



DESIGN PUBLIC HEARING

Wednesday, June 30, 2021

AT

**Berkshire Athenaeum, Pittsfield Public Library
1 Wendell Ave**

PITTSFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS

7:00 PM

**FOR THE PROPOSED
Intersection & Signal Improvements at First Street & North Street
(near Berkshire Medical Center)
MassDOT Project No. 606233**

IN THE CITY OF PITTSFIELD, 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. 606233

A Design Public Hearing will be held to present the design for the proposed Intersection & Signal Improvements at First Street & North Street (near Berkshire Medical Center) project in Pittsfield, MA.

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

WHEN: **Wednesday, June 30, 2021 at 7:00 PM**

PURPOSE: The purpose of this hearing is to provide the public with the opportunity to become fully acquainted with the proposed Intersection and Signal Improvements at First Street and North Street (near Berkshire Medical Center) 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 intersection widening and signalization improvements at First and Tyler Streets, the conversion of North Street between Tyler and Stoddard Avenues to serve one-way southbound traffic only, intersection improvements at Charles Street and North Street, intersection improvements at Springside Avenue and North Street, and the construction of a roundabout at the intersection of First Street, North Street, Stoddard Avenue, and the Berkshire Medical Center Entrance. Within the project limits, five-foot-wide on-street bicycle lanes will be striped and reconstructed five-foot-wide sidewalks with ADA-compliant curb ramps will be provided in accordance with applicable design guides. The only exception is in the immediate vicinity of the proposed roundabout, where bicyclists and pedestrians will transition to a ten-foot-wide shared-use path.

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. Lavalley, 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. 606233**. 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 Design Public Hearing or a cancellation announcement will be published/hosted on the internet at www.mass.gov/massdot-highway-design-public-hearings.

JONATHAN GULLIVER
HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATOR

CARRIE E. LAVALLEY, 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 ISSUES

A secure right of way is necessary for this project. Temporary construction 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?

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.

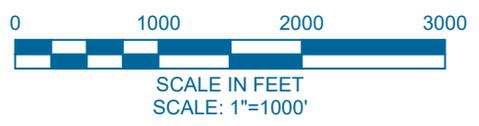
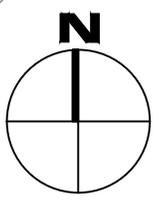
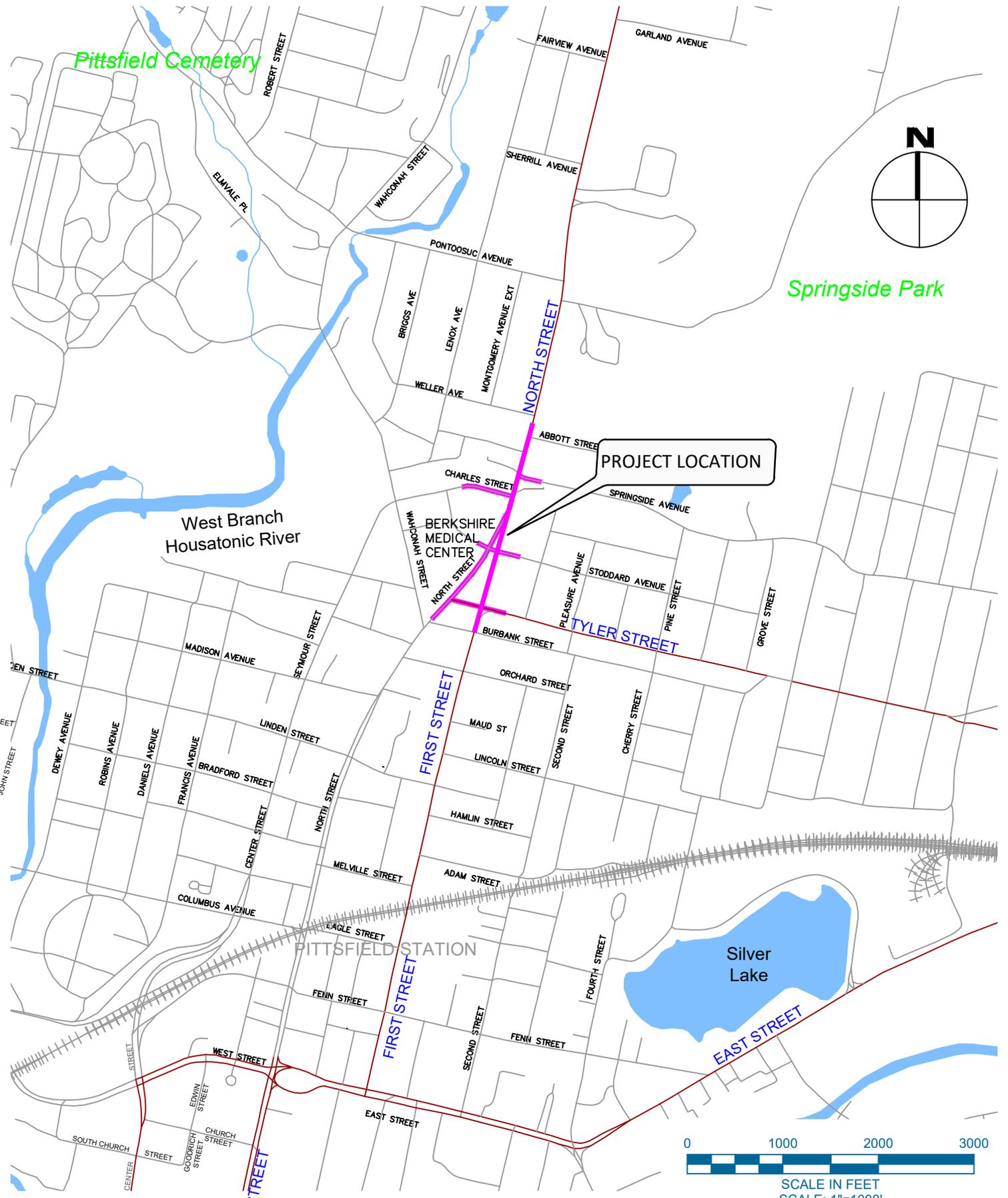
4. WHAT IS A FAIR PRICE FOR THE ACQUIRED PARCELS?

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.

File Path: J:\DWG\2016\0641\A21\LOCUS MAP BMC.dwg Layout: 8.5X11-P Plotted: Thu, January 30, 2020 - 7:31:51 PM User: AARON KEEGAN



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FIGURE 1: LOCUS MAP - PITTSFIELD, MA
 PROJ. NO: 20160641.A21 BMC AREA TRAFFIC CIRCULATION IMPROVEMENTS JANUARY 2020

Intersection & Signal Improvements at First Street & North Street (Near Berkshire Medical Center) in Pittsfield

PROJECT LOCATION

The project is located just north of Downtown Pittsfield. The project limits include the area of North Street and First Street between the intersection of Burbank Street and the Springside Avenue intersection. The attached Locus Map shows the intersection location.

PROJECT PURPOSE

The purpose of this project is to increase safety for all modes of transportation and improve intersection operation. The Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) and the City of Pittsfield are proposing pedestrian, bicyclist, and vehicular safety and mobility improvements along approximately 1,750 feet of First Street and North Street, including the five adjacent intersections:

- North Street at Tyler Street
- First Street at Tyler Street
- North Street and First Street at Stoddard Avenue and BMC Main Entrance
- North Street at Charles Street
- North Street at Springside Avenue.

This proposed project is primarily intended to improve the safety and accessibility for pedestrians and bicyclists from the surrounding neighborhoods, and to improve safety and efficiency of operations related to vehicles traveling north and south on Route 7 and at the main entrance to Berkshire Medical Center.

PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS

The project includes safety and operational improvements to the North Street (Route 7) corridor in the vicinity of Berkshire Medical Center (BMC). The proposed improvements include:

- Intersection improvements at First Street and Tyler Street
- Conversion of North Street between Tyler Street and Stoddard Avenue to allow one-way southbound traffic only
- Intersection improvements at Charles Street and North Street
- Intersection improvements at Springside Avenue and North Street
- A roundabout at the intersection of First St, North St, Stoddard Ave, and the BMC Entrance
- Construction of 5' bicycle lanes on all of the study area roadways with 10' shared use paths along parts of North Street
- Reconstruction of all sidewalks and wheelchair ramps in the study area

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/parking lane 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 grading impacts to lawns, driveways, and walkways and to restore impacts to adjacent properties. Acquisition in fee of private property for the alteration of the City layout at intersections associated with the project construction will also be required. The City of Pittsfield will be responsible for securing all necessary property rights. 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 \$5.2 million.

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 February 2023. Construction is anticipated to begin in Spring 2023 as programmed for the Fiscal Year (FY) 2023 Berkshire Region Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).

Please Fold and Tape



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

RE: Public Hearing
Intersection & Signal Improvements at First Street & North Street (near
Berkshire Medical Center)
PITTSFIELD
Project File No. 606233
Roadway Project Management

