



DESIGN PUBLIC HEARING

AUGUST 18, 2022

FOR THE PROPOSED

**NEWTON-WESTON BRIDGE BUNDLE, REPLACEMENT AND REHABILITATION
AT I-90/I-95 INCLUDING RAMP G PROJECT FILE NO. 606783
HIGHWAY DIVISION**

**IN THE CITY of NEWTON and
TOWN of WESTON, MASSACHUSETTS**

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

**JONATHAN GULLIVER
HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATOR**

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

THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION – HIGHWAY DIVISION
NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING
Project File No. 606783

A Live Virtual Design Public Hearing will be hosted on the MassDOT website below to present the design for the proposed **Newton-Weston Bridge Bundle, Replacement and Rehabilitation at I-90/I-95 Including Ramp G** project in Newton and Weston, MA.

WHEN: **6:00 pm - 8:00 pm, Thursday, August 18, 2022**

PURPOSE: The purpose of this hearing is to provide the public with the opportunity to become fully acquainted with the proposed **Newton-Weston Bridge Bundle, Replacement and Rehabilitation at I-90/I-95 Including Ramp G** 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 replacing and rehabilitating a series of nine bridges at the Interstate 90/Interstate 95 interchange (I-90/I-95). The bridges include I-90's crossing of I-95 and the Charles River, I-90 Over the Worcester Mainline commuter rail tracks just east of the Charles River, as well as ramp bridges within the I-90/I-95 interchange itself. Of the nine bridges, five will be replaced, two will be rehabilitated, and two will have their superstructure replaced. The proposed project will provide bridge and roadway safety improvements, increase vertical clearance for freight movements, improve seismic resiliency and reduce noise impacts through the installation of noise walls along I-90 in Auburndale to the project's eastern limit of work. MassDOT will use staged construction to maintain existing three lanes of I-90 during construction. The project will also use accelerated bridge replacement and offline construction.

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 dot.feedback.highway@state.ma.us or via US Mail to Suite 6340, 10 Park Plaza, Boston, MA 02116, Attention: **Major Projects**, Project File No. **606783**. 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 meeting 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). 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 meeting.

This live Virtual Public Hearing or a cancellation announcement will be hosted on the internet at www.mass.gov/massdot-highway-design-public-hearings.

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 Commonwealth of Massachusetts is responsible for securing the right of way for this project. If your property, or a portion of it, must be acquired by the Commonwealth 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 Commonwealth 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. The Commonwealth 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 COMMONWEALTH'S 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.



Project Location:

The I-90/I-95 interchange is crucial to providing vehicular access between Boston, MetroWest, and points north and south around the Boston region. The I-90 crossing of the Charles provides access for both passengers and freight to downtown Boston, Logan Airport, and Boston's seaport. The Project limits South Avenue to the north, Woodland Road to the East, Riverside Road to the south, and just before Ridgeway Road to the West as shown on the Locus Map.

Purpose:

The proposed project will provide bridge and roadway safety improvements, increase vertical clearance for freight movements, improve seismic resiliency and reduce noise impacts through the installation of noise walls along I-90 in Auburndale to the project's eastern limit of work. MassDOT will use staged construction to maintain existing three lanes of I-90 during construction. The project will also use accelerated bridge replacement and offline construction.

Existing Conditions:

As part of an inspection report completed in September 2013, MassDOT identified these bridges as requiring maintenance. While the bridges are safe, they are deteriorating. Some of the bridges require maintenance work and others need to be replaced.

Proposed Project:

The proposed project consists of replacing and rehabilitating a series of nine bridges at the Interstate 90/Interstate 95 interchange (I-90/I-95). The bridges include I-90's crossing of I-95 and the Charles River, I-90 Over the Worcester Mainline commuter rail tracks just east of the Charles River, as well as ramp bridges within the I-90/I-95 interchange itself. Of the nine bridges, five will be replaced, two will be rehabilitated, and two will have their superstructure replaced.

Maintenance of Traffic During Repairs:

During construction, the existing 3 lanes of traffic will be maintained on I-90. For I-95, there will be lane shifts but no reductions. There will be no lane reductions on Ramp G and lesser impacts to the other ramps. For I-90 over the MBTA bridge, there will be lane reductions in each direction for two weekends.

Project Schedule:

The project plans on display are at the 25% preliminary design stage. Comments from the public hearing will be incorporated into the final design plans to the maximum extent possible. It is anticipated that the final design plans will be completed, and the project advertised for construction bids in fall 2022 with construction beginning in 2023.

Project Cost:

The estimated construction cost for this project is approximately \$241 million. Funding for the construction will be by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and the Federal Highway Administration.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q: Why does this project need to happen?

A: While currently safe to travel over, inspections in 2013 identified deficiencies in the structure of these nine bridges that needed to be addressed. Major repairs and total replacement are necessary to ensure future safety and to meet 21st century infrastructure standards.

Q: As part of the project, will a pedestrian path be created for the Pigeon Hill neighborhood?

A: The project's primary objective is to replace and rebuild the identified nine bridges. However, provisions are being made with the project's landscaping to allow for a future path to be constructed.

Q: Will there be any improvement to pedestrian and bicycle access?

A: While the project's primary focus is on rehabilitating and replacing bridges, it will not preclude a future project that aims to improve pedestrian and bicycle access in the area.

Q: Are you coordinating with other projects in the area?

A: Yes. The project team is fully aware of the projects in the area and is committed to actively coordinating with respective project teams, to mitigate construction impacts.

Q: Where will the noise walls be placed?

A: The proposed sound walls will be placed along I-90 westbound near the Oakland Avenue neighborhood and I-90 eastbound from Charles Street to Auburn Street.

Q: What will the environmental impacts of this project be?

A: The project will improve stormwater treatment in the area. New drainage systems and catch basins will be installed to address water runoff and assist with pretreating before being discharged into the Charles River. In addition, the project will include landscaping that aims to attract and assist pollinators.

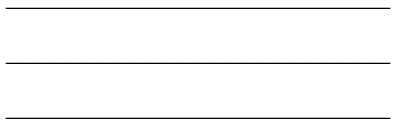
Q: Will there be impacts to Charles River access during construction?

A: As part of the construction schedule, there will need to be some restrictions to the river in order to remove bridge piers and build new supports. However, the project team will have provisions to maintain access for boaters.

Q: Will there be impacts to MBTA service during construction?

A: The project team is coordinating with the MTBA to ensure effective commuter rail operation and passenger access to riverside.

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

RE: Virtual Design Public Hearing
Newton-Weston Bridge Bundle, Replacement and Rehabilitation At I-90/I-95 Including
Ramp G
BOSTON, MA
Project File No. 606783
Highway Division

