



VIRTUAL DESIGN PUBLIC HEARING

Thursday, October 28, 2021

at 7:00 PM – 8:30 PM

FOR THE PROPOSED

**Route 114 Corridor Improvement Project
Project No. 608095
Project Management**

NORTH ANDOVER, 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. 608095

A Live Virtual 25% Design Public Hearing will be hosted on the MassDOT website below to present the design for the proposed Route 114 Corridor Improvements project in **North Andover, MA**.

WHEN: 7:00 - 8:30 PM; Thursday, October 28, 2021

PURPOSE: The purpose of this hearing is to provide the public with the opportunity to become fully acquainted with the proposed Route 114 Corridor Improvements project. All views and comments submitted in response to the hearing will be reviewed and considered to the maximum extent possible.

PROPOSAL: The proposed Route 114 corridor improvements project is a 2.2-mile roadway reconstruction between Waverly Road and Willow Street/Mill Road in North Andover. The project work mainly includes roadway widening, geometry and traffic signal improvements at project area intersections, continuous sidewalks and bicycle accommodations that are separated from vehicular traffic (via a shared use path) along the full length of the Route 114 corridor. In addition to roadway geometric improvements, seven existing traffic signals will be upgraded, and two additional intersections will become signal controlled (intersections of Route 114 at Royal Crest Drive/ Merrimack College and Hillside Road) for a total of 9 signalized intersections. Traffic signals within the project area will be interconnected and will utilize adaptive signal control which automatically adjusts signal operations to optimize traffic flow based on ‘real time’ vehicle demand data collected by the system. The project also includes a culvert replacement, drainage improvements, utility relocations and landscaping elements.

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., 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. 608095**. 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

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.



ROUTE 114 CORRIDOR IMPROVEMENTS

PROJECT NO. 608095

PROJECT LOCATION

The project is located along Route 114 (Turnpike Street) from west of Waverly Road to east of Willow Street / Mill Road for an approximate project length of 2.0 miles.

PURPOSE

The purpose of the project is to improve safety and mobility along the Route 114 corridor with a focus on improving bicycle and pedestrian accommodations. The following intersections have been identified as high crash locations that are Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) eligible based on data collected by MassDOT from the years 2015-2017, the most recent time period for which data has been analyzed.

- Route 114 at Waverly Road/Cotuit Street
- Route 114 at Peters Street (Route 133)
- Route 114 at Andover Street (Route 125)
- Route 114 at Andover Bypass Street (Route 125)
- Route 114 at Willow Street/Mill Road

EXISTING CONDITIONS

Route 114 is classified as an urban principal arterial within the project area and is under the jurisdiction of the MassDOT. The posted speed limit along Route 114 ranges from 30 miles per hour (MPH) to 40 MPH. Route 114, from Waverly Road to Andover Street (Route 125), generally consists of two 11-foot travel lanes in each direction with varying 2- to 5-foot wide shoulders and a sidewalk on the southerly side of the roadway.

Route 114, from Andover Street (Route 125) to Willow Street/Mill Road, generally consists of two 12-foot lanes with varying 2- to 5-foot wide shoulders in each direction. Between the Andover Bypass (Route 125) and Hillside Road, the roadway consists of one 12-foot lane in each direction separated by a 13-foot wide two-way left-turn lane. East of Hillside Road, Route 114 consists of two eastbound lanes and one westbound lane, before converting back into one lane in each direction separated by a two-way left-turn lane, approximately 1,200 feet east of the intersection.

Based on traffic counts along Route 114 conducted in 2017, the Average Daily Traffic (ADT) was 32,200 vehicles per day from western project limits to Eaglewood Shops, 42,950 vehicles per day between Eaglewood Shops and Berkeley Road, and 27,950 vehicles per day from Berkeley Road to eastern project limits.

PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS

The proposed project consists of widening as necessary and reconstructing Route 114 to provide four 11-foot travel lanes (two-lanes in each direction) with turn lanes and 2-foot shoulders with a 14-foot center two-way left turn lane where between Hillside Road and Willow Street, as well as providing a 10-foot wide shared use path on the southerly side and a 5-foot wide concrete sidewalk on the northerly side.

The project also consists of installing a closed loop interconnected signal system for the signals on Route 114. The signals will also obtain adaptive signal control technology capabilities (which automatically adjusts signal operations to optimize traffic flow based on 'real time' vehicle demand data collected by the system). The intersections include:

- Waverly Road/Cotuit Street
- Eaglewood Shops Driveway
- Peters Street (Route 133)
- Andover Street (Route 125)
- Royal Crest Drive (west) / Merrimack College Driveway
- Andover Bypass (Route 125) / Royal Crest Drive (east)
- Hillside Road
- Stop & Shop Driveway
- Willow Street / Mill Road

MAINTENANCE OF TRAFFIC DURING CONSTRUCTION

Anticipated temporary traffic control will include, but not be limited to, lane shifting setups where sufficient roadway width is available and bi-directional traffic setups with police directing traffic where there is insufficient roadway width to accommodate all travel lanes. A minimum travel lane width of 11 feet will be proposed.

Proposed traffic mitigation to limit impacts to traffic include restricting work during peak hours; limiting work area/length during a typical work day to ensure that the Contractor is able to begin and complete a segment of roadway work such that normal traffic operation can be restored at the end of each work day; and use police control at signalized intersections, as needed. Access to all residences and businesses will be maintained during construction. Abutters will be notified in advance should access to their property need to be restricted.

RIGHT OF WAY

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts is responsible for all Right-of-Way (ROW) impacts. Temporary construction easements will be required from abutting properties. The temporary construction easements are required for matching the proposed work to existing conditions and to allow the Contractor onto abutting properties to facilitate construction. There are three full ROW acquisitions to accommodate the proposed design. There are also several minor ROW acquisitions and utility easements to facilitate the proposed design.

PROJECT COST

The total preliminary construction cost estimate for the entire project is approximately \$30 million.

PROJECT STATUS

The design plans presented here represent the 25% Design Level. Comments made at this public hearing will be incorporated to the maximum extent feasible in the final design documents. The project is scheduled to be advertised in late 2023 and construction duration is anticipated to last three to four construction seasons which will depend on utility relocation schedules.

THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
HIGHWAY DIVISION

FEDERAL AID PROJECT

North Andover, MA
Route 114 Corridor Improvements
Project File No. 608095

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., 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.

Name: _____ Title: _____

Organization: _____

Address: _____

Please Fold and Tape

Please Place
Appropriate
Postage Here

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

RE: Virtual Design Public Hearing
Route 114 Corridor Improvements
NORTH ANDOVER
Project File No. 608095
Attn: Project Management