



**DESIGN PUBLIC HEARING / PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING**

**JUNE 6, 2024**

**FOR THE PROPOSED**

**BODEN LANE OVER MBTA/CSX RAILROAD BRIDGE REPLACEMENT PROJECT**

**Project No. 607420**

**Bridge No: N-03-012 (CN4)**

**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. 607420**

A Design Public Hearing will be held to present the design for the proposed Reconstruction of the Boden Lane Bridge over the MBTA Railroad in Natick, MA.

WHERE:       The Cole Center  
              179 Boden Lane  
              Natick, MA 01760

WHEN:       Thursday, June 6, 2024 @ 6:00PM

PURPOSE:    The purpose of this hearing is to provide the public with the opportunity to become fully acquainted with the proposed Boden Lane Bridge Reconstruction 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 will consist of the replacement of the vehicular bridge over the MBTA Railroad which was taken out of service and removed after being struck in October of 2019. The proposed replacement will include replacement of the bridge abutments and superstructure and will provide one lane of southbound vehicular travel along with a new sidewalk on the west side of Boden Lane and bicycle accommodations consisting of 10' wide bicycle lane serving two directions of bicycle travel. Pedestrian access will be maintained across the Railroad throughout construction through a combination of the current temporary pedestrian bridge and the new bridge sidewalk to be constructed in the first stage of construction prior to removal of the temporary pedestrian 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. Lavalley, 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. 607420. 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.

In case of inclement weather, a cancellation announcement will be 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 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 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.

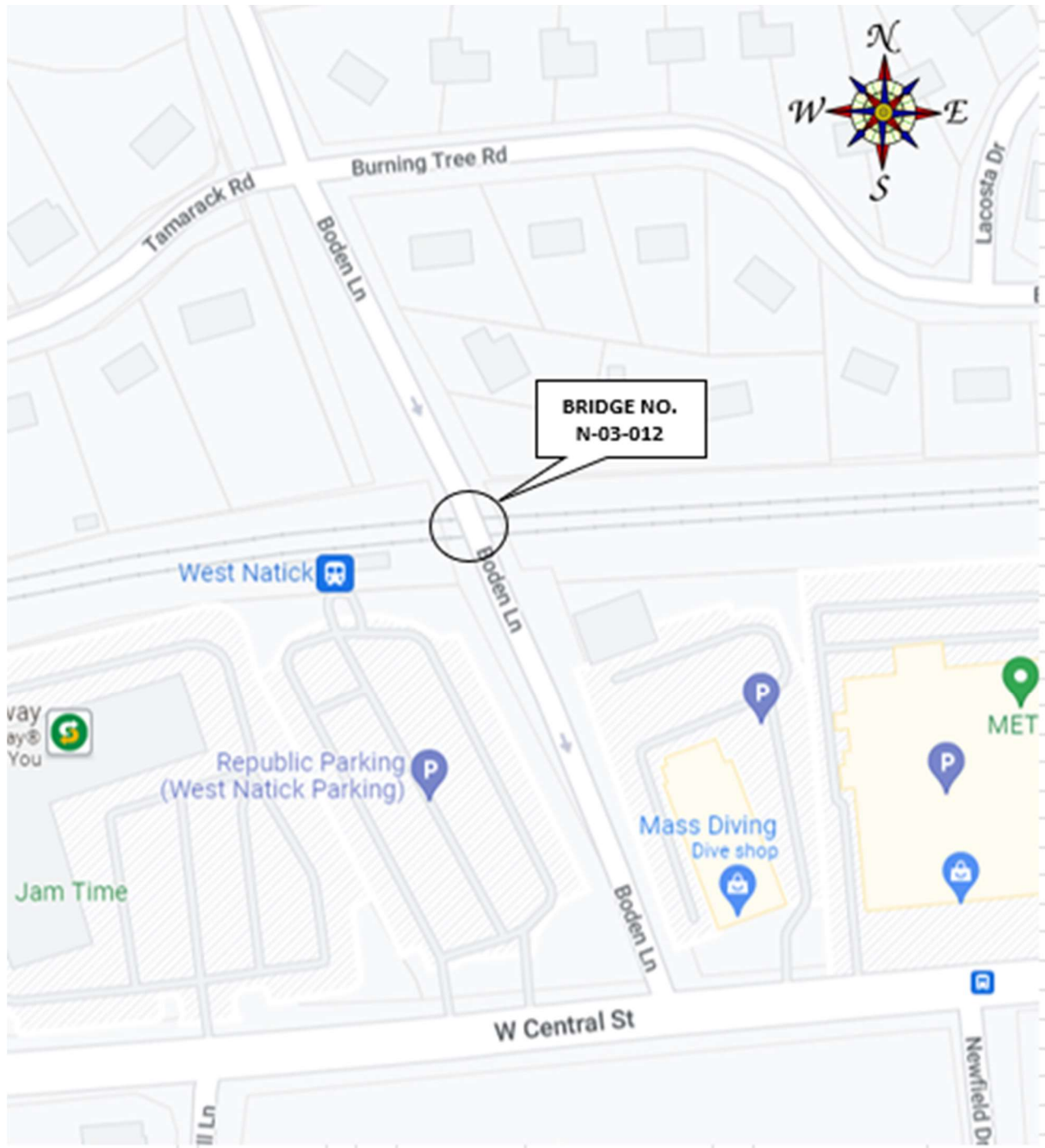
### **4. WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO MY HOUSE?**

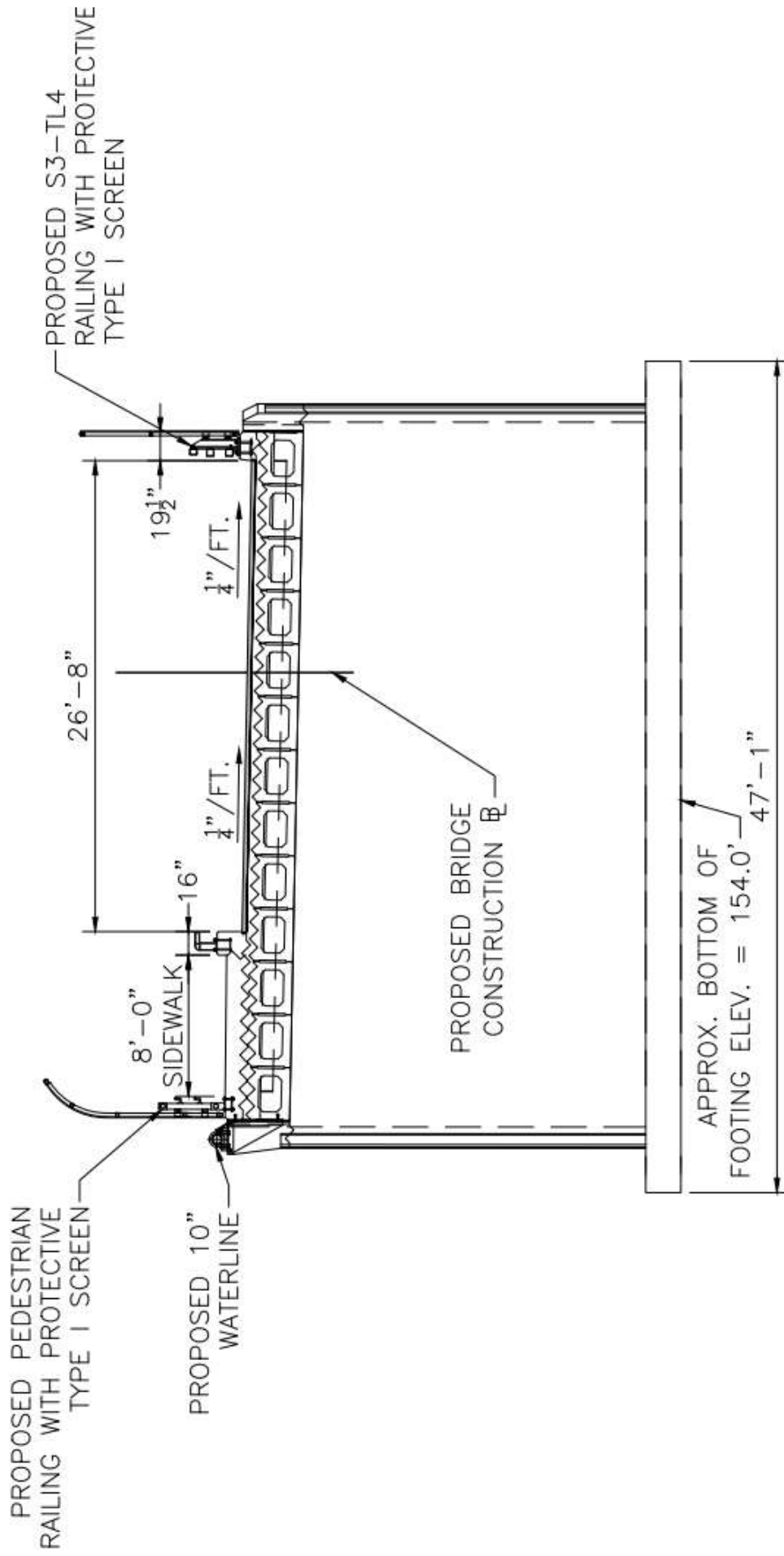
The owner will have the opportunity to buy back his or her house, provided he or she has a location to which it can be moved, and the proper permits for its removal. If the owner does not wish to repurchase, the house will be advertised for bids. The highest bidder, who must also have a location and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

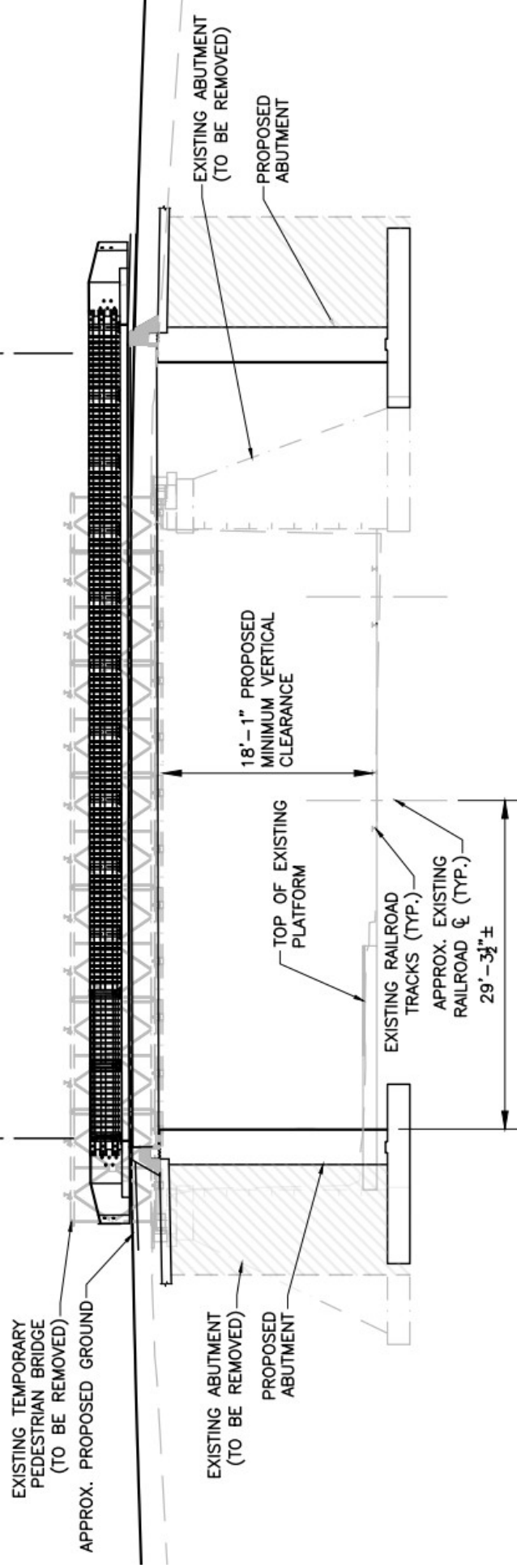
# LOCUS MAP





**BRIDGE SECTION**  
 BRIDGE REPLACEMENT N-03-012  
 BODEN LANE OVER MBTA/CSX RAILROAD  
 NATICK, MA  
 SCALE: NTS

PROPOSED BRIDGE  
70'-0" (SQUARE)  
76'-10" (SKEW)



## **LONGITUDINAL SECTION**

**BRIDGE REPLACEMENT N-03-012**  
**BODEN LANE OVER MBTA/CSX RAILROAD**

**NATICK, MA**

**SCALE: NTS**



Natick, Massachusetts  
Bridge Replacement, N-03-012 Carrying Boden Lane over MBTA/CSX Railroad  
Project Description

**Purpose and Need:** This project proposes the replacement of the Boden Lane over the MBTA/CSX Railroads in Natick, MA. The existing single span bridge is a temporary pedestrian bridge that was erected after the original one-lane vehicular bridge was damaged in an accident in October of 2019. The proposed bridge will be a one-lane vehicular bridge with pedestrian and bicycle accommodations.

**Location and Limits:** The bridge is located on Boden Lane over the MBTA/CSX Railroads. The project limits extend from Burning Tree Road/Tamarack Road to West Central Street (Route 135).

**Existing Conditions:** The current bridge is a temporary pedestrian bridge that was erected in 2020 after the original vehicular bridge superstructure was damaged in an accident on October 31, 2019. The original bridge was a truss bridge with a span of approximately 65' carrying a single lane of traffic from north to south with a 5' sidewalk on the west side of the bridge. The original bridge carried approximately 4,837 vehicles per day. The southbound approach to the bridge begins at the Burning Tree Road/Tamarack Road intersection with Boden Lane. Boden Lane has a design speed of 30 mph.

**Proposed Improvements:** The proposed bridge will have one 10' travel lane with traffic traveling from north to south, a 10' two-way bike lane and an 8'-0" sidewalk. The travel lane and the bike lanes will be separated by a 3'-8" striped buffer and the sidewalk will be separated by a CMTL3 railing. The proposed bridge will be slightly longer than the original bridge (approximately 76'-10") to allow for potential future improvements to the tracks in this area and the West Natick MBTA station. The proposed bridge superstructure will consist of precast concrete adjacent box beams with a reinforced concrete deck. The proposed abutments will be new cantilever, reinforced concrete cast in place.

**Construction Staging:** The proposed bridge will be constructed in two phases in order to maintain pedestrian access at all times. The proposed bridge will remain closed to vehicular traffic until the construction is complete. The western half of the proposed bridge will be constructed first while the existing pedestrian bridge remains in service. After the western portion of the proposed bridge is complete, pedestrians will be able to use the new portion of the proposed bridge while the existing pedestrian bridge is taken down and the remainder of the proposed bridge is constructed. After the proposed bridge is complete, the bridge will be opened to both pedestrians and vehicles.

THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS  
MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
HIGHWAY DIVISION

FEDERAL AID PROJECT

Natick, MA  
Boden Lane over MBTA/CSX Railroad Bridge Replacement Project  
Project File No. 607420

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. Lavallee, 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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Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

RE: Public Hearing  
BODEN LANE OVER MBTA/CSX RAILROAD BRIDGE REPLACEMENT PROJECT  
NATICK  
Project File No. 607420  
Attn: Major Projects

