



**VIRTUAL DESIGN PUBLIC HEARING**

**September 21, 2021**

**7:00 – 8:00 PM**

**MASSDOT PUBLIC HEARING WEBSITE**

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

**For the Proposed**

**COUNTY STREET CORRIDOR IMPROVEMENT PROJECT**

**Project No.608535**

**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.  
ACTING CHIEF ENGINEER**

**THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS**  
**MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION – HIGHWAY DIVISION**  
**NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING MEETING**  
**Project File No. 608535**

A Live Virtual Design Public Hearing will be hosted on the MassDOT website below to present the design for the proposed County Street Corridor Improvement project in the City of New Bedford, MA.

WHEN: 7:00 PM, Tuesday, September 21, 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 County Street Corridor Improvement 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 roadway, traffic signal, intersection, sidewalk, ADA, crosswalk, pavement marking, bus stop, street lighting, landscape and other related safety and mobility improvements along County Street from just north of Cove Street northerly to Union Street for a distance of 1.3 miles. Bicycle accommodations will consist of a 5 feet wide bike lane on the northbound or east side of County Street from Hawthorn Street to Union Street and shared lanes on the remaining portions of County Street.

A secure right-of-way is necessary for this project. Acquisitions in fee and permanent or temporary easements may 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 presented 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. **608535**. 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 business days before the hearing.

This Live Virtual Design Public Hearing and any cancellation announcement will be 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 E. 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. Lavalley, 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 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.

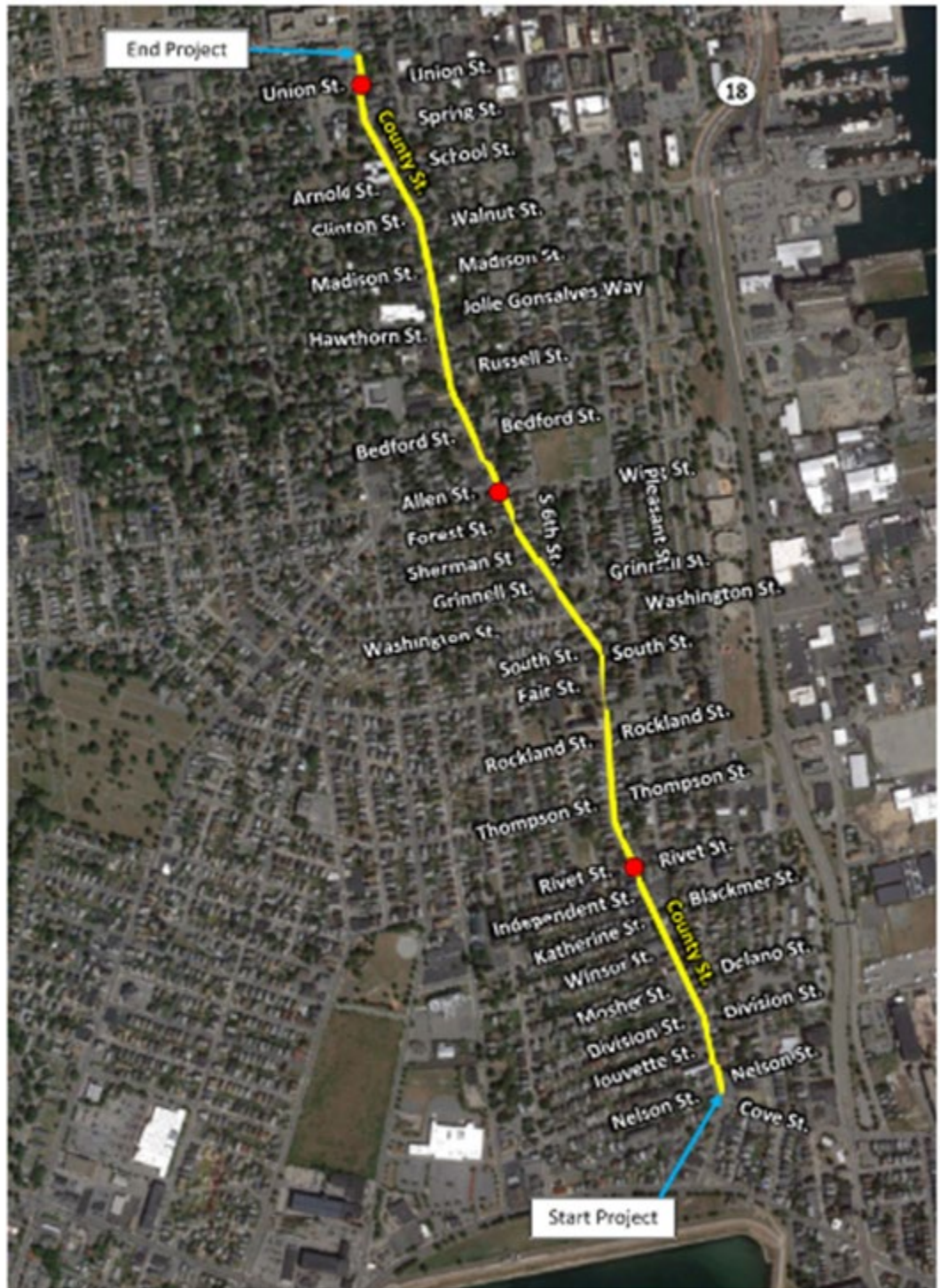
A Right of Entry is a document that is signed by the owner. It allows the Contractor to perform certain types of work on the owner's land. The work is usually minor in nature and frequently consists of loaming/seeding behind sidewalks, new driveway apron work, grading/sloping, and wetland protection,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



● Existing Traffic Signal



Figure 1 Project Location Map

City of New Bedford, Massachusetts  
County Street Improvements Project



## PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS

The proposed roadway and intersection improvements along County Street extend from just north of the Cove Street intersection northerly to the intersection with Union Street; a distance of 6,770 feet (1.3 miles). This project connects to the intersection of County Street at Cove Street that was reconstructed as part of a previous project. The purpose of the County Street Improvements Project is to provide improved traffic operations, enhanced pedestrian safety and mobility, improved bicycle accommodations where appropriate, improved streetscaping and inclusion of Best Management Practices such as the use of pervious material or tree filter boxes. The project includes areas of pavement milling and overlay, full-depth reconstruction, removal and resetting curb, improved crosswalks and pavement markings. All intersections will be provided with ADA/AAB compatible pedestrian ramps with detectable warning strips, crosswalk markings where applicable as well as stop bar signs and markings for unsignalized locations. In addition, there are three signalized intersections that will be upgraded to include all new traffic signal equipment, especially the use of video detection, reflectorized backplates, emergency preemption and accessible pedestrian signal accommodations (pushbuttons and countdown pedestrian signal heads). Site specific improvements also include the following:

- County Street at Rivet Street - slightly wider corners to facilitate turning movements and overhead signal equipment
- County Street at Allen/Wing – overhead signal equipment
- County Street at Union Street – the provision of an exclusive westbound left-turn lane with a protected/permissive phase. Equipment at this location will need to be post-mounted style using the ‘New Bedford’ style light post for consistency with the Union Street corridor.
  - Four bus stops will be relocated, and another four bus stops consolidated to two bus stops.
  - Bicycle accommodation will be in the form of sharrows for the corridor along County Street south of Allen Street. North of the Allen Street area, bicycle accommodation will transition for northbound bicyclists into a 5’ on-road bicycle lane.
  - On-street parking will be maintained on both sides of County Street south of Rivet Street to support the existing commercial area. Further, on-street parking along the west side of County Street north of Rivet will be maintained. It should be noted that the parking spaces will be re-striped to be consistent with current standards which may result in adjusted on-street parking spaces.
  - Existing public street trees that currently prohibit pedestrian access will be removed. New trees will be planted at a ratio higher than 3 to 1. The project is expected to begin construction in the spring of 2023, and construction is expected to be completed in three seasons. The contractor will be required to always maintain access to abutters except for short periods, and abutters will be notified in advance as needed. Suggested sequencing of traffic management will focus the contractor’s work in three sections along the corridor.

THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS  
MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
HIGHWAY DIVISION

FEDERAL AID PROJECT

New Bedford, MA  
County Street Corridor Improvement Project  
Project File No. 608535

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](mailto:MassDOTProjectManagement@dot.state.ma.us) or you may mail this sheet with any additional comments to:

Carrie E. Lavalley, P.E., Acting 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.**

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

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

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Please Fold and Tape



Please Place  
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Postage Here

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

RE: Virtual Public Hearing  
County Street Project  
New Bedford, MA  
Project File No. 608535  
Attn: Project Management

