



VIRTUAL DESIGN PUBLIC HEARING

APRIL 7, 2021

FOR THE PROPOSED

**Reconstruction of North Main Street, From School Street to Lincoln Avenue, including the
relocation of Fall Hill Brook Culvert Project
Project No. 603371**

Project Management

IN THE TOWN OF ORANGE, 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 MEETING
Project File No. 603371

A Virtual Design Public Hearing will be published on the MassDOT website below to present the design for the proposed Reconstruction of North Main Street, From School Street to Lincoln Avenue, including the relocation of Fall Hill Brook Culvert Project in the Town of Orange, MA.

WHEN: Wednesday, April 7, 2021

PURPOSE: The purpose of this hearing is to provide the public with the opportunity to become fully acquainted with the proposed Reconstruction of North Main Street, From School Street to Lincoln Avenue, including the relocation of Fall Hill Brook Culvert 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 begins on North Main Street at the School Street intersection and ends at the intersection of Lincoln Avenue, a distance of approximately 0.4 miles. The project consists of roadway reconstruction, rehabilitation and reconstruction of various retaining walls, the relocation and reconstruction of the Fall Hill Brook Culvert, drainage system modifications and improvements; construction of granite curb and bituminous concrete berm installations; traffic signing; installation of Rapid Rectangular Flashing Beacons; landscaping and streetscape improvements and other incidental work. All sidewalks, including the existing sidewalk on the east side of North Main Street, will be reconstructed in cement concrete to current accessibility standards. The proposed project also includes approximately 250 feet of roadway reconstruction and, sidewalk reconstruction along School Street.

A secure right-of-way is necessary for this project. Acquisitions in fee and permanent or temporary easements may be required. The **Town of Orange, 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 Patricia A. Leavenworth, P.E., 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. **603371**. 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 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

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.

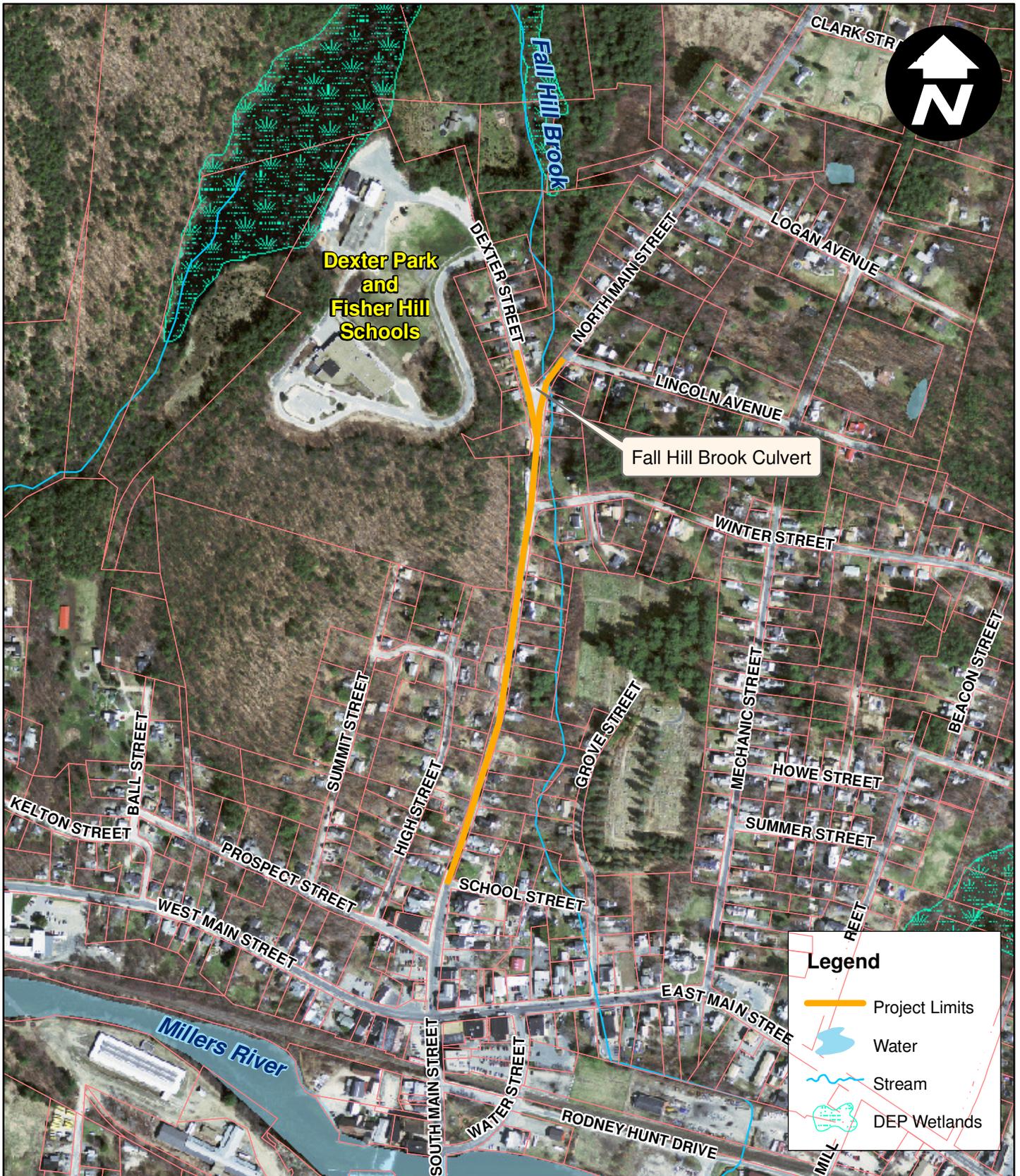
A Right of Entry is a document that is signed by the owner. It allows the Contractor to perform certain types of work on the owner's land. The work is usually minor in nature and frequently consists of loaming/seeding behind sidewalks, new driveway apron work, grading/sloping, and wetland protection,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



Map Source: Office of Geographic and Environmental Information (MassGIS),
Commonwealth of Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs

0 250 500 Feet
Scale:

Figure 1: Locus Map

North Main Street Reconstruction
Orange, Massachusetts
Project File No. 603371

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

PROJECT LOCATION

The project is located on North Main Street in the Town of Orange, between School Street and Lincoln Avenue, just north of the Town of Orange Town Hall.

PROJECT PURPOSE

The purpose of this project is to improve vehicular and pedestrian movement and safety along North Main Street by providing a consistent roadway cross section, crash tested railings on top of retaining walls, ADA accessible sidewalks and curb ramps, improvements to the Dexter Street intersection and pedestrian crossing, reconstruction of existing retaining wall segments, and stormwater drainage system improvements. The existing Fall Hill Brook stone culvert under North Main Street will be abandoned and replaced with a new culvert.

PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS

The proposed improvements are targeted towards improving vehicular and pedestrian movement and safety along the Project corridor:

- Reconstruct accessible concrete sidewalks, curb ramps and curb cuts
- Full depth roadway reconstruction
- Provide vertical granite curbing and asphalt berm delineating the edge of road
- Provide accessible, crash tested railings on top of tall retaining walls
- Enhanced school zone and crosswalk signage, including a Rapid Rectangular Flashing Beacon (RRFB)
- Replacement of traffic signs and pavement markings
- Reconstruction of retaining walls
- Abandon existing culvert (fill with concrete) and construct replacement culvert carrying Fall Hill Brook under North Main Street
- Stormwater drainage system improvements, including the construction of a stormwater treatment basin
- Utility pole relocations

TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT

All roadways will remain open to travel during the construction period. During the roadway reconstruction, one lane, two-way alternating traffic will be implemented adjacent to work areas. The construction of the new culvert will be conducted in stages, with travel lanes shifted to accommodate work areas.

The Contractor will be required to provide accessible pedestrian accommodations at all times during the construction period. Pedestrians are anticipated to be accommodated, when necessary, through the use of temporary facilities (temporary curb ramps, walkways, etc.).

RIGHT OF WAY IMPACTS

Property acquisitions, permanent easements and temporary construction easements associated with Project construction will be required. Permanent Utility Easements will also be required. The Town of Orange will be responsible for securing all necessary acquisitions and easements.

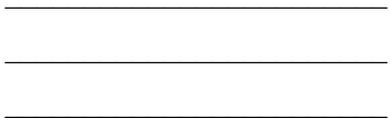
PROJECT COST

The current estimate of the total construction cost of this Project is approximately \$7.8 million.

PROJECT SCHEDULE

The design is currently at the 25% design stage. At this time, it is anticipated that the design and right-of-way process is expected to be complete by the Fall of 2023. Construction will take approximately 24 months. Please note, these are estimated timelines.

Please Fold and Tape



Please Place
Appropriate
Postage Here

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

RE: Virtual Public Hearing
**Reconstruction of North Main Street, From School Street to Lincoln Avenue, including the
relocation of Fall Hill Brook Culvert Project**
TOWN OF ORANGE
Project File No. 603371
Attn: Project Management

