



**VIRTUAL DESIGN PUBLIC HEARING**

**SEPTEMBER 30, 2020**

**FOR THE PROPOSED**

**Superstructure Replacement Project; Center Road over Center Brook  
Project No. 608647  
Bridge No. S-06-003  
Roadway Project Management**

**IN THE TOWN OF SAVOY, 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 MEETING**  
**Project File No. 608647**

A Virtual Design Public Hearing will be published on the MassDOT website below to present the design for the proposed Center Road over Center Brook project in Savoy, MA.

WHEN:           Wednesday, September 30, 2020

PURPOSE:    The purpose of this hearing is to provide the public with the opportunity to become fully acquainted with the proposed Center Road over Center Brook 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 rehabilitating the existing bridge carrying Center Road over Center Brook, and related roadway improvements in the vicinity of the bridge. The existing roadway width will be maintained. A temporary bridge crossing located adjacent to the existing bridge will be utilized to accommodate traffic during construction. The temporary crossing will provide a 14' wide travel way with traffic signals on either side to maintain an alternating single lane of travel at a time. Bicycle and pedestrian accommodations are not provided based on existing conditions and applicable design guides.

A secure right-of-way is necessary for this project. Acquisitions in fee and permanent or temporary easements may be required. The Town of Savoy is responsible for acquiring all needed rights in private or public lands. MassDOT's policy concerning land acquisitions will be presented in the hearing.

Written statements and other exhibits regarding the proposed undertaking are to be submitted to Patricia A. Leavenworth, P.E., Chief Engineer, MassDOT, 10 Park Plaza, Boston, MA 02116, Attention: Project Management, Project File No. 608647. Mailed statements and exhibits intended for inclusion in the public hearing transcript must be postmarked no later than ten (10) business days after the hearing is posted to the MassDOT website listed below. Project inquiries may be emailed to [dot.feedback.highway@state.ma.us](mailto:dot.feedback.highway@state.ma.us).

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 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 Virtual Design Public Hearing or a cancellation announcement will be posted on the internet at [www.mass.gov/massdot-highway-design-public-hearings](http://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**

Your Municipality is responsible for securing the right of way for this project. If your property, or a portion of it, must be acquired by the Municipality 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. REASON FOR PROJECT**

The completion of this project will serve local needs. The proposed enhancement will also be in the interest of others in the greater community, and provide for the public good.

### **2. WHO CONTACTS ME?**

Representatives of the municipality have already contacted or will contact you. They will explain the procedures used in acquiring any necessary rights in land.

### **3. WHAT ABOUT DONATIONS? WHAT IS A RIGHT OF ENTRY?**

Town officials will often seek donations, of parcels, where permanent rights are required. This procedure will minimize the acquisition cost for your community.

A Right of Entry is a document that is signed by the owner. It allows the Contractor to perform certain types of work on the owner's land. The work is usually minor in nature and frequently consists of loaming/seeding behind sidewalks, new driveway apron work, grading/sloping, and wetland protection, etc. The rights granted are temporary in nature.

### **4. WHAT IS A FAIR PRICE FOR THE ACQUIRED PARCELS?**

In the event that donations are not considered, or completed, every effort will be made to ensure that an equitable value is awarded. Municipal and/or outside appraisers will complete an appraisal. Consideration is given to the type of rights needed, whether in fee, permanent or temporary easements. The appraisal will be the basis for arriving at a fair price (for damages that result).

### **5. MUST I ACCEPT THE MUNICIPALITY OFFER?**

No, if the owner feels that the offer is not fair the owner may petition the courts. This action does not stop or delay the acquisition. The action must occur within 3 years. The owner(s) may be paid pro tanto (for the time being). The pro tanto payment will not prejudice the court's final decision.

**Project Location Map**  
**Center Road over Center Brook, Savoy**

**MassDOT Project File No. 608647**  
**Bridge No.: S-06-003**



## **PROJECT PURPOSE**

The purpose of this project is to rehabilitate the bridge carrying Center Road over Center Brook, to restore the load carrying capacity of the bridge. The bridge is currently posted for a restricted weight limit and the roadway width at the bridge is reduced to 16 feet due to the condition of the bridge superstructure. Advanced deterioration and corrosion of existing steel beams has reduced the load carrying capacity of the structure and required channelization of traffic through the center of the roadway across the bridge.

## **PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS**

The project will rehabilitate the existing bridge by replacing the deteriorated steel superstructure with a new concrete beam superstructure supported on the existing abutments. The existing abutments will be partially demolished and reconstructed for support of the new superstructure. The new bridge superstructure will consist of concrete beams with a concrete deck, steel bridge railings, safety curb, and a new wearing surface. The roadway width will be 21'-0" curb to curb. The roadway work consists of installation of new guardrail at all four corners of the bridge, full depth pavement reconstruction for improved horizontal and vertical roadway geometry, and construction of a drainage swale.

## **TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT**

A temporary bridge and roadway will be constructed adjacent to the existing bridge to maintain traffic throughout construction. The temporary roadway and bridge will allow for one lane of alternating traffic in each direction which will be controlled by temporary traffic signals at the approaches to the temporary bridge.

## **UTILITIES**

The existing utility poles and overhead wires will remain in their current location, and no service interruptions are anticipated during construction of the new bridge and roadway.

## **ENVIRONMENTAL**

Environmentally sensitive resources in the vicinity of the project include Center Brook, wetland areas outside the project limits, the FEMA floodplain, the Savoy Mountain State Forest (on either side of the bridge) and a Natural Heritage Priority Habitat for the wood turtle. Center Brook is a tributary to the Westfield River which is considered a waterway of the United States, in turn, an Army Corp of Engineers Section 404 permit will be required. A Notice of Intent will be filed to detail work performed at Center Brook.

## **PROPERTY IMPACTS**

This project will require temporary easements for construction of the temporary bridge and associated roadway.

## **PROJECT COST**

The estimated preliminary construction cost for the proposed bridge structure and roadway improvements is \$1.4 million.

## **PROJECT STATUS**

The project is at the 25% design stage. It is anticipated that the final design phase will be completed in spring of 2021 and the project will be advertised for bidding in the fall of 2021 with construction anticipated to begin in spring of 2022.

THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS  
MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
HIGHWAY DIVISION

FEDERAL AID PROJECT

Savoy, MA  
Center Road over Center Brook  
Project File No. 608647

This sheet is provided for your comments. Your input is solicited and appreciated. Please 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: Roadway Project Management

The final date for receipt of written statements and exhibits for inclusion into the official hearing transcript will be ten (10) 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 Oral Presentations  
Bridge Superstructure Replacement – Center Road over Center Brook  
Savoy  
Project File No. 608647  
Roadway Project Management

