



**LIVE VIRTUAL DESIGN PUBLIC HEARING / PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING**

**AUGUST 31, 2021**

**ON**

**MASSDOT PUBLIC HEARING WEBSITE**

**<https://www.mass.gov/massdot-highway-design-public-hearings>**

**7:00 PM**

**FOR THE PROPOSED**

**PROJECT NAME Intersection Improvements on Acushnet Avenue at Peckham  
Road/Sassaquin Avenue  
Project No. 609201**

**Roadway/Bridge Project Management**

**IN THE CITY OF NEW BEDFORD, MASSACHUSETTS**

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

**JONATHAN GULLIVER  
HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATOR**

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

**THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS**  
**MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION – HIGHWAY DIVISION**  
**NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING**  
**Project File No. 609201**

A Live Virtual Design Public Hearing will be hosted on the MassDOT website below to present the design for the proposed Intersection Improvements at Acushnet Avenue and Peckham Road/Sassaquin Ave in the City of New Bedford, MA.

**WHEN: 7:00 PM, Tuesday, August 31, 2021**

**PURPOSE:** The purpose of this hearing is for MassDOT and the City of New Bedford to provide the public with the opportunity to become fully acquainted with the proposed Intersection Improvement at Acushnet Avenue and Peckham Road/Sassaquin Avenue Project. All views and comments submitted in response to the hearing will be reviewed and considered to the maximum extent possible.

**PROPOSAL:** The project involves improvement of Acushnet Avenue at Peckham Road/Sassaquin Avenue for improved traffic operations, enhanced pedestrian safety and mobility, improved bicycle accommodation and potential inclusion of Best Management Practices (BMPs) to treat stormwater. Major intersection improvements include installing a fully actuated traffic signal at Acushnet Avenue and Peckham Road to improve traffic safety, installing sidewalks on both sides of Acushnet Avenue, curb ramps and crosswalks for pedestrian accommodation meeting ADA/AAB requirements, areas of pavement milling and overlaying, and box-widening reconstruction.

A secure right-of-way is necessary for this project. Acquisitions in fee and permanent or temporary easements will be required. The **City of New Bedford** is responsible for acquiring all needed rights in private or public lands. MassDOT's policy concerning land acquisitions will be discussed in the hearing.

Project inquiries, written statements and other exhibits regarding the proposed undertaking may be submitted to Carrie E. Lavalley, P.E., Acting Chief Engineer, via e-mail to [MassDOTProjectManagement@dot.state.ma.us](mailto:MassDOTProjectManagement@dot.state.ma.us) or via US Mail to Suite 6340, 10 Park Plaza, Boston, MA 02116, Attention: **Project Management**, Project File No. **609201**. 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](mailto: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 (10) business days before the hearing.

This Live Virtual Design Public Hearing or a cancellation announcement will be posted/hosted on the internet at [www.mass.gov/massdot-highway-design-public-hearings](http://www.mass.gov/massdot-highway-design-public-hearings).

JONATHAN GULLIVER  
HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATOR

CARRIE LAVALLEE, P.E.  
ACTING 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.  
Acting 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 ISSUES**

A secure right of way is necessary for this project. Temporary construction easements may be required. Your municipality is responsible for acquiring all necessary rights in private or public lands. If your property is affected, your rights are fully protected under law.

### **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.

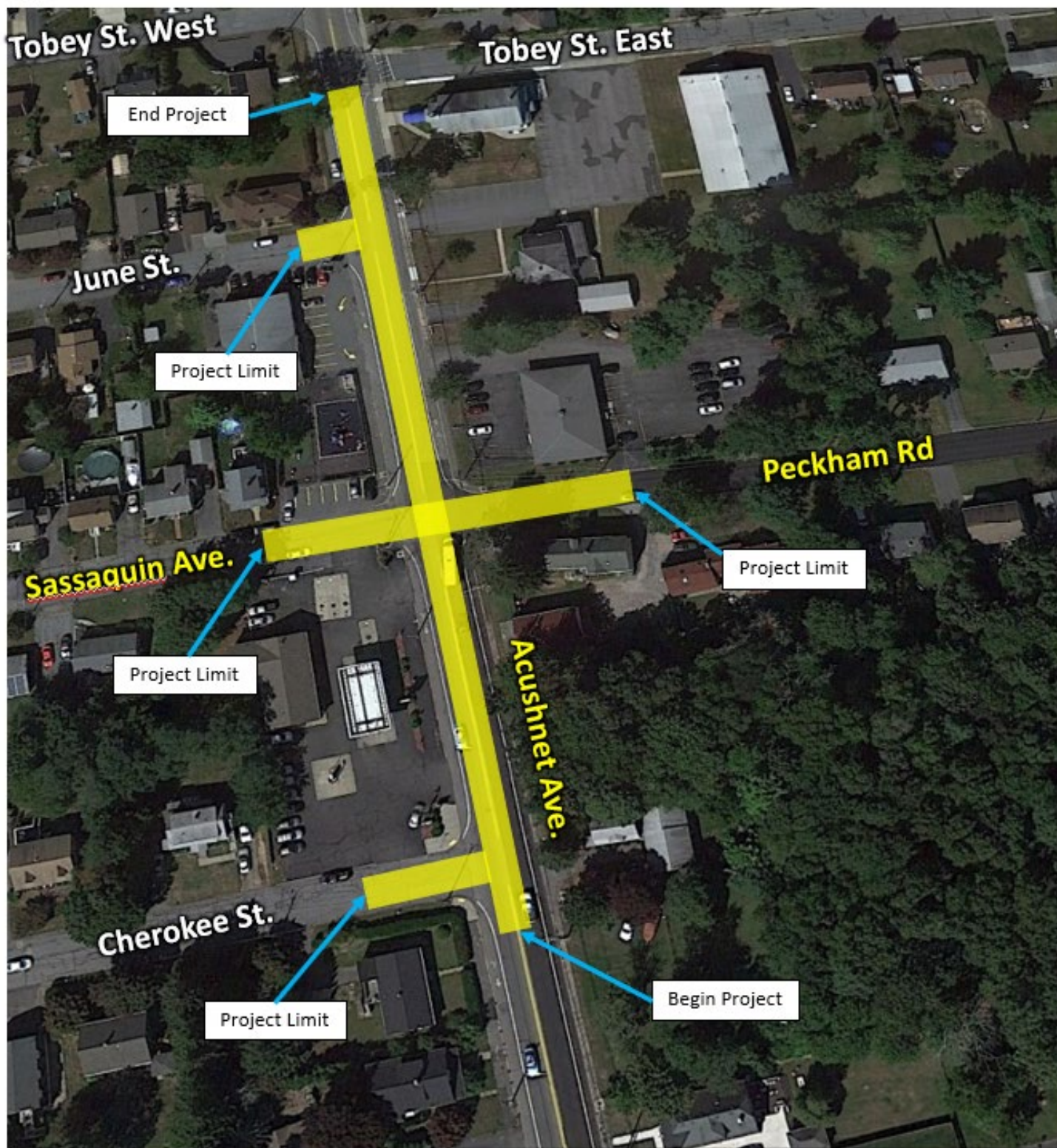
A Right of Entry is a document that is signed by the owner. It allows the Contractor to perform certain types of work on the owner's land. The work is usually minor in nature and frequently consists of loaming/seeding behind sidewalks, new driveway apron work, grading/sloping, and wetland protection,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



\*Aerial Image obtained from Google Earth

## **PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS**

The intersection of Acushnet Avenue at Peckham Road and Sassaquin Avenue was studied by the Southeast Regional Planning and Economic Development District (SRPEDD) in 2016 to determine if the intersection conditions met the warrants for installation of a traffic signal. Collision data for the intersection was provided by the City of New Bedford Police Department Records Division for the most recent available three-year period (2013 to 2015). A total of 12 crashes were reported and the intersection was designated as a 2013-2015 HSIP Cluster. Since the intersection does indeed meet the warrants, the City of New Bedford has applied for construction funding through the Transportation Improvement Program, managed and administered by MassDOT.

The proposed improvements include installation of a new traffic signal at the intersection including video detection, emergency vehicle preemption and accessible pedestrian push buttons. The proposed work will extend along Acushnet Avenue from just south of Cherokee Street to just south of the eastern section of Tobey Street. Side street treatments will primarily replicate existing conditions.

New ADA compliant sidewalks and curb ramps along both sides of Acushnet Avenue and the north side of Peckham Road. Bicyclist accommodations will be maintained along Acushnet Avenue via the existing shoulder, but painted to reflect a 5-foot-wide bicycle lane with a 3-foot wide buffer. Bicycle accommodations along Peckham Road will also include a bike lane and buffer. The existing crosswalk across Acushnet Avenue near Tobey Street will be reconstructed with high visibility ladder crosswalk treatment and appropriate signs. The roadways within the project limited will be milled and overlaid with a new pavement surface. Potential stormwater treatment options include tree filter boxes.

The project is expected to begin construction in the fall of 2022, and construction is expected to be completed in two seasons. The contractor will be required to maintain access to abutters at all times except for short periods, and abutters will be notified in advance as needed. Traffic management will be limited to maintain one lane in each direction along Acushnet Avenue, and alternating lanes along side streets.

THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS  
MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
HIGHWAY DIVISION

NON FEDERAL AID or FEDERAL AID PROJECT

## New Bedford, MA

# Intersection Improvements on Acushnet Avenue at Peckham Road/Sassaquin Avenue Project File No. 609201

This sheet is provided for your comments. Your input is solicited and appreciated. Please return your sheet, with comments, to a staff member at the meeting, or mail to:

Carrie Lavallee, P.E., Acting Chief Engineer  
MassDOT – Highway Division  
10 Park Plaza, Boston, MA 02116-3973  
Attn: Fil Yee, Roadway Project Management

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.

**PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT LEGIBLY.**

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Please Fold and Tape



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Please Place  
Appropriate  
Postage Here

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

RE: Public Hearing/Public Information Meeting/Live Virtual Design Public Hearing  
Intersection Improvements on Acushnet Avenue at Peckham Road/Sassaquin Avenue  
**New Bedford**  
Project File No. 609201  
Roadway Project Management, Room 6340

