



DESIGN PUBLIC HEARING

July 16th, 2026

FOR THE PROPOSED

**Replacement of Bridge on Brookside Road over the G&W Railroad
Project No. 613305
Bridge No. O-03-015 (14X)
Project Management**

IN THE TOWN OF ORANGE, MASSACHUSETTS

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

**JONATHAN GULLIVER
HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATOR**

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

**THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION – HIGHWAY DIVISION
NOTICE OF A DESIGN PUBLIC HEARING**

**Project Description: Orange - Bridge Replacement, Br# O-03-015 (14X), Brookside Road over G&W Railroad
Project File No. 613305**

A Design Public Hearing will be held to present the design for the proposed project in Orange, MA.

WHERE: Orange Town Hall, Ruth B. Smith Auditorium
6 Prospect Street
Orange, MA 01364

WHEN: Thursday, July 16th, 2026 @ 6:30PM

PURPOSE: The purpose of this hearing is to provide the public with the opportunity to become fully acquainted with the proposed 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 a full bridge replacement at the Brookside Road Bridge over the G&W Railroad, in the Town of Orange. This proposed project will include a 5-foot concrete sidewalk on the east side of the bridge. No formal bicycle facilities are proposed, which is consistent with the roadway's local classification and limited cycling demand.

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 MassDOTProjectManagement@dot.state.ma.us or via US Mail to Suite 7550, 10 Park Plaza, Boston, MA 02116, Attention: Project Management, Project File No. 613305. Statements and exhibits intended for inclusion in the public hearing transcript must be emailed or postmarked no later than ten (10) business days (14 calendar days) after the hearing is held.

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 hearing.

In case of inclement weather, a cancellation announcement will be posted on the internet at <https://www.mass.gov/orgs/highway-division/events>.

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 E. Lavallee, 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 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.

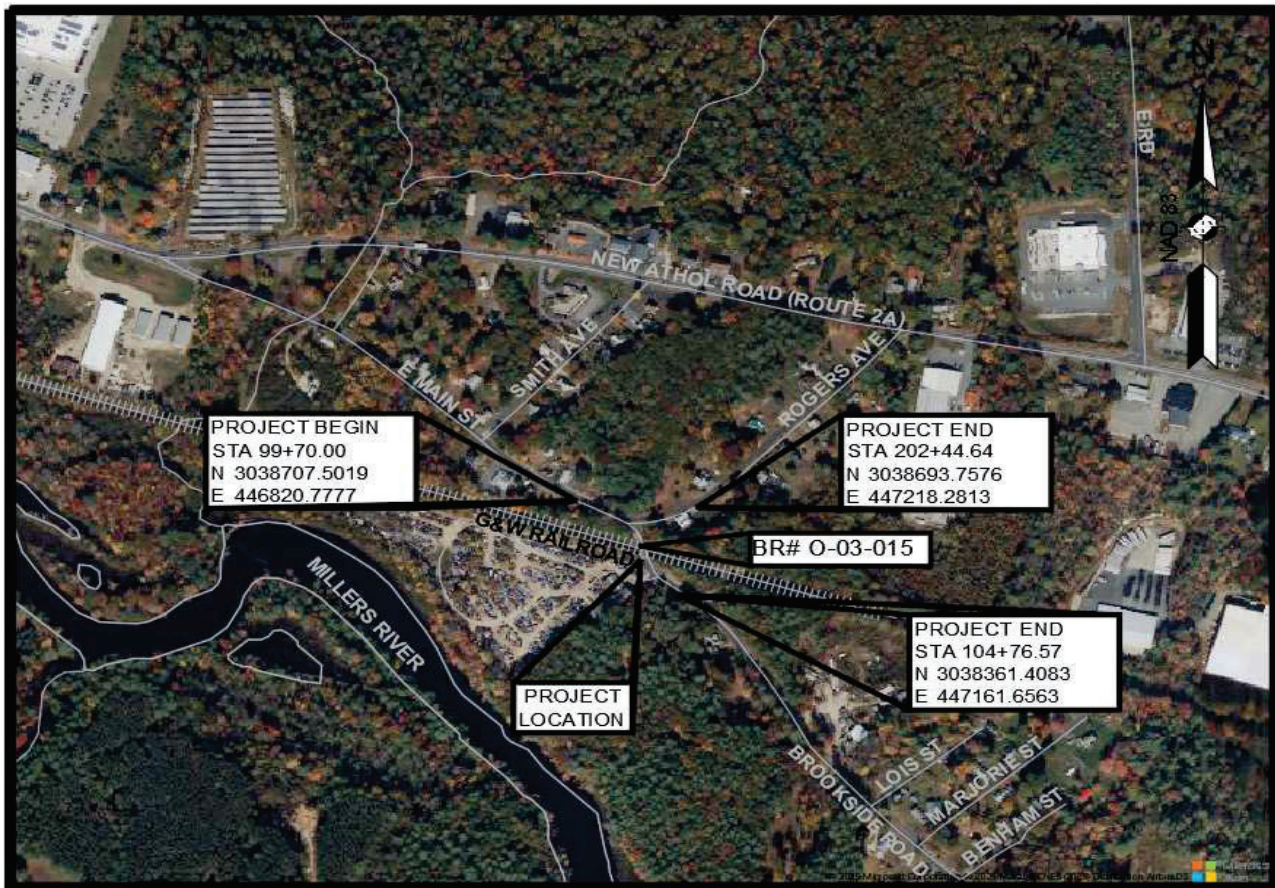
5. WHAT HAPPENS IF I MUST RELOCATE?

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.

MassDOT Design Justification Workbook

Project: 613305 Description: Orange Brookside Road over Genessee & Wyoming (G&W) Railroad

LOCUS MAP



Workbook updated January 7, 2025

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

This project, located within MassDOT Highway Division District 2, involves the replacement of the Brookside Road Bridge over G&W railroad in the Town of Orange. The bridge carries Brookside Road over the Genessee & Wyoming (G&W) Railroad.

Brookside Road runs from east to west through Orange and provides access to East Main Street and Daniel Shays Highway. The bridge is exclusively under the jurisdiction of MassDOT. East and west of the bridge the roadway itself is under Town jurisdiction.

The project is located approximately 1.8 miles east of the Orange Town Hall and is surrounded by many commercial properties including Brookside Auto Parts, Suburban Propane supplier, Randy's Truck and Equipment Repair, Auto Spot Insurance Agency and Wheelerville Community Club. Outside of the commercial properties, this area of Orange also consists of residential properties along Rogers Ave, Smith Ave, Brookside Road and East Main Street.

Within the project limits, Brookside Road carries two travel lanes: one travel lane in the eastbound direction and one travel lane in the westbound direction. Lane widths are 13 feet wide, with narrow shoulders varying from 2 to 3 feet wide. Currently there is no median on Brookside Road. The posted speed limit is 35 mph.

At the bridge, the width between the existing bridge edge to edge widens to approximately 35 feet. The existing vertical clearance of the bridge over the railroad is 20'-4". The Brookside Road Bridge is approximately 66 feet long.

The bridge replacement project will maintain the existing vertical clearance over the railroad while implementing a cross section that is appropriate for the facility and improves roadway condition. Sidewalk will be constructed on only the east side of Brookside Road, maintaining access to the business areas. The project limits extend from approximately 263 feet west of the bridge abutment and 128 feet east of the bridge abutment, resulting in a total project length of 455 feet. These geometric changes will allow for improved safety with minimal impact on right of way.

THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
HIGHWAY DIVISION

FEDERAL AID PROJECT

Orange, MA
BRIDGE REPLACEMENT, O-03-015 (14X), BROOKSIDE ROAD OVER G&W RR
Project File No. 613305

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

RE: In-person Public Hearing
BRIDGE REPLACEMENT, O-03-015 (14X), BROOKSIDE ROAD OVER G&W RR
ORANGE
Project File No. 613305
Attn: Project Management

