



DESIGN PUBLIC HEARING

FEBRUARY 20, 2020

AT

**PITTSFIELD PUBLIC LIBRARY
BERKSHIRE ATHENAEUM**

PITTSFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS

6:00 PM

FOR THE PROPOSED

**EAST NEW LENOX ROAD over SACKETT BROOK
BRIDGE REPLACEMENT**

Project No. 608860

Bridge No. P-10-055

Bridge Project Management

IN THE CITY OF PITTSFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS

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

**JONATHAN L. 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. 608860

A Design Public Hearing will be held by MassDOT to discuss the proposed bridge replacement project for the East New Lenox Road Bridge over Sackett Brook in Pittsfield, Massachusetts.

WHERE: Pittsfield Public Library
 Berkshire Athenaeum
 1 Wendell Avenue
 Pittsfield, MA 01201

WHEN: Thursday, February 20, 2020 at 6:00 PM

PURPOSE: The purpose of this hearing is to inform the public of the proposed bridge replacement project and to provide an opportunity for public question and comment. All questions and comments raised at the hearing will be reviewed and considered to the maximum extent practicable.

PROPOSAL: The proposed project consists of the replacement of Bridge P-10-055 in its entirety. The existing 22'-6" single span bridge carries East New Lenox Road over the Sackett Brook in the City of Pittsfield. The proposed bridge will be a 48'-0" single span and will be constructed on a similar alignment as the existing bridge. The proposed bridge will be approximately 6'-3" wider than the existing to accommodate additional shoulder width and a sidewalk on the east side of the bridge. The additional width will eliminate the need for a lengthy detour and will allow for alternating traffic during the staged construction. The bridge will be constructed in two phases and the traffic be controlled by temporary portable traffic signal units. The work will also include reconstruction of the roadway approaches, including new guardrail and drainage.

A secure right-of-way is necessary for this project. Acquisitions in fee and permanent or temporary easements may be required. The City of Pittsfield is responsible for acquiring all needed rights in private or public lands.

Written comments received by MassDOT subsequent to the date of this notice and up to five (5) days prior to the date of the hearing shall be displayed for public inspection and copying at the time and date listed above. Plans will be on display one-half hour before the hearing begins, with an engineer in attendance to answer questions regarding this project. A project handout will be made available on the MassDOT website listed below.

Written statements and other exhibits in place of, or in addition to, oral statements made at the Public Hearing regarding the proposed undertaking are to be submitted to Patricia A. Leavenworth, P.E., Chief Engineer, MassDOT, 10 Park Plaza, Boston, MA 02116, Attention: Bridge Project Management Section, Project File No. **608860**. Such submissions will also be accepted at the hearing. Mailed statements and exhibits intended for inclusion in the public hearing transcript must be postmarked within ten (10) business days of this Public Hearing. Project inquiries may be emailed to dot.feedback.highway@state.ma.us

This location is accessible to persons with disabilities. MassDOT provides reasonable accommodations and/or language assistance free of charge upon request (including but not limited to interpreters in American Sign Language and languages other than English, open or closed captioning for videos, assistive listening devices and alternate material formats, such as audio tapes, Braille and large print), as available. For accommodation or language assistance, please contact MassDOT's Chief Diversity and Civil Rights Officer by phone (857-368-8580), fax (857-368-0602), TTD/TTY (857-368-0603) 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 (10) business days before the meeting.

In case of inclement weather, hearing cancellation announcements will be posted online at <http://www.massdot.state.ma.us/Highway/>

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 ISSUES

A secure right of way is necessary for this project. Temporary and permanent easements may be required. Your municipality is responsible for acquiring all necessary rights in private or public lands. If your property is affected, your rights are fully protected under law.

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?

City 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 utility relocation, loaming/seeding behind sidewalks, new driveway apron work, grading/sloping, and wetland protection, etc.

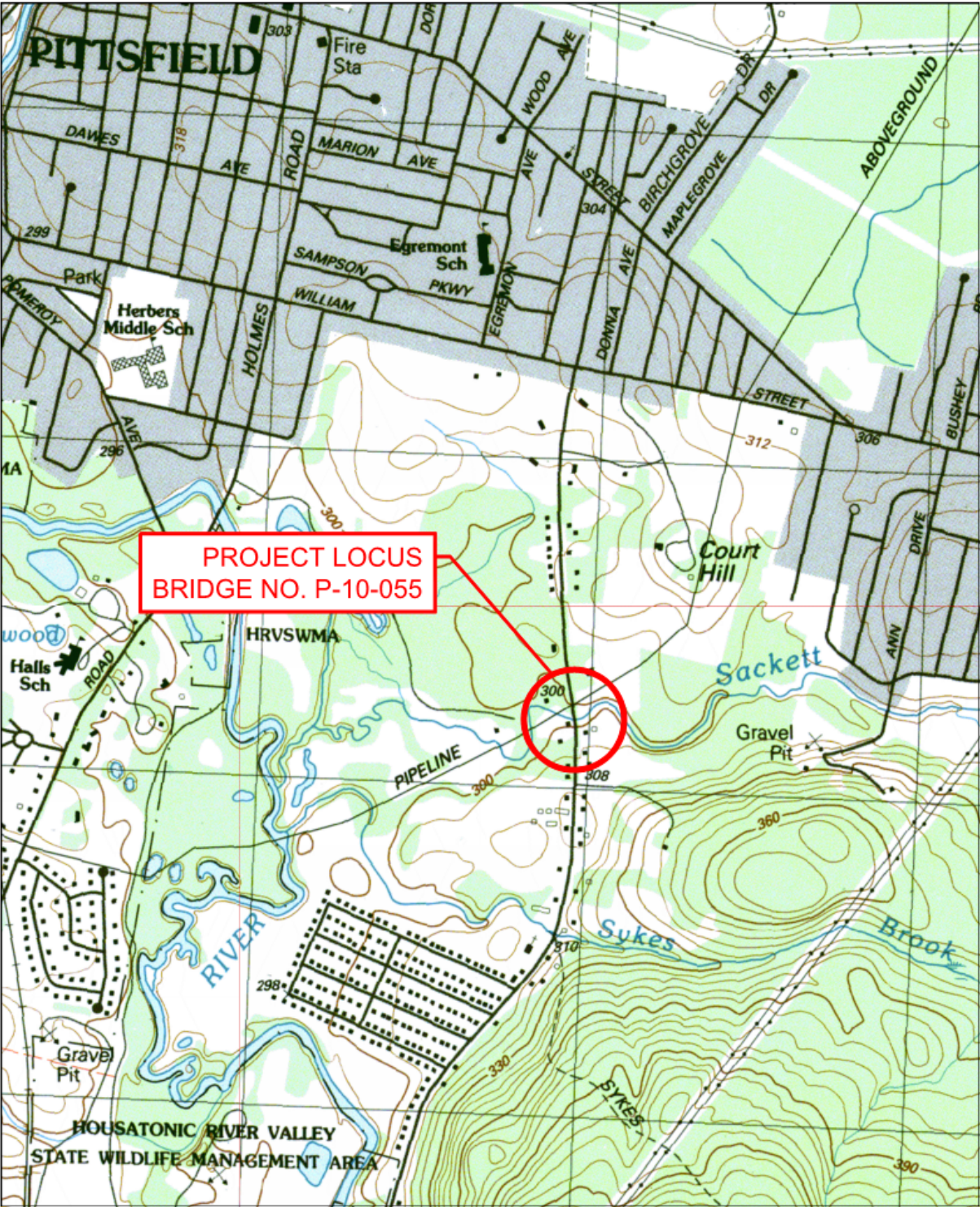
4. WHAT IS A FAIR PRICE FOR THE ACQUIRED PARCELS?

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.

PITTSFIELD – East New Lenox Road over Sackett Brook



PROJECT LOCATION MAP

Project Description

East New Lenox Road over Sackett Brook Bridge Replacement, Pittsfield, MA

Project Purpose and Limits of Work

The purpose of the project is to replace the existing bridge structure due to its deteriorated condition. The proposed bridge will be approximately 6'-3" wider than the existing to accommodate additional shoulder width and a sidewalk on the east side of the bridge. In addition to replacing the bridge, the existing approach roadways to the bridge will be reconstructed. The limits of new pavement will be 230 feet north of the bridge and 130 feet south of the bridge. The resulting total project length is approximately 400 feet along East New Lenox Road.

Scope of Proposed Work

The primary work on this project will be the replacement of the existing bridge structure. The existing bridge is a 22'-6" long single span concrete beam structure with concrete abutments located at the edge of Sackett Brook. The new bridge is to be built along the same approximate alignment as the existing bridge and will be 48'-0" in span, creating bank under the bridge on both sides. The new bridge will consist of precast concrete beams and deck. The foundations will be comprised of pile supported integral abutments.

The proposed bridge will be approximately 6'-3" wider than the existing bridge. The new bridge will have a 28-foot wide roadway compared to the existing 26-foot wide roadway. The structure will have bridge railing on each side. The 28-foot roadway will accommodate shared use of the roadway for vehicles and bicycles. The additional 6'-3" width will also allow for a 5'-6" wide sidewalk over the structure and accessible pedestrian ramps will be designed at either end.

The work on the roadway approaches to the bridge will include reconstructing and widening the existing roadway to transition to the proposed bridge. The vertical profile will be raised approximately 18-inches over the bridge. Lastly, there will also be other improvements such as new guardrail.

Traffic Management

East New Lenox Road will remain open to alternating one-way traffic during construction of the new bridge. The proposed wider bridge eliminates the need for a lengthy detour and will allow for the bridge to be constructed in two phases. Temporary portable traffic signal units will be used to control the alternating one-way traffic during both phases of construction.

Utilities

There are existing overhead wires located along the east side of East New Lenox Road. The existing overhead wires will be temporarily relocated further east of the bridge to allow safe offsets to the bridge during construction for cranes and heavy equipment. The overhead wires will then be relocated back to their approximate existing location. The existing 4" gas line will be relocated to the west side of the bridge and will be hung with a utility bracket. The two existing water lines, 12" Ductile Iron and 18" Suction Feed, are located in the roadway and under the existing bridge will be replaced with new water lines parallel to and east of the proposed bridge.

Right of Way

The project will require that some work be performed outside the existing right of way on privately-owned property. It is currently anticipated that permanent easements and temporary construction easements will be required. The City of Pittsfield will be responsible for securing all needed rights of way.

Environmental Permits

All required environmental permits will be obtained prior to advertising the project for construction bids. It is anticipated that there will be some minor temporary impacts to Sackett Brook and adjacent wetland areas during the bridge reconstruction work. This project is exempt from the Massachusetts Environmental Protection Agency (MEPA), the Wetlands Protection Act and Chapter 91 requirements. However, the project will need a Water Quality Certificate (WQC) from the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) and an Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) Section 404 Permit.

Healthy Transportation Policy

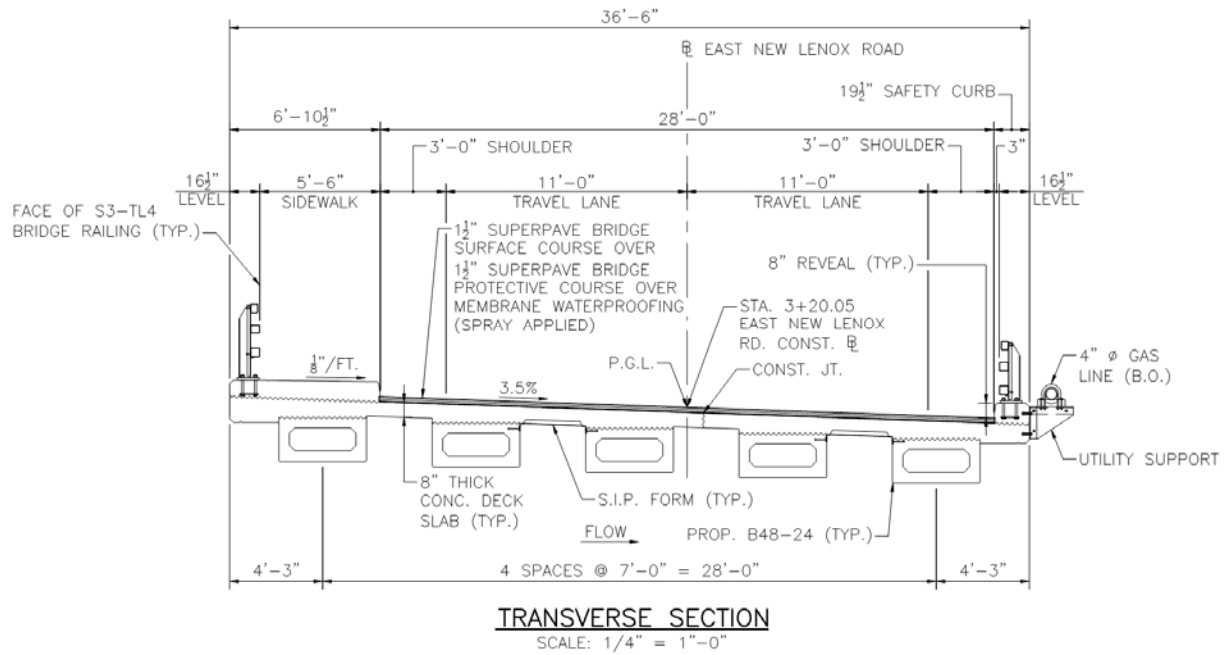
MassDOT's Healthy Transportation Policy requires that all projects are designed to ensure that all customers have access to safe and comfortable healthy transportation options such as walking, bicycling and transit. The proposed design is constructing the new bridge approximately 6'-3" wider in order to provide wider shoulders and a sidewalk on the east side of the roadway.

Project Status and Schedule

The project plans on display this evening are at the 25%/preliminary design stage. Comments from this Public Hearing will be incorporated into the final design plans to the maximum extent possible. It is anticipated that the final design plans will be completed and the project advertised for construction bids in the Spring of 2021 with construction estimated to begin in the Fall of 2021.

Project Cost

The preliminary/25% estimate of the construction cost is \$2,500,000.

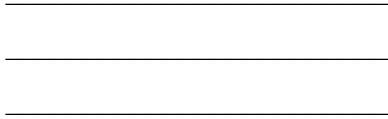


PROPOSED BRIDGE CROSS SECTION



EXISTING BRIDGE ELEVATION VIEW

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: Public Hearing
East New Lenox Road over Sackett Brook Bridge Replacement
PITTSFIELD, MA
Project File No. 608860
Bridge Project Management

