



VIRTUAL DESIGN PUBLIC HEARING

August 3, 2021

FOR THE PROPOSED

**Safe Routes to School – Brayton Elementary School – Infrastructure Improvements
Project No. 610546
Project Management**

IN THE CITY OF NORTH ADAMS, 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
Project File No. 610546

A Live Virtual Design Public Hearing will be hosted on the MassDOT website below to present the design for the proposed Brayton Elementary School Improvements (SRTS) project in North Adams, MA.

WHEN: 7:00 PM, Tuesday, August 3, 2021

PURPOSE: The purpose of this hearing is to provide the public with the opportunity to become fully acquainted with the proposed Brayton Elementary School Improvements (SRTS) 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 installing and repairing 1,500 linear feet of sidewalk along Brayton Hill Terrace and along Brickyard Court to improve pedestrian access, connectivity, and safety and create the appropriate infrastructure for students walking. Pedestrian access and ADA-compliance will be achieved by reducing the slope of the sidewalks where feasible and striping existing and new crosswalks. Crosswalk visibility will be enhanced through the installation of pedestrian-activated rectangular rapid flashing beacons (RRFBs). A five-foot-wide bicycle lane will be striped along Brayton Hill Terrace between its intersections with Brickyard Court and with Brayton Street in each direction of travel.

A secure right-of-way is necessary for this project. Acquisitions in fee and permanent or temporary easements may be required. The City 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., Acting Chief Engineer, via e-mail to MassDOTProjectManagement@dot.state.ma.us or via US Mail to Suite 6340, 10 Park Plaza, Boston, MA 02116, Attention: **Project Management, Project File No. 610546**. 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). 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 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. 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.

WILLIAMSTOWN

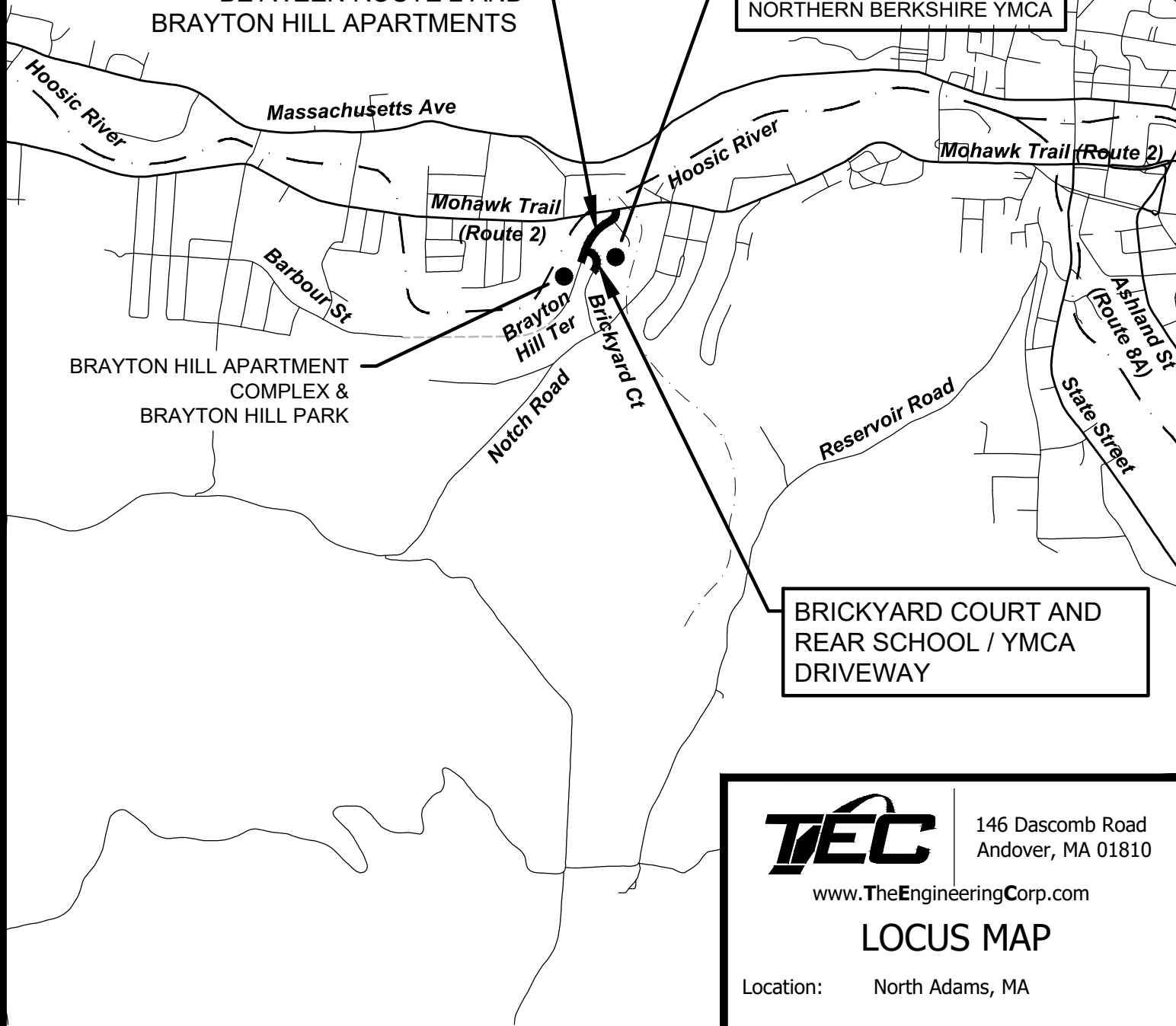
Clarksburg
State Forest



**CLARKSBURG
NORTH ADAMS**

BRAYTON HILL TERRACE
BETWEEN ROUTE 2 AND
BRAYTON HILL APARTMENTS

NORTH ADAMS BRAYTON
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL &
NORTHERN BERKSHIRE YMCA



2000 0 2000 4000



SCALE IN FEET



146 Dascomb Road
Andover, MA 01810

www.TheEngineeringCorp.com

LOCUS MAP

Location: North Adams, MA

Prepared For: MassDOT Highway Division
Design Public Hearing

Safe Routes to School Infrastructure Program
Brayton Elementary School Infrastructure Improvements
(Route 2 / Brayton Hill Terrace / Brickyard Court / School Driveway)
North Adams, MA

PROJECT LOCATION

The project includes traffic, bicycle, and pedestrian safety improvements along portions of Mohawk Trail (Route 2), Brayton Hill Terrace, Brickyard Court, and the School/YMCA rear driveway accessing Brickyard Court, all of which are associated with the Brayton Elementary School Improvements in North Adams, MA. The attached Locus Map outlines the project location.

PROJECT PURPOSE

The Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) and the City of North Adams are proposing traffic, bicycle, and pedestrian safety improvements in segments along approximately 900 feet of Brayton Hill Terrace between Mohawk Trail (Route 2) and the Brayton Hill Apartments; approximately 220 feet of new sidewalks on each side of Brickyard Court between Brayton Hill Terrace and the rear Brayton Elementary School driveway; and reconstruction of the rear Brayton Elementary School driveway to introduce a new sidewalk connection to the school building. The project will also include upgrades to the existing crosswalks. This proposed project is primarily intended to improve the safety and accessibility for pedestrians from the surrounding neighborhoods to the Brayton Elementary School.

PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS

The project includes pedestrian and bicycle safety improvements along segments of the two area roadways. The proposed improvements include:

- **Brayton Hill Terrace** - construct approx. 550 feet of new 5-foot wide cement concrete sidewalk with 6-inch granite curbing along the east side of the roadway. The project will also include a new flashing pedestrian warning device at a relocated crosswalk in the vicinity of Brayton Street. The sidewalk work as part of this project will meet the sidewalks that were constructed by the City of North Adams in mid-2020. Additionally, the project will include the application of new bicycle lane markings along the roadway between Brickyard Court and Brayton Street, just south of the signalized intersection at Route 2.
- **Brickyard Court** – construct approximately 220 feet of new 5-foot wide cement concrete sidewalks on each side of the roadway that will be separated from the roadway surface by a grass buffer. The project also includes resurfacing of the roadway while retaining the existing asphalt berms. Some existing utilities will be relocated in the vicinity of the school driveway. The project will also include a new flashing pedestrian warning device at a relocated crosswalk in the vicinity of the school driveway.

- **Brayton Elementary School / YMCA Driveway** – relocate and reconstruct the existing rear school driveway where it meets Brickyard Court to reduce the slope of the driveway and introduce approximately 50 feet of a new 5-foot wide cement concrete sidewalk connection between Brickyard Court and the sidewalk adjacent to the school building.
- **Mohawk Trail (Route 2) / Brayton Hill Terrace Intersection** – reconstruct existing accessible ramps, reapply crosswalk pavement markings, and retrofit the existing traffic signal with new ADA-compliant pushbuttons to activate the pedestrian phase.
- **General** – construct new Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) / Architectural Access Board (AAB)-compliant accessible curb ramps within the various project limits.

TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT

During typical construction operations, all roadways in the project area will remain open to residents and other traffic. Occasional short traffic disruptions and travel lane/shoulder closures may occur, but every effort will be made to minimize inconvenience to the travelling public and abutting residents and businesses. Pedestrian and vehicular access to abutting properties will be maintained throughout construction.

RIGHT OF WAY IMPACTS

Temporary construction easements will be required for minor grading impacts to lawns, driveways, and walkways; and to restore features on adjacent properties. Small permanent easements will also be required to position the constructed sidewalks and related improvements within publicly-owned or -controlled property. The City of North Adams 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 \$738,000 using a combination of Federal and State funding sources. The City of North Adams is responsible for all costs associated with the acquisition of temporary and permanent easements.

PROJECT SCHEDULE

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

Address: _____

Please Fold and Tape



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

RE: Virtual Public Hearing
Safe Routes to School Brayton Elementary School
NORTH ADAMS
Project File No. 610546
Insert section: Project Management

