



**DESIGN PUBLIC HEARING**

**JUNE 12, 2025**

**FOR THE PROPOSED**

**South Street (US 20/7) over Housatonic RR & Housatonic River  
Bridge Replacement Project  
Project No. 612498  
Bridge Nos. P-10-003 & P-10-032  
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.  
CHIEF ENGINEER**

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

**Project Description: Pittsfield – Bridge Replacement, Br# P-10-003 & P-10-032, South Street (US 20/7)  
over Housatonic Railroad, Housatonic River  
Project File No. 612498**

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

WHERE: City Hall / Council Chambers, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
70 Allen Street  
Pittsfield, MA, 01201

WHEN: Thursday, June 12, 2025 @ 6:30 PM

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 the full replacement of two bridges in Pittsfield, Massachusetts: Bridge No. P-10-003, which spans the Housatonic Railroad, and Bridge No. P-10-032, which crosses the Housatonic River. The roadway, South Street (US 20/7), will be widened to accommodate the new bridge widths and include buffered bike lanes, pedestrian sidewalks, and a two-way continuous center turn lane.

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. Lavallee, P.E., Chief Engineer, via e-mail to [MassDOTProjectManagement@dot.state.ma.us](mailto:MassDOTProjectManagement@dot.state.ma.us) or via US Mail to Suite 7550, 10 Park Plaza, Boston, MA 02116, Attention: Project Management, Project File No.612498. 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 hosted on 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](mailto: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. LAVALLEE, 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. Lavalley, 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?

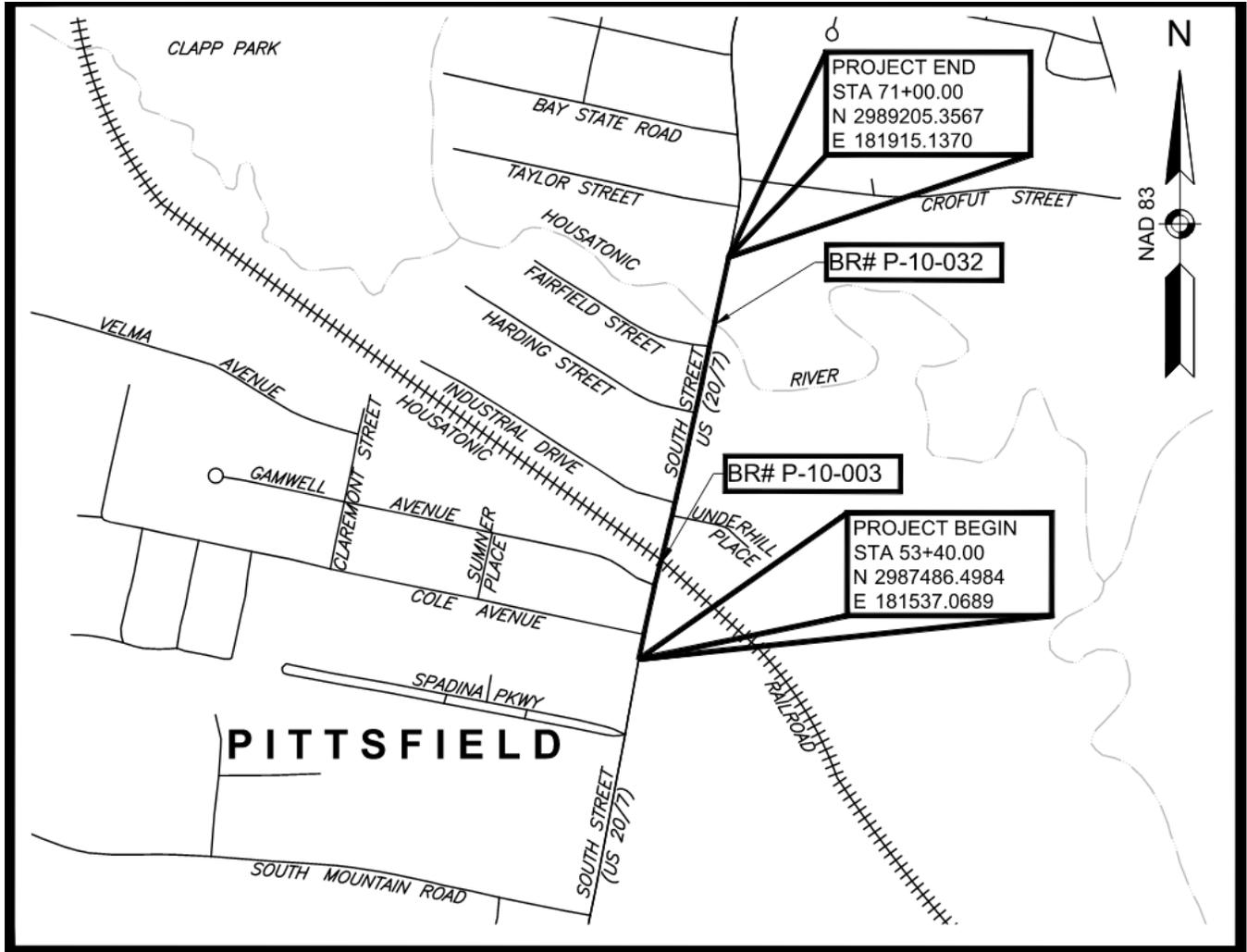
No. If, after the figure established as market value has been offered to the owner, the owner feels he or she is not being offered a fair price, he or she has the right, within three years, to appeal to the courts. Pending a court decision, he or she can be paid on a "pro-tanto" basis (or "for the time 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.



**LOCUS MAP**

**Pittsfield, Massachusetts**  
**South Street (US 20/7) over Housatonic Railroad & Housatonic River**  
**Bridge No. P-10-003 &**  
**Bridge No. P-10-032**

**PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS**

**Purpose of the Project**

MassDOT has retained CHA Consulting, Inc. to provide professional engineering services required for the bridge replacements of existing Bridge Nos. P-10-003 and P-10-032, which carry South Street (US 20/7) over the Housatonic Railroad and the Housatonic River in Pittsfield, Massachusetts.

The purpose of the project is to replace two structurally deteriorated bridges with new bridges along a similar horizontal and vertical alignment.

**Project Location and Limits**

The project is located on South Street (US 20/7) with limits from the Cole Avenue intersection to just south of Taylor Street in Pittsfield, Massachusetts. The total project length is approximately 1,760 feet. The attached locus map shows the location of the project.

**Features of the Project**

The proposed project consists of demolition of the existing bridges, installation of two new bridges and roadway reconstruction. The new bridges will carry 2-11' travel lanes, 2-5' shoulders/bike lanes with 2' buffers, and 2-5' wide minimum sidewalks. Bridge No. P-10-003 will be comprised of PCI Northeast Solid Deck Beams with metal S3-MTL4 bridge rail and Type I Protective Screen. Bridge No. P-10-032 will be comprised of prestressed NEDBT40 beams with metal S3-MTL4 bridge rail. Roadway improvements will include widening, milling and overlay, full depth roadway reconstruction, sidewalk reconstruction, new guardrail, installation of accessible pedestrian signals (APS) at the Gamwell intersection, and street lighting updates. Additional work for construction will include utility relocations and erosion control.

**Land Acquisition (Right of Way Impacts)**

Temporary and permanent easements and fee takings will be required for the project.

**Maintenance of Traffic During Construction**

Throughout construction, one lane of traffic in each direction will remain open. Pedestrian accommodation during construction will be achieved with temporary pedestrian bridges at both bridges located on the west side. A short-term detour may be used to facilitate construction for select activities such as beam unloading and placement, temporary bridge unloading, and paving. The proposed detour route is approximately 6 miles long and would utilize Holmes Road, Pomeroy Avenue, and Crofut Street.

### **Environmental and Historical Impacts**

Environmental permits will be required for the construction of the bridge. Both bridges are not historically registered.

### **Project Status and Schedule**

The plans on display tonight are at the preliminary 25% design stage. Comments received this evening will be considered in determining the final design. Construction is anticipated to begin in the year 2027.

### **Project Cost**

The estimated construction cost of this project is approximately \$18,500,000.



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

RE: Design Public Hearing  
South Street (US 20/7) over Housatonic RR & Housatonic River  
PITTSFIELD  
Project File No. 612498  
Attn: Project Management

