



PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING

Thursday, August 19, 2021, 6:30 PM

AT

**The Berkshire Athenaeum / Pittsfield Public Library
One Wendell Avenue
Pittsfield, MA 01201**

FOR THE PROPOSED

PITTSFIELD – BRIDGE SUPERSTRUCTURE REPLACEMENT PROJECT

HOLMES ROAD OVER HOUSATONIC RAILROAD

Project No. 611955

Bridge No. P-10-002

Project Management

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 INFORMATION MEETING
Project File No. 611955**

A Pre-25% Design Live In-Person Public Information Meeting will be held to present information on the proposed bridge superstructure replacement project on Holmes Road in Pittsfield, MA.

WHEN: Meeting Date: 6:30 PM, on Thursday, August 19, 2021

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

PURPOSE: The purpose of this meeting is to provide the public with the opportunity to become fully acquainted with the design of the proposed bridge superstructure replacement project in Pittsfield. All views and comments submitted in response to the meeting will be reviewed and considered to the maximum extent possible.

PROPOSAL: The proposed project consists of the replacement of the existing bridge superstructure currently reduced to one single alternating lane of traffic due to the presence of severely deteriorated beams on the east side of the structure with a new superstructure at the same location with minimal and limited approach work in both directions. The proposed new cross section width will remain approximately the same width as the existing cross section, except that we propose two 10-foot travel lanes, one sidewalk on the east side of the bridge, one safety curb on the west side with two 5-foot shoulders with accommodations provided for painted buffered bicycle lanes in both the northbound and southbound directions.

Project inquiries, written statements and other exhibits regarding the proposed undertaking may be submitted to Carrie E. Lavalley, 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. 611955. Statements and exhibits intended for inclusion in the public meeting transcript must be emailed or postmarked no later than ten (10) business days after the meeting is posted to the MassDOT website listed below.

This meeting 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 meeting.

This Live In-Person Public Information Meeting or a cancellation announcement will be published 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.
Chief Engineer

WHAT IS A PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING?

WHY A PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING?

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.

WHAT DOES A PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING 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.

LOCUS PLAN



Pittsfield - Project No. 611955 – Superstructure Replacement Project

Bridge No. P-10-002

Holmes Road over Housatonic Railroad

BRIDGE RECONSTRUCTION/REHAB PROJECT
PROJECT NO. 611955
Holmes Road over Housatonic Railroad, Bridge No. P-10-002

PROJECT LOCATIONS

The P-10-002 bridge carries Holmes Road, over the Housatonic Railroad in Pittsfield, MA. Holmes Road travels generally north and south. The proposed work limits include repaving of the immediate approach roadways with approximately a 300-foot limits centered on the bridge.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this meeting is to present the initial project concepts to the public. All views and comments made at the hearing will be reviewed and considered to the maximum extent possible.

EXISTING CONDITIONS

Holmes Road is a two-lane road classified as a Urban Minor Arterial. The roadway approaches to the bridge varying in width but are approximately 32-ft wide asphalt surfaces. The existing bridge width is 41'-3" with a clear width of 32'-9" from curb to curb. There is a 2'-1½" safety curb with aluminum railing and anti-missile fencing on the west side. On the east side there is a 6'-4½" sidewalk, with 5'-0" usable space, also with aluminum railing and anti-missile fencing. The roadway is bordered by metal guardrail on both sides. Currently the roadway width of the bridge is restricted to one lane at a time. Traffic is controlled by temporary traffic signals, which allow alternating movement both north and south.

The existing bridge was built in 1977. The single span superstructure consists of a butted prestressed concrete box beams. The bituminous wearing surface is placed directly on the tops of the box beams. The superstructure sits on a driven pile foundation which supports cantilevered concrete abutments. In-line concrete wingwalls, also supported on pile foundations, are located at each corner of the abutments. The overall length of the bridge is 70'-10".

The structure does not carry any existing utilities.

The bridge is currently restricted to one lane traffic.

The bridge is located horizontally along a tangent section of roadway. Vertically, the bridge is located on crest curve with downgrades of approximately 2.96% south of the bridge and 5.78% north of the bridge. The existing speed limit within this stretch of roadway is 35 miles per hour, however generally all traffic is required to stop at the bridge. Based upon 2018 date the bridge carries approximately 11,500 vehicles per day.

PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS

The proposed bridge will be a single span bridge and the existing abutments will be reused with modifications. The out-to-out width of the bridge will be slightly less than the existing but will accommodate a wider 5'-6" usable sidewalk. The roadway width will approximately match existing on the approaches. The proposed bridge roadway will be slightly narrower than existing. These adjustments in width are necessary to minimize impacts to a utility pole at the southwest corner of the bridge. The proposed length will not change appreciably. There are no significant geometric changes to the horizontal geometry. The bridge profile will be maintained; however, the box beams will have a 5" concrete topping slab placed over them, along with spray applied membrane waterproofing and bituminous wearing surface. The proposed vehicular bridge railing will be a concrete CP-PL2 with a Type II Protective Screen.

The proposed bridge will maintain the existing clearance over the railroad.

The work on each approach will consist of reconstruction of the existing bituminous pavement, minor vertical alignment improvements, and safety improvements such as proper guardrail transitions to the bridge. The limits of approach work are approximately 150-ft north and south of the bridge.

UTILITIES

There are overhead wires that exist south and along the west side of the bridge.

RIGHT OF WAY IMPACTS

To be determined, but there do not appear to be any significant impacts.

ENVIRONMENTAL

There are no environmental impacts

MAINTENANCE OF TRAFFIC DURING CONSTRUCTION

The bridge will be closed during construction and traffic will be detoured. Accelerated bridge construction techniques will minimize the duration of the bridge closures.

PROJECT COST

The total preliminary construction cost estimate is not known at this time, however MassDOT has currently allocated approximately \$2,9 million for this project.

PROJECT STATUS

The information presented here represent preliminary design (pre- 25% Design Level). Comments made at this public meeting will be incorporated to the maximum extent feasible in the final design documents. The project is scheduled to be advertised in the Summer of 2022 and construction duration is anticipated to extend into the Fall of 2023.

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: Public Information Meeting
Bridge Superstructure Replacement – Holmes Road / Housatonic Railroad

Pittsfield, MA
Project File No. 611955
Attn: Project Management

