



VIRTUAL DESIGN PUBLIC HEARING

JUNE 30, 2021

FOR THE PROPOSED

**BRIDGE PRESERVATION, S-17-031, I-93 NB AND SB FROM ROUTE 28 TO TEMPLE
STREET**

**Project No. 606528
Bridge No S-17-031
Highway Design**

IN THE CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS

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

**JONATHAN GULLIVER
HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATOR**

**CARRIE E. LAVALLEE P.E.
ACTING CHIEF ENGINEER**

**THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION – HIGHWAY DIVISION
NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING WEBINAR
Project File No. 606528**

A Live Virtual Design Public Hearing will be held to present the design for the proposed SOMERVILLE-BRIDGE PRESERVATION, I-93 NB AND SB FROM ROUTE 28 TO TEMPLE STREET project.

WHEN Wednesday, June 30, 2021, 6:00 PM-8:00 PM

WHERE: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_9vEKLLfNQI6ZMDnoTPnHrA

PURPOSE: The purpose of this hearing webinar is to provide the public with the opportunity to become fully acquainted with the proposed SOMERVILLE- BRIDGE PRESERVATION, I-93 NB AND SB FROM ROUTE 28 TO TEMPLE STREET project. All views and comments submitted in response to the webinar will be reviewed and considered to the maximum extent possible.

PROPOSAL: The purpose of the project is to insure the operational use and safety of the I-93 Viaduct structure. The proposed project consists of cleaning, repairing and painting of several areas of structural steel superstructure; repairing deteriorated area of concrete substructure; removal of salt piles under the viaduct to allow the repair of the substructure in this area; replacing the failing bridge deck joints; and implementation of associated traffic management which includes temporary detours and lane closures.

A secure right-of-way is not necessary for this project.

Project inquiries, written statements and other exhibits regarding the proposed undertaking may be submitted to Carrie E. Lavallee, 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. 606528. 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.

This Virtual Design Public Hearing or a cancellation announcement will be posted 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 E. Lavallee, 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.

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.

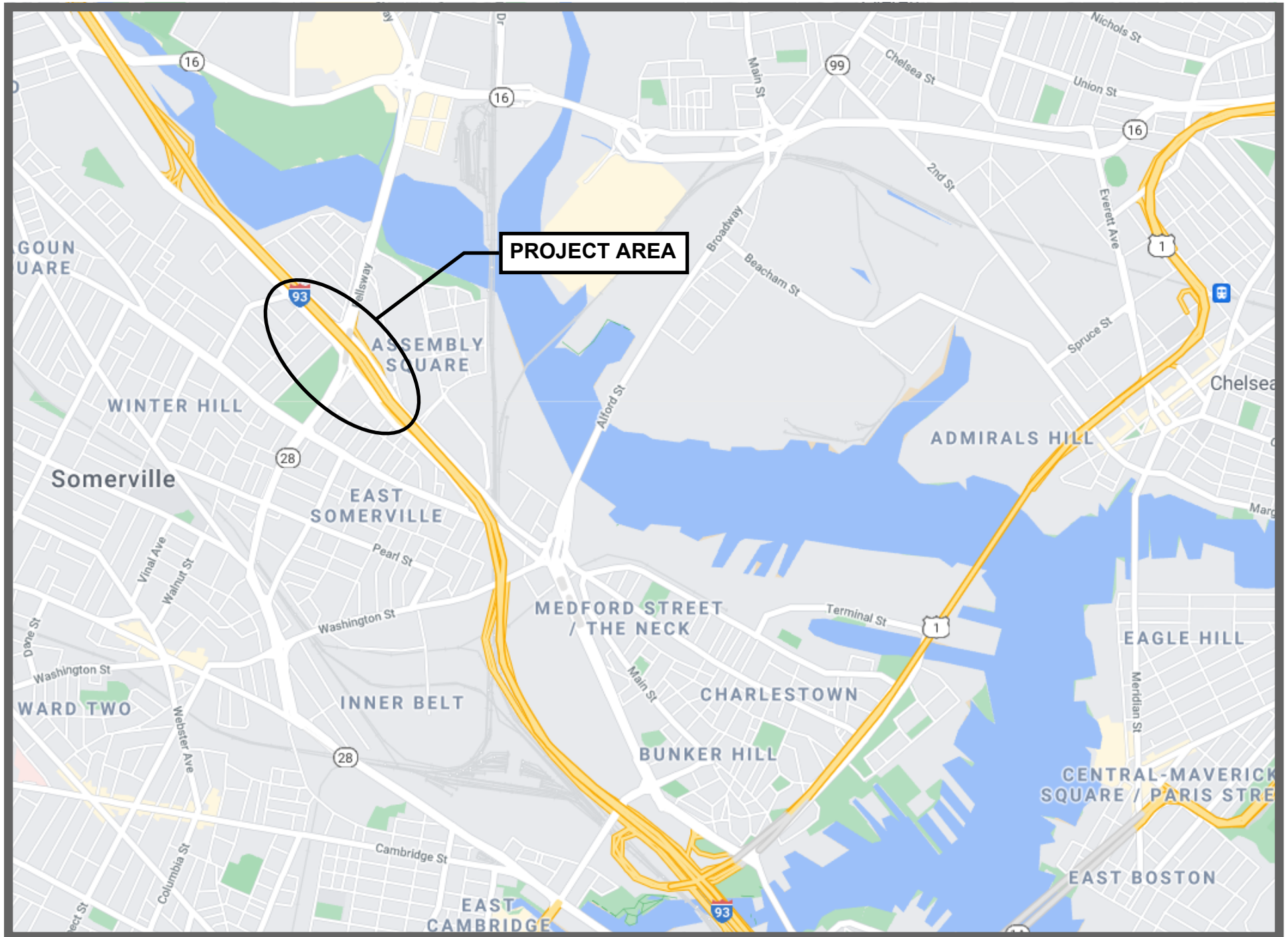
4. WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO MY HOUSE?

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.

BRIDGE PRESERVATION, S-17-031, I-93 NB AND SB FROM ROUTE 28 TO TEMPLE STREET



LOCUS MAP

Bridge S-17-031, also known as the Somerville Viaduct, is an elevated structure that carries I-93 from Exit 21 (Old Exit 29) to Temple Street. The bridge also includes three ramp structures, the northbound off ramp, the northbound on ramp, and the southbound off ramp. This bridge has been in service for more than 50 years and is in need of repairs to continue its safe operation.

This portion of I-93 was constructed in the early 1970's as part of the Northern Expressway. I-93 is a major commuter link into Boston from communities north of the city and carries approximately 140,000 vehicles per day. Within the project limits I-93 provides access to Route 28 (Fellsway to the north of I-93 and McGrath Highway to the south) as well as Mystic Avenue, a north-south arterial running generally parallel to I-93.

The work proposed as part of the current project includes replacing the existing bridge joints on I-93; repairing the deterioration and deficiencies in the steel superstructure; cleaning and painting the repair areas; and repairing the spalled and deteriorated concrete piers. The work will also include painting the steel superstructure over pedestrian paths under the viaduct at Kensington Path and Fellsway. The existing lighting and pavement directly under the viaduct along Kensington Path will also be improved.

The bridge joint replacement on I-93 will be accomplished through overnight lane closures. Overnight ramp closures and detours for the ramps will also be necessary to perform the joint replacements. The repair work on the steel and concrete elements below the viaduct will require overnight and weekend closures of sections of Mystic Ave and Fellsway to provide access to the repair areas. The closures on these streets will be accompanied by alternate detours during the periods of closure.

THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
HIGHWAY DIVISION

FEDERAL AID PROJECT

SOMERVILLE, MA
BRIDGE PRESERVATION, I-93 NB AND SB FROM ROUTE 28 TO TEMPLE STREET
Project File No. 606528

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

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

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

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

RE: Virtual Public Hearing
BRIDGE PRESERVATION, S-17-031, I-93 NB AND SB FROM ROUTE 28 TO
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SOMERVILLE
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