



**PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING WEBINAR**

**JULY 29, 2020**

**FOR THE PROPOSED**

**MASKWONICUT STREET OVER MBTA/AMTRAK RAILROAD BRIDGE  
REPLACEMENT**

**Project No. 608079**

**Bridge Nos. S-09-003 (40N)**

**Project Management Section**

**IN THE TOWN OF SHARON, 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 INFORMATIONAL WEBINAR**  
**Project File No. 608079**

A Public Informational Webinar will be published on the MassDOT website to present the design for the proposed **Maskwonicut Street over MBTA/Amtrak Railroad Bridge Replacement** project in **Sharon, MA**.

**WHEN:           Wednesday, July 29, 2020**

**PURPOSE:** The purpose of this meeting webinar is to provide the public with the opportunity to become fully acquainted with the proposed **Maskwonicut Street over MBTA/Amtrak Railroad Bridge Replacement** project. All views and comments submitted in response to the webinar will be reviewed and considered to the maximum extent possible.

**PROPOSAL:** The proposed project consists of constructing a new bridge over the railroad tracks. The new bridge will consist of steel beams and a concrete deck and will have a longer span length with the new abutments constructed behind the existing abutments. The existing bridge abutments and portions of the existing wingwalls will be removed in their entirety. The majority of the existing wingwalls and stone arch on the west approach are to remain. The new bridge will accommodate a wider roadway width and will provide a sidewalk on the north side of the bridge. Roadway work will include pavement, drainage, and traffic safety improvements. Bicycle accommodations consisting of a usable shoulder have been provided in accordance with applicable design guides. The roadway profile will be raised to increase the vertical clearance to the railroad tracks below. The bridge is currently closed and will remain closed until the construction is complete.

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.

Written views received by MassDOT subsequent to the date of this notice and up to five (5) days prior to the date of the webinar, plans and a project handout will be made available on the MassDOT website listed below.

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. **608079**. Mailed statements and exhibits intended for inclusion in the webinar transcript must be postmarked no later than ten (10) business days after the webinar 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 location is accessible to people with disabilities. MassDOT provides reasonable accommodations and/or language assistance free of charge upon request (including but not limited to interpreters in American Sign Language and languages other than English, open or closed captioning for videos, assistive listening devices and alternate material formats, such as audio tapes, Braille and large print), as available. For accommodation or language assistance, please contact MassDOT's Chief Diversity and Civil Rights Officer by phone (857-368-8580), fax (857-368-0602), TTD/TTY (857-368-0603) 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 (10) business days before the webinar.

Meeting webinar cancellation announcements will be posted on the internet at <http://www.massdot.state.ma.us/Highway/>

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.

## **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?**

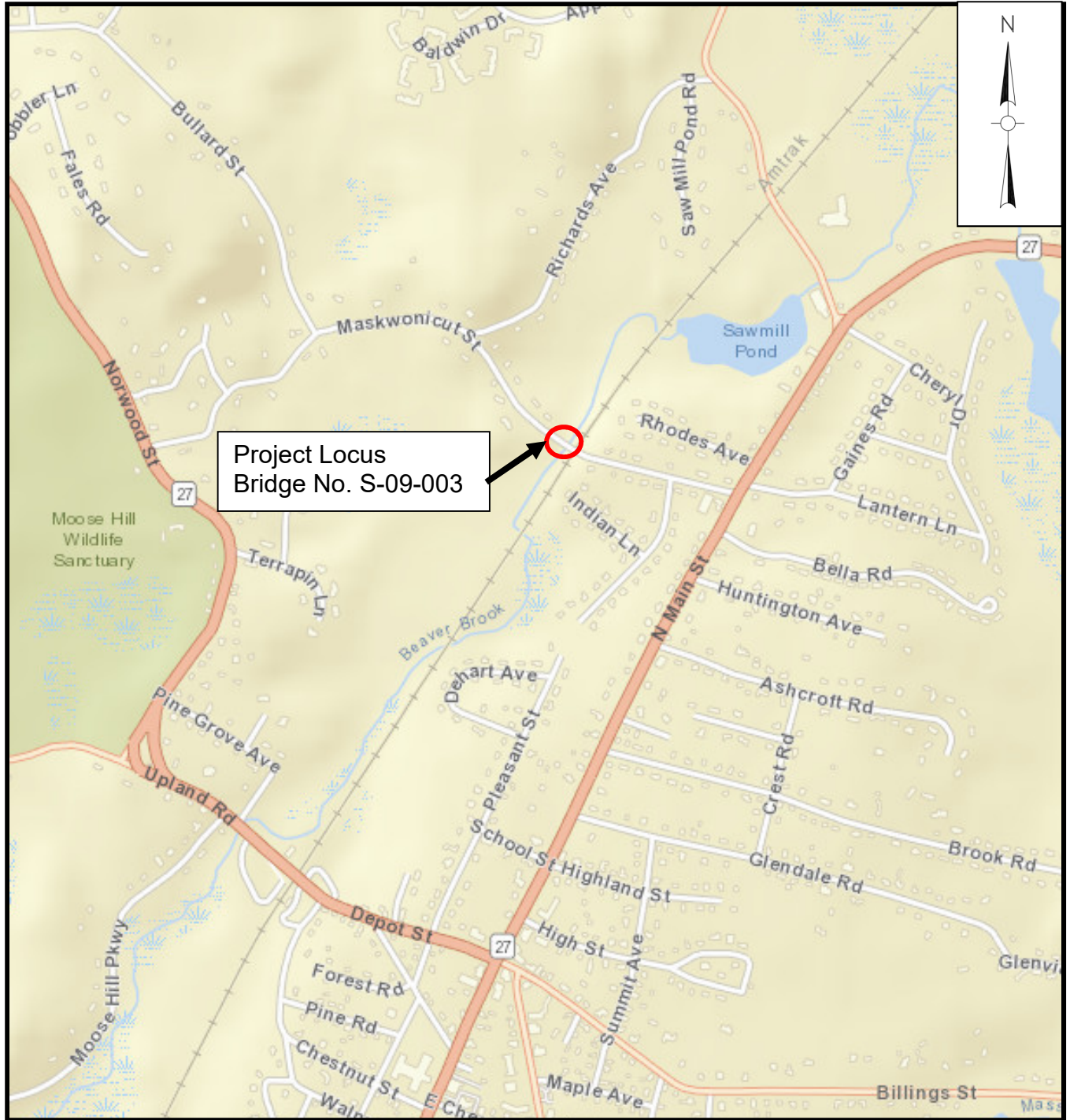
No. If, after the figure established as market value has been offered to the owner, the owner feels he or she is not being offered a fair price, he or she has the right, within three years, to appeal to the courts. Pending a court decision, he or she can be paid on a "pro-tanto" basis (or "for the time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



**Maskwonicut Street over  
MBTA/Amtrak Railroad  
Bridge Replacement**  
MassDOT Project No. 608079

**Project Location Map**  
Not to Scale

**Figure 1**

## **PROJECT PURPOSE**

The purpose of this project is to replace the bridge on Maskwonicut Street over the MBTA/Amtrak railroad tracks to allow traffic to travel from Norwood Street to North Main Street (Route 27). The bridge has been closed to traffic since 2013 due to the previous wood bridge superstructure catching fire and needing to be demolished.

## **PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS**

The project will replace the existing bridge with a longer 54'-6" span bridge on new abutments. The existing abutments will be removed to provide the minimum horizontal clearance required by the railroad. The profile of the roadway will be raised to increase the vertical clearance below the proposed bridge structure for the trains and to accommodate the new superstructure depth. The new bridge superstructure will consist of a concrete deck on steel beams. The bridge railing will be a concrete bridge rail with an electrification barrier fencing on top. The roadway width will be 26'-0" with a 6'-0" sidewalk on the north side of the bridge. The bridge abutments will be constructed of concrete and will have a stone masonry veneer.

The roadway work consists of installation of new guardrail, pavement, sidewalk on the north side, and drainage.

## **TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT**

The bridge is currently closed to traffic and the existing detour will be maintained through construction.

## **UTILITIES**

The project will install a new water main that will be supported by the bridge. The project will also require the temporary relocation of overhead wires to allow for the construction of the new bridge.

## **ENVIRONMENTAL**

Due to the proximity of the wetlands and Beaver Brook, an Army Corp of Engineers Section 404 permit may be required. The existing stone masonry arch, walls, and abutment are eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. Portions of the existing abutments to be removed will be properly documented and the new bridge abutments will have a stone veneer to simulate the aesthetic of the existing stone masonry walls.

## **PROPERTY IMPACTS**

This project will require temporary and permanent easements.

## **PROJECT COST**

The estimated preliminary construction cost for the proposed bridge structure and roadway improvements is \$6.7 million.

## **PROJECT STATUS**

The project is at the 100% design stage. It is anticipated that the final design plans will be completed at the end of the first quarter of 2021 and the project advertised for construction bids in the third quarter of 2021.



THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS  
MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
HIGHWAY DIVISION

FEDERAL AID PROJECT

Sharon, MA  
Maskwonicut Street over MBTA/Amtrak RR Bridge Replacement  
Project File No. 608079

This sheet is provided for your comments. Your input is solicited and appreciated. Please return your sheet, with comments, to a staff member at the meeting, or mail to:

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

The final date for receipt of written statements and exhibits for inclusion into the official hearing transcript will be ten (10) days after the Public Information Meeting.

**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: Public Information Meeting  
MASKWONICUT STREET OVER MBTA/AMTRAK RR BRIDGE REPLACEMENT  
**SHARON**  
Project File No. 608079  
Insert section: Bridge Project Management

