



VIRTUAL DESIGN PUBLIC HEARING

FEBRUARY 10, 2022

6:00 PM

FOR THE PROPOSED

ROUTE 24 OVER CANTON STREET BRIDGE REPLACEMENT

BRIDGE NO. R-01-004

PROJECT NO. 612188

HIGHWAY DIVISION

IN THE CITY of RANDOLPH, MASSACHUSETTS

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

**JONATHAN GULLIVER
HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATOR**

**CARRIE LAVALEE, P.E.
ACTING CHIEF ENGINEER**

THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION – HIGHWAY DIVISION
NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING MEETING
Project File No. 612188

A Live Virtual Design Public Hearing will be hosted to present the design for the proposed ROUTE 24 OVER CANTON STREET BRIDGE REPLACEMENT project in Randolph, MA.

WHEN: **6:00 PM, Thursday, February 10, 2022**

PURPOSE: The purpose of this hearing is to provide the public with the opportunity to become fully acquainted with the proposed Route 24 Over Canton Street Bridge replacement 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 will replace the superstructures of the two single-span bridges carrying Route 24 over Canton Street using accelerated bridge techniques. Accelerated bridge techniques will limit major impacts to roadway users to two weekend closures. The proposed bridges will match the footprint of the existing bridges and maintain existing clearance. Existing sidewalks and striped shoulders on both sides of Canton Street underneath the bridges will remain. The project proposes new safety barriers and deck drains on the bridge, as well as repairs to the concrete abutments.

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., Acting Chief Engineer, via e-mail to dot.feedback.highway@state.ma.us or via US Mail to Suite 6340, 10 Park Plaza, Boston, MA 02116, Attention: **Major Projects**, Project File No. **612188**. 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/meeting.

This Live Virtual Design Public Hearing or a cancellation announcement will be hosted on the internet at www.mass.gov/massdot-highway-design-public-hearings.

JONATHAN GULLIVER
HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATOR

CARRIE E. LAVALLEE, 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 Lavalee, 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.

TO SAFEGUARD THE PROPERTY OWNER

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.

 Project Limits



Project Location:

The proposed project is located in the Town of Randolph. Its limits include the superstructures of the MA Route 24 bridges over Canton Street. Canton Street provides local connection to homes, schools, and businesses. Route 24 carries regional traffic between Boston and major Southeastern Massachusetts cities such as Brockton, Taunton, Fall River, and New Bedford. It connects to the I-93/ Route 1 interchange to the North and Rhode Island Route 24 to the South.

Purpose:

The purpose of the proposed project is to replace the superstructures of the bridges in order to extend their service life and reduce long-term impacts to the travelling public. The project will also improve the safety, drainage, and load capacity of the bridges.

Existing Conditions:

The existing bridges were constructed in 1957. The concrete abutments are showing signs of deterioration and need to be repaired.

Proposed Project:

The proposed project will replace the superstructures of the bridges carrying Route 24 over Canton Street using accelerated bridge techniques. The proposed bridges will maintain their existing footprint and clearance. Existing sidewalks and striped shoulders on both sides of Canton Street underneath the bridges will remain. The project proposes new safety barriers and deck drains on the bridge, as well as repairs to the concrete abutments.

Right of Way:

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 webinar. Right-of-way plans can be made available to affected property owners upon request.

Maintenance of Traffic During Construction:

The current proposed construction plan entails using accelerated bridge construction (ABC) to replace the superstructures of each bridge over the course of two weekend closures. While one bridge is under construction, all traffic will be moved onto the other bridge which will carry two lanes in each direction. Canton Street below the bridge will experience the same weekend closures as a public safety measure. During these closures, a signed detour along State roadways will be in effect.

Project Schedule:

The project plans on display are at the 25% preliminary design stage. Comments from the public hearing will be incorporated into the final design plans to the maximum extent possible. It is anticipated that the project will be advertised for construction bids in 2022 with substructure

repairs taking place in 2023. Bridge construction will begin in 2024 and is anticipated to be completed later that year.

Project Cost:

The estimated construction cost for the superstructure replacement is approximately \$12.8 million. Funding for this project will be by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and the Federal Highway Administration.

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

RE: Virtual Public Hearing
ROUTE 24 OVER CANTON STREET BRIDGE REPLACEMENT
RANDOLPH
Project File No. 612188
Highway Division

