



VIRTUAL DESIGN PUBLIC HEARING

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2026

6:00 PM

FOR THE PROPOSED

**ACCESSIBILITY IMPROVEMENTS ON ROUTE 6 (WB) to MACARTHUR DRIVE
Project No. 612263
Project Management**

IN THE CITY OF NEW BEDFORD, 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 VIRTUAL DESIGN PUBLIC HEARING

**Project Description: New Bedford – Accessibility Improvements, Bicycle and Pedestrian Ramp Construction,
Route 6 (WB) to MacArthur Drive
Project File No. 612263**

A Virtual Design Public Hearing will be hosted on the MassDOT website below to present the design for the proposed project in New Bedford, MA.

WHEN: 6:00 pm, Thursday, September 10, 2026

PURPOSE: The purpose of this hearing is to provide the public with the opportunity to become fully acquainted with the proposed 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 provide an accessible bicycle and pedestrian connection ramp (a shared use path) from Route 6 westbound (west of the Fairhaven/New Bedford Bridge) to MacArthur Drive in New Bedford with lighting proposed along both sides of the path. A wall along Route 6 and Ramp C is proposed, connecting an existing wall near the nose of the shared use path and the end wall on the northwest side of the Route 6 bridge. A new overhead guided sign structure is proposed, as well as drainage modifications. The project will also eliminate a gap in sidewalk along MacArthur Drive. The proposed shared use path and new sidewalk will comply with Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requirements. Shared use accommodations consisting of a 12-foot-wide travel lane have been provided in accordance with applicable design guides.

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. Lavallee, P.E., Chief Engineer, via e-mail to MassDOTProjectManagement@dot.state.ma.us or via US Mail to Suite 7550, 10 Park Plaza, Boston, MA 02116, Attention: Project Management, Project File No. 612263. Statements and exhibits intended for inclusion in the hearing transcript must be emailed or postmarked no later than ten (10) business days (14 calendar 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. LAVALLEE, P.E.
CHIEF ENGINEER

O ESTADO DE MASSACHUSETTS
DEPARTAMENTO DE TRANSPORTES DE MASSACHUSETTS – DIVISÃO DE RODOVIAS
AVISO DE AUDIÊNCIA PÚBLICA VIRTUAL SOBRE PROJETO

Descrição do Projeto: New Bedford – Melhorias na acessibilidade, construção de rampas para ciclistas e pedestres, Rota 6 (sentido oeste) até a MacArthur Drive
N.º de arquivo de projeto: 612263

Será realizada uma audiência pública virtual sobre projeto no site do MassDOT, cujo link consta abaixo, para apresentar o projeto proposto para New Bedford, MA.

QUANDO: 18h, quinta-feira, 10 de setembro de 2026

OBJETIVO: O objetivo desta audiência é proporcionar ao público a oportunidade de se familiarizar plenamente com o projeto proposto. Todas as opiniões e comentários apresentados em resposta à audiência serão analisados e levados em consideração na medida do possível.

PROPOSTA: O projeto proposto proporcionará uma rampa de conexão acessível para ciclistas e pedestres (uma via de uso compartilhado) da Rota 6 no sentido oeste (a oeste da ponte Fairhaven/New Bedford) até a MacArthur Drive, em New Bedford, com iluminação proposta ao longo de ambos os lados da via. Propõe-se a construção de um muro ao longo da Rota 6 e da Rampa C, conectando o muro existente próximo ao início da via de uso compartilhado e o muro final no lado noroeste da ponte da Rota 6. Propõe-se uma nova estrutura de sinalização suspensa, bem como modificações no sistema de drenagem. O projeto também eliminará uma lacuna na calçada ao longo da MacArthur Drive. A via de uso compartilhado proposta e a nova calçada estarão em conformidade com os requisitos da Lei dos Americanos com Deficiência (ADA). Acomodações para uso compartilhado, consistindo em uma faixa de tráfego de 12 pés de largura, foram previstas de acordo com os guias de projeto aplicáveis.

É necessário garantir o direito de passagem para este projeto. Podem ser necessárias aquisições a título definitivo e servidões permanentes ou temporárias. O Estado de Massachusetts é responsável pela aquisição de todos os direitos necessários em terras privadas ou públicas. A política do MassDOT relativa às aquisições de terrenos será apresentada na audiência.

Consultas sobre o projeto, declarações por escrito e outros documentos relativos ao empreendimento proposto podem ser enviados a Carrie E. Lavalley, P.E., Engenheira-Chefe, por e-mail para MassDOTProjectManagement@dot.state.ma.us ou pelo correio dos EUA para Suite 7550, 10 Park Plaza, Boston, MA 02116, atn: Project Management, Project File No. 612263. As declarações e os anexos que se destinam a ser incluídos na ata da audiência devem ser enviados por e-mail ou ter carimbo postal com data não posterior a dez (10) dias úteis (14 dias corridos) após a realização da audiência.

Esta audiência é acessível a pessoas com deficiência. O MassDOT oferece adaptações e/ou assistência linguística gratuitamente, mediante solicitação (por exemplo, intérpretes de Língua de Sinais Americana e de outros idiomas além do inglês, legendas em tempo real, vídeos, dispositivos auxiliares de audição e formatos alternativos de material), conforme a disponibilidade. Para solicitar adaptações ou assistência linguística, contate o Diretor de Diversidade e Direitos Cívicos do MassDOT por telefone (857-368-8580), TTD/TTY pelo número (857) 266-0603, fax (857) 368-0602 ou por e-mail (MassDOT.CivilRights@dot.state.ma.us). Os pedidos devem ser feitos o mais rápido possível antes da audiência; no caso de serviços mais difíceis de providenciar, como linguagem de sinais, CART ou tradução ou interpretação de idiomas, os pedidos devem ser feitos com pelo menos dez dias úteis de antecedência da audiência.

Esta audiência será transmitida, ou um aviso de cancelamento será publicado, na internet no endereço <https://www.mass.gov/orgs/highway-division/events>.

JONATHAN GULLIVER
ADMINISTRADOR DE RODOVIAS

CARRIE E. LAVALLEY, P.E.
ENGENHEIRA-CHEFE



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.
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?

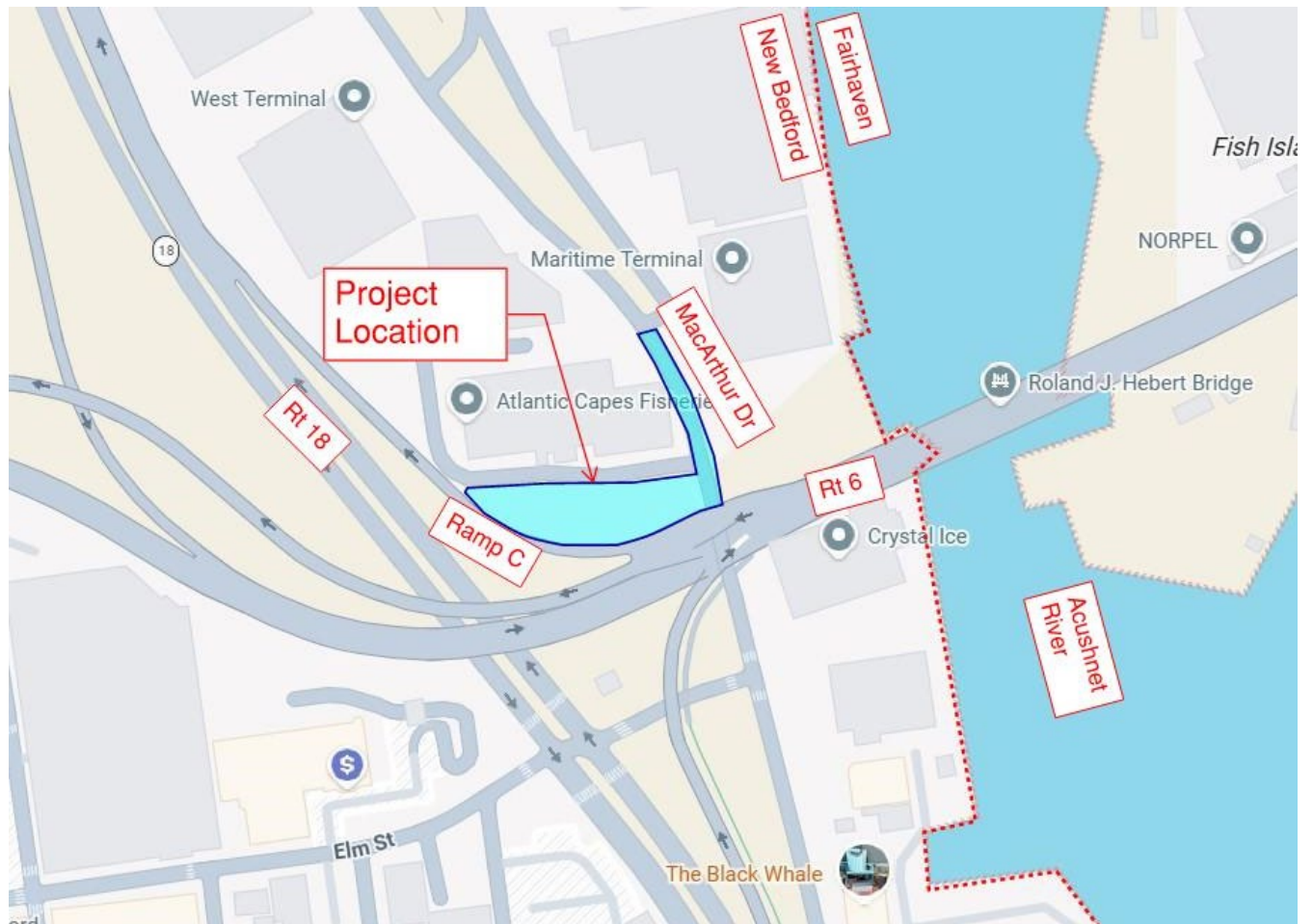
No. If, after the figure established as market value has been offered to the owner, the owner feels he or she is not being offered a fair price, he or she has the right, within three years, to appeal to the courts. Pending a court decision, he or she can be paid on a "pro-tanto" basis (or "for the time 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.



PROPOSED PROJECT IMPROVEMENTS

- Provide a new ADA-compliant 12-foot-wide shared use path connecting Route 6 and MacArthur Drive, with lighting and railing.
- Remove the existing concrete stairway.
- Replace the existing overhead guide sign structure.
- Implement minor drainage modifications along Route 6 and Ramp C.
- Upgrade existing sidewalks with ADA-compliant curb ramps and driveway transitions, and extend the west-side sidewalk on MacArthur Drive approximately 200 feet north.
- Add a new crosswalk across MacArthur Drive near the shared use path.

SAMPLE QUESTIONS

- What are you providing for a wall façade?
 - Façade will be for new walls only, not the existing wall along Ramp C.
- How long will the bicycle and pedestrian ramp be?
 - We are providing a level landing at the halfway mark with a bench and accompanying area for people in wheelchairs.
- What is the impact to westbound traffic from the bridge using Ramp C.
 - We can confirm that although lanes may get narrowed, there is no intent on closing any lanes on Route 6 for any length of time.
- Will MacArthur Drive be repaved?
 - We can say that the project currently only includes sidewalk construction and no milling & overlay for MacArthur.
- Will the existing stairs remain?
 - We can clarify that we will be removing the stairs.
- A lot of the time, the main concern is how traffic will be affected?
 - We can confirm that neither MacArthur Drive nor Route 6, nor Ramp C to Route 18 are intended to be closed for any length of time. Most work will be completed with typical shoulder closures or lane shifts.
- Are requirements met given the constraints of the site?
 - We meet 12mph, for which we are taking a small piece of land from the adjacent abutter
 - Path width is 12ft wide and has railing on both sides and lighting
 - Path meets ADA standards for maximum slope and cross slope

THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
HIGHWAY DIVISION

FEDERAL AID PROJECT

New Bedford, MA

Accessibility Improvements on Route 6 (WB) to MacArthur Drive
Project File No. 612263

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:

Carrie E. Lavalley, 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

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

RE: Virtual Public Hearing
ACCESSIBILITY IMPROVEMENTS ON ROUTE 6 (WB) TO MAC ARTHUR DRIVE
NEW BEDFORD
Project File No. 612263
Attn: Project Management

