,000. The ramps at the interchange process approximately 30,000 vehicles a day.

PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS

The proposed project consists of replacing the structurally deficient Bridge No. N-03-020 which carries Route 27 (North Main Street) over Route 9 (Worcester Street) and includes the reconfiguration of the interchange to a modified Diverging Diamond Interchange (DDI) configuration. The reconfiguration will improve safety, improve operations, and provide a robust network of bicycle and pedestrian facilities. Separated shared use paths along Route 27 (North Main Street) will be constructed throughout the interchange for bicycle and pedestrian accommodation. The project will also include proposed transit stops along Route 27 (North Main Street) and Route 9 (Worcester Street) along with reconstructed sidewalks, drainage improvements, traffic signals, retaining walls, utility relocations, signing, roadway lighting and landscaping.

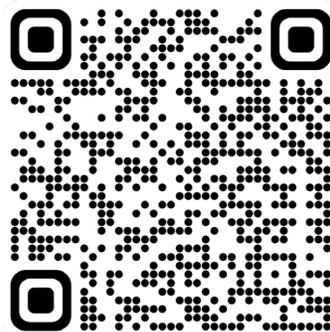
Generally speaking, the project will include 11-foot travel lanes for vehicles along both Route 9 (Worcester Street) and Route 27 (North Main Street). Shoulders are variable with a minimum width of 2-feet. Cement concrete sidewalks will be a minimum of 5-feet wide while the hot-mix-asphalt shared use path (SUP) will vary in width from 8-feet wide to 12-feet wide. Where possible, grass buffers will be provided between the roadway and the sidewalks and SUPs.

The project also consists of installing a closed loop interconnected signal system for the signals along Route 27 (North Main Street). The intersections include:

- Route 27 (North Main Street) at 9/27 Exchange Driveway
- Route 27 (North Main Street) at Route 9 (Worcester Street) Westbound Off-Ramp
- Route 27 (North Main Street) at Route 9 (Worcester Street) Eastbound Off-Ramp.
- Route 27 (North Main Street) at Bacon Street

For more information about the proposed improvements, including simulation videos, please refer to the following project website:

<https://www.mass.gov/bridge-replacement-interchange-improvements-at-routes-279-in-natick>



MAINTENANCE OF TRAFFIC DURING CONSTRUCTION

Anticipated temporary traffic control will include, but not be limited to, temporary traffic signal control, lane shifting setups where sufficient roadway width is available, and bi-directional traffic setups with police directing traffic where there is insufficient roadway width to accommodate all travel lanes. A minimum travel lane width of 11-feet will be provided.

Proposed traffic mitigation to limit impacts to traffic include restricting work during peak hours; limiting work area/length during a typical work day to ensure that the Contractor is able to begin and complete a segment of roadway work such that normal traffic operation can be restored at the end of each work day; night work for portions of the project located along Route 9 (Worcester Street) including within the interchange, and use police control at signalized intersections, as needed. Access to all residences and businesses will be maintained during construction. Abutters will be notified in advance should access to their property need to be restricted.

RIGHT OF WAY

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts is responsible for all Right-of-Way (ROW) impacts. Temporary construction easements will be required from abutting properties. The temporary construction easements are required for matching the proposed work to existing conditions and to allow the Contractor onto abutting properties to facilitate construction. There are also several ROW acquisitions and utility easements to facilitate the proposed design.

PROJECT COST

The total preliminary construction cost estimate for the entire project is approximately \$81 million.

PROJECT STATUS

The design plans presented here represent the 25% design level. Comments made at this public hearing will be incorporated to the maximum extent feasible as the project moves toward Design-Build procurement. The project is scheduled to move through procurement as part of the Design-Build process in late 2023 into early 2024. Construction duration is anticipated to last four construction seasons but will depend on proposed construction methods by the selected Design-Build entity and utility relocation schedules.

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

RE: Virtual Design Public Hearing
Bridge Replacement of Route 27 (North Main Street) over Route 9 (Worcester Street)
NATICK -
Project File No. 605313
Attn: Major Projects

