



VIRTUAL DESIGN PUBLIC HEARING

**April 9, 2026
6:30 PM**

FOR THE PROPOSED

**I-95 NB Improvements
from I-93 to North Avenue
Project No. 609527**

IN THE TOWNS OF READING, STONEHAM AND WAKEFIELD, 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 VIRTUAL DESIGN PUBLIC HEARING
Project File No. 609527

A live Virtual Design Public Hearing will be hosted on the MassDOT website to present the design for the proposed Improvements on I-95 NB Project in Reading, Stoneham and Wakefield, MA.

WHEN: **6:30 PM, Thursday, April 9, 2026**

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 adding a fifth lane on I-95 northbound between I-93 and Route 28 northbound offramp and a fourth lane between Route 28 and North Avenue. Safety improvements include updated signage and striping and wider shoulders. To reduce traffic noise along the project corridor noise barriers are proposed along both I-95NB and I-95SB. Bicycle & pedestrian accommodation cannot be built on interstate highways.

The existing right-of-way is wide and sufficient for this project. If any were to be needed, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts would be 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 7550, 10 Park Plaza, Boston, MA 02116, Attention: Project Management, Project File No. 609527. Statements and exhibits intended for inclusion in the hearing transcript must be emailed or postmarked no later than ten (10) business days (14 calendar days) after the hearing is hosted.

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 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.

This hearing will be hosted, or a cancellation announcement 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 any were needed. 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 LOCUS MAP



Project Descriptions

Purpose & Need

The project is necessary to address existing traffic operations and safety issues for road users along I-95 NB between the I-93/I-95 interchange (Exit 55) in Reading to the I-95/North Avenue interchange (Exit 57) in Wakefield.

Existing Conditions

- Three 12ft lanes on the mainline with one auxiliary lane between ramps.
- Lane drop (from 4 lanes to 3) immediately after the I-93 NB off-ramp which makes it difficult to merge from 4 lanes to 3 lanes
- Deficient (short) weaving lengths with insufficient acceleration and deceleration lengths that do not meet American Association of Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) and MassDOT Project Development and Design Guide (PDDG) standards
- Narrow shoulders which prevent vehicles from safely pulling off the highway

Roadway Improvements

The proposed improvements include roadway widening to extend a fourth lane from the I-93/I-95 interchange (Exit 55) in Reading to the I-95/North Avenue interchange (Exit 57) in Wakefield. The extended fourth lane will become an exit only lane after the Rte 28NB to I-95NB ramp merges onto the mainline. The auxiliary lanes between the I-93NB/I-95NB on ramp and I-95NB/Rte28SB ramp are being extended by restriping and making minor geometric improvements to the ramp curves. These improvements are also being made between the cloverleaf on and off ramps at the Rte 28 interchange.

Drainage Improvements

The project will also upgrade the closed drainage system and will utilize a combination of new low impact development (LID) measures and structural Stormwater Control Measures (SCMs) to comply with MassDEP Stormwater Management Standards (SMS).

Other Improvements

The project includes the construction of noise barriers along both the north and south sides of I-95 to reduce impacts associated with traffic noise from the additional travel lane. Other improvements include milling and overlay of pavement, updated signing and striping and guardrail.

Environmental

Environmental permits are required, including coordination with the Wakefield Conservation Commission, the Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act (MEPA) and National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

Right-of-Way

The State Layout is sufficient for the current design. Thus, at this time we do not anticipate any ROW needs. However, should the need for any fee takings, permanent easements, and/or temporary construction easements arise as the design progresses, the MassDOT ROW Bureau will contact affected property owners.

Please Fold and Tape



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

RE: Virtual Public Hearing
Improvements on I-95 NB
Reading, Stoneham and Wakefield
Project File No. **609527**
Attn: Project Management

