



VIRTUAL DESIGN PUBLIC HEARING

March 26, 2021

FOR THE PROPOSED

**Bridge Superstructure Replacement – Route 2 over the Hoosic River N-14-016 (0AK)
Project No. 605843
Project Management**

IN THE TOWN OF NORTH ADAMS, MASSACHUSETTS

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

**JONATHAN GULLIVER
HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATOR**

**PATRICIA A. LEAVENWORTH, P.E.
CHIEF ENGINEER**

THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION – HIGHWAY DIVISION
NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING
Project File No. 605843

A Virtual Design Public Hearing will be published on the MassDOT website below to present the design for the proposed North Adams – Bridge Superstructure Replacement, N-14-016, Route 2 over The Hoosic River.

WHEN: Friday March 26, 2021

PURPOSE: The purpose of this hearing is to provide the public with the opportunity to become fully acquainted with the proposed North Adams Superstructure Replacement project. All views and comments submitted in response to the hearing will be reviewed and considered to the maximum extent possible.

PROPOSAL: The project includes the replacement of the superstructure of an existing two span bridge, the construction of new abutments behind the existing floodwalls, modifications to the existing center pier, and various transportation improvements to the roadway. Modifications to the existing flood walls are necessary in order to adequately perform the structural improvements for this project.

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.

Written statements and other exhibits regarding the proposed undertaking are to be submitted to Patricia A. Leavenworth, P.E., Chief Engineer, MassDOT, 10 Park Plaza, Boston, MA 02116, Attention: **Major Projects, Project File No. 605843**. Mailed statements and exhibits intended for inclusion in the public hearing transcript must be postmarked no later than ten (10) business days after the hearing is posted to the MassDOT website listed below. Project inquiries may be emailed to dot.feedback.highway@state.ma.us

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

JONATHAN GULLIVER
HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATOR

PATRICIA A. LEAVENWORTH, 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,

Patricia A Leavenworth, 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 is 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.



1" = 200'

Route 2 (State Road) over the Hoosic River
North Adams, MA | Project #605843

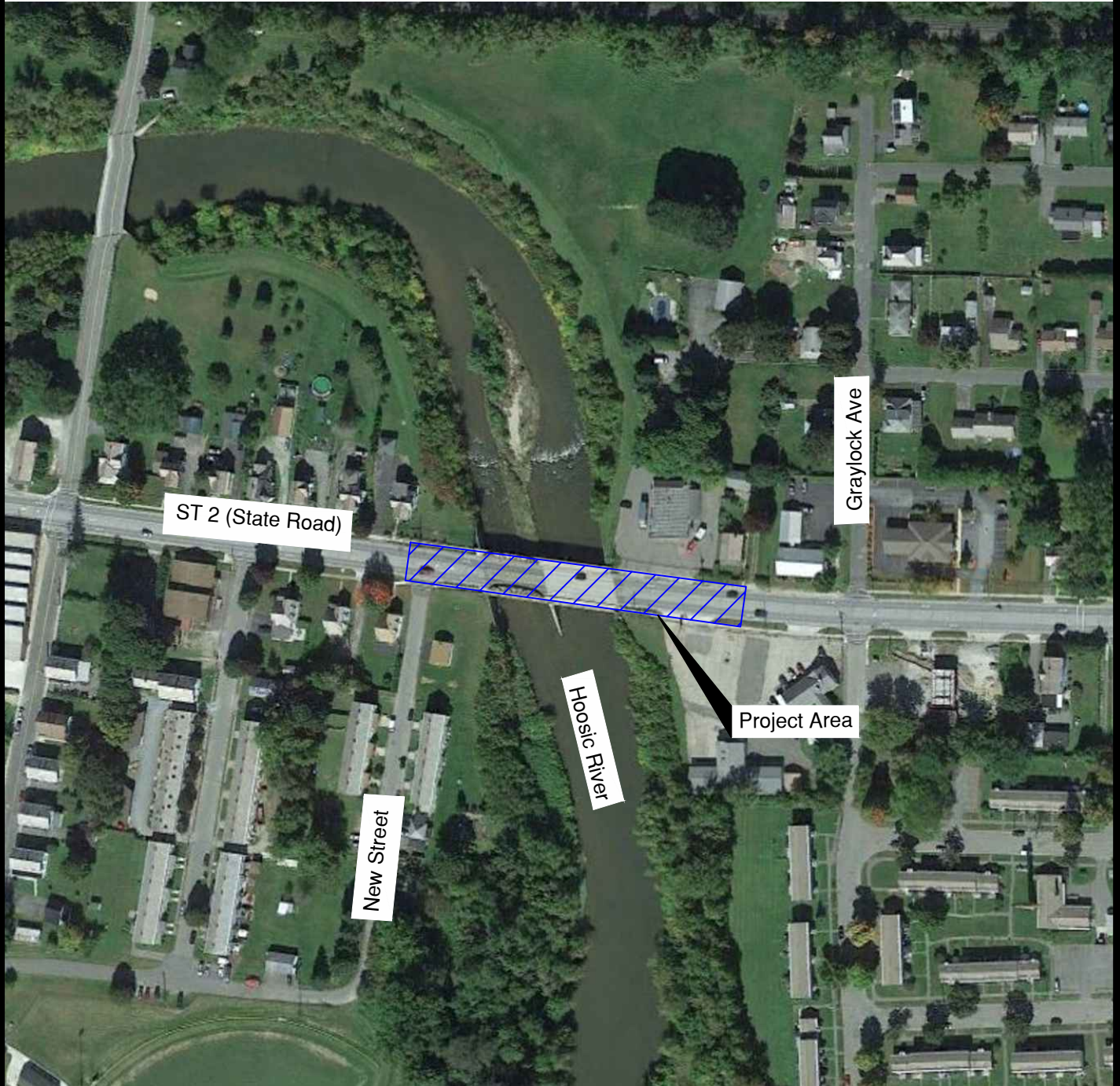


Figure 1

Project Location Map

Bridge Rehabilitation – Route 2 over the Hoosic River (N-14-016)
North Adams, MA

PROJECT LOCATION

The project includes a superstructure replacement and the foundations of the bridge that carries Route 2 over the Hoosic River. This project will also add a wider shoulders and bicycle accommodations over the bridge. The attached Locus Map outlines the project location.

PROJECT PURPOSE

The Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) is proposing a superstructure replacement of the structurally deficient bridge structures that carries Route 2 over the Hoosic River. These existing truss and beam spans will be replaced with two beam spans. The proposed bridge structure consists of steel beams, integral abutments on steel piles and a refurbished center pier structure.

PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS

The project includes the following improvements:

- Replacement of a structurally deficient crossing with a new bridge structure with a 75-year design life.
- Provide bicycle accommodations over the bridge
- Full depth pavement reconstruction at both ends leading up to the bridge.
- Fully compliant traffic safety features

TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT

During construction operations, a staged construction approach will be used to keep one lane in each direction open to traffic. The center auxiliary lane will be eliminated during construction.

RIGHT OF WAY IMPACTS

Temporary construction easements will be required for minor grading impacts to lawns, driveways, and walkways and to restore impacts to adjacent properties. Small permanent easements will also be required for utility poles and associated overhead wires in addition to slope easements. MassDOT's Right of Way Bureau will be responsible for securing all necessary easements. MassDOT's policy concerning land acquisition will be discussed at this hearing.

PROJECT COST

The current estimate of the total construction cost of this project is approximately \$17,000,000.

PROJECT SCHEDULE

The design plans presented this evening are at the 25% design stage. Design, permitting and right of way acquisition will be completed by the end of 2022. Construction is anticipated to begin in the Spring of 2023 and finish in the Fall of 2025.

Address: _____

Please Fold and Tape



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Patricia A. Leavenworth, P.E.
Chief Engineer
MassDOT – Highway Division
10 Park Plaza
Boston, MA 02116-3973

RE: Virtual Public Hearing
Bridge Superstructure Replacement – Route 2 over the Hoosic River (N-14-016)
North Adams
Project File No. 605843
Insert section: Project Management

