



VIRTUAL DESIGN PUBLIC HEARING

JUNE 10, 2021

FOR THE PROPOSED

SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS AT ROUTE 1, CENTRAL AND GLEN STREETS

Project No. 609392

Project Management

IN THE TOWN OF ROWLEY, MASSACHUSETTS

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

**JONATHAN GULLIVER
HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATOR**

**PATRICIA A. LEAVENWORTH, P.E.
CHIEF ENGINEER**

THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION – HIGHWAY DIVISION
NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING
Project File No. 609392

A Pre-recorded Virtual Design Public Hearing will be published on the MassDOT website below to present the design for the proposed Safety Improvements at Route 1, Central and Glen Streets project in Rowley, MA.

WHEN: **Thursday, June 10, 2021**

PURPOSE: The purpose of this hearing is to provide the public with the opportunity to become fully acquainted with the proposed Safety Improvements at Route 1, Central and Glen Streets 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 installing a new traffic control signal at the intersection of Route 1, Central Street, and Glen Street in Rowley. Left turns from Route 1 will operate with protected-only phasing and “no turn on red” restrictions will be implemented from Central Street and from Glen Street to prevent angle crashes. Improvements will also include pavement markings and signs. Pedestrians will be accommodated with striped crosswalks across all four intersection approaches, an exclusive signal phase, and countdown signal equipment. Sidewalks will be constructed along the south side of Central Street and both sides of Glen Street to the nearest driveways. Bicycle accommodations consisting of six-foot-wide shoulders along Route 1 will be provided and bicycle detection will be provided at all approaches to the traffic signal.

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 Patricia A. Leavenworth, 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. **609392**. 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 (by June 24, 2021).

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 Pre-Recorded Virtual Design Public Hearing or a cancellation announcement will be published on the Internet at www.mass.gov/massdot-highway-design-public-hearings.

JONATHAN GULLIVER
HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATOR

PATRICIA A. LEAVENWORTH, 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,

Patricia A Leavenworth, 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



Safety Improvements at Route 1, Central and Glen Streets **Rowley, Massachusetts**

Project Location

The proposed improvements are at the intersection of Route 1 (Newburyport Turnpike) at Central Street and Glen Street, in Rowley, Massachusetts. On Route 1, the project limit extends approximately 600 feet to the north and south of the intersection. It also extends on Central Street and Glen Street, approximately 100 to 150 feet west and east of the intersection.

Project Purpose

The purpose of the project is to improve the safety of the intersection, reduce congestion, and improve pedestrian accessibility.

Proposed Improvements

The following improvements are proposed:

- Install new traffic control signal
- Lengthen left-turn lanes on Route 1 at the intersection
- Provide protected-only Route 1 left-turn phasing
- Construct ADA compliant pedestrian curb ramps
- Install pedestrian crosswalks across all legs of the intersection
- Provide an exclusive pedestrian signal phase
- Install new sidewalk along the south side of Central Street and both sides of Glen Street to the nearest driveways
- Provide 6-foot wide shoulders to accommodate bicycles
- Relocate utility poles as necessary

Maintenance of Traffic During Construction

During construction, roadways within the project area will remain open to vehicular traffic. Travel lanes will be narrowed with possible lane shifts in order to install the sidewalks and wheelchair ramps. Any lane closures required to install signal equipment or perform roadway work will be done during off-peak times. Every effort will be made to minimize inconvenience to the travelling public and abutting residents during construction. Pedestrian and vehicular access to abutting properties will be maintained throughout construction.

Right of Way Impacts

The MassDOT Right of Way Bureau is responsible for acquiring all necessary rights in private and public lands for the design, construction, and implementation of this project, if required. MassDOT's policy concerning land acquisition will be discussed at this hearing. However, it is

not anticipated that any land acquisitions or temporary or permanent easements will be required for this project as all work will be done within the state highway layout.

Project Construction Cost

The project construction costs will be funded with a combination of moneys from the Federal Highway Administration and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and is currently estimated at approximately \$2.4 million.

Project Status – Project Schedule

The project being presented is at the 25% design stage (Preliminary Design Stage). Comments received during the comment period will be reviewed and considered to maximum extent possible. Design and permitting is anticipated to be complete by the Fall of 2022. Advertisement of the project is dependent on availability of funding through the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) programmed by the Merrimack Valley Planning Commission; however, it could be advertised as early as Winter 2022-2023.

THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
HIGHWAY DIVISION

FEDERAL AID PROJECT

Rowley, MA
Safety Improvements at Route 1, Central and Glen Streets
Project File No. 609392

This sheet is provided for your comments. Your input is solicited and appreciated. You may e-mail comments directly to MassDOTProjectManagement@dot.state.ma.us or you may mail this sheet with any additional comments to:

Patricia A. Leavenworth, P.E., Chief Engineer
MassDOT – Highway Division
10 Park Plaza, Boston, MA 02116-3973
Attn: Project Management

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.

PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT LEGIBLY.

Name: _____ Title: _____

Organization: _____

Address: _____

Please Fold and Tape



Please Place
Appropriate
Postage Here

Patricia A. Leavenworth, P.E.
Chief Engineer
MassDOT – Highway Division
10 Park Plaza
Boston, MA 02116-3973

RE: Virtual Public Hearing
Safety Improvements at Route 1, Central and Glen Streets
ROWLEY
Project File No. 609392
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