



VIRTUAL DESIGN PUBLIC HEARING

February 17, 2022

6:30PM to 7:30PM

FOR THE PROPOSED

Roadway Rehabilitation of Meadow Road

Project No. 608873

Project Management

IN THE TOWN OF SPENCER, 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
Project File No. 608873

A Live Virtual Design Public Hearing will be hosted on the MassDOT website below to present the design for the proposed Roadway Rehabilitation of Meadow Road project in **Spencer, MA**.

WHEN: 6:30PM, Thursday, February 17, 2022

PURPOSE: The purpose of this hearing is to provide the public with the opportunity to become fully acquainted with the proposed Roadway Rehabilitation of Meadow Road project. All views and comments submitted in response to the hearing will be reviewed and considered to the maximum extent possible.

PROPOSAL: The project consists of reconstruction of approximately 1.54-miles of Meadow Road, widening for bike accommodation, construction of new pedestrian sidewalks, transit accommodations, traffic safety, and drainage and stormwater quality improvements. Pedestrian and bicycle accommodations consisting of a 10-foot shared use foot path have been provided in accordance with 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 is responsible for acquiring all needed rights in private or public lands. The Town'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. Lavallee, P.E., Acting 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. 608873**. Statements and exhibits intended for inclusion in the public hearing transcript must be emailed or postmarked no later than ten (10) business days (14 calendar days) after the hearing is hosted on 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 Live Virtual Design Public Hearing or a cancellation announcement will be hosted 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. Lavalley, 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

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.

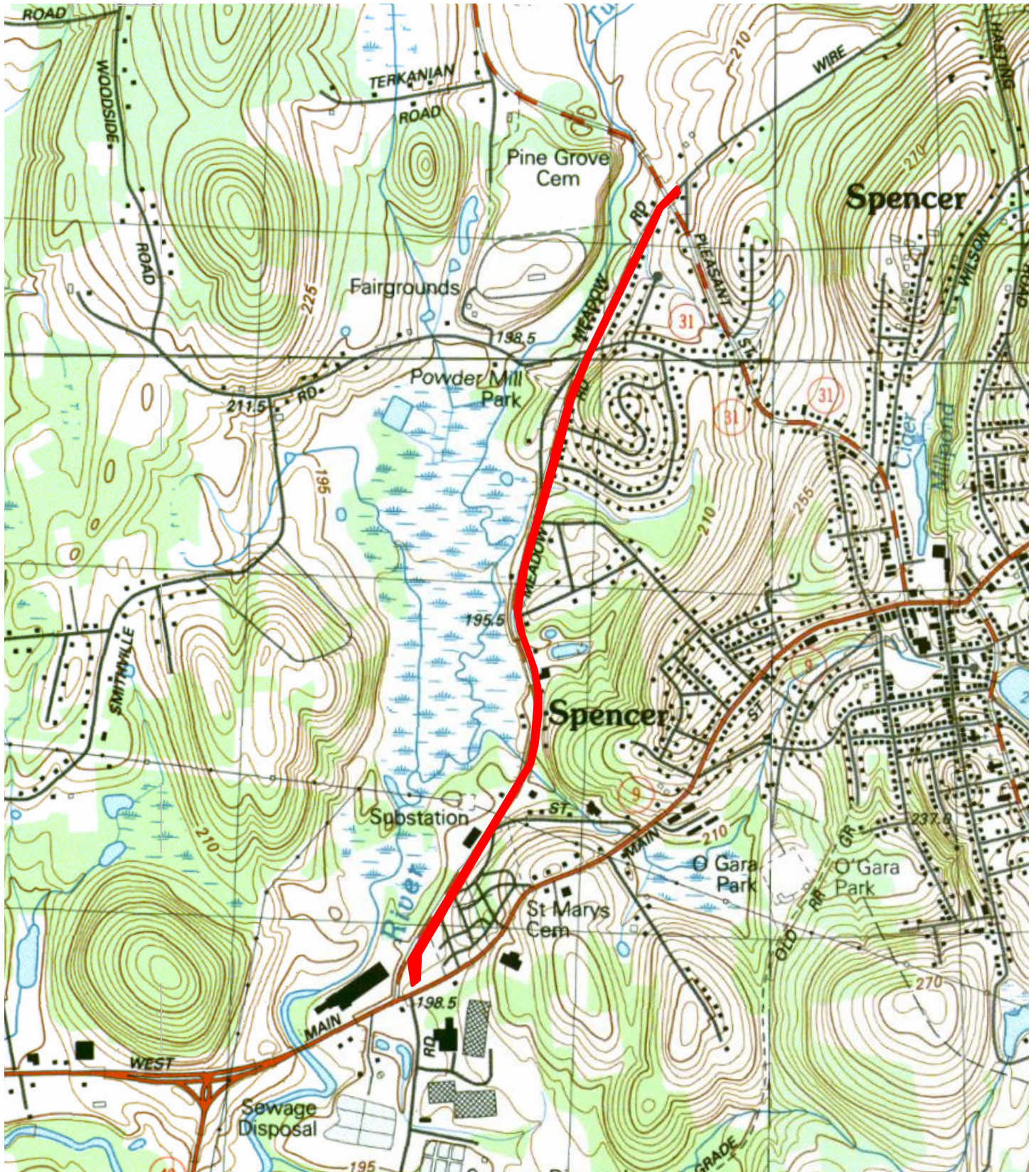
4. WHAT IS A FAIR PRICE FOR THE ACQUIRED PARCELS?

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.

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 Project Limits

MassDOT Project #608873
Roadway Rehabilitation of Meadow Road

Spencer, MA

Figure 1: USGS Map
EECC
June 2020
Source: MassGIS

Project Description

The Massachusetts Department of Transportation – Highway Division (MassDOT) is proposing the reconstruction of approximately 1.54 miles of Meadow Road between West Main Street (Route 9) and Pleasant Street (Route 31) in Spencer, MA. The project includes a shared-use path that will run parallel to Meadow Road through the project area. Intersection improvements are proposed at the intersections of Old Main Street at Meadow Road and Smithville Road at Meadow Road, to reduce skew and improve intersection sight distance. Minor modifications to geometry are proposed at the other side streets within the project limits.

Proposed Improvements

The project includes pavement rehabilitation, roadway widening, geometry and safety improvements, utility relocations, drainage and water quality improvements, as well as pedestrian and bicycle accommodations. It includes a 10 foot shared-use path that runs the full length of the project. Other enhancements guardrail installation, granite curb, hot mix asphalt berm and landscaping features.

Existing Conditions

The proposed project is located entirely within the Town of Spencer, MA. The existing roadway varies in width and does not have dedicated, pedestrian or bicycle accommodations. Proposed widening of Meadow Road and the shared use path are being constructed within the existing Town Right of Way. Meadow Road is functionally classified as an Urban Minor Arterial.

Right of Way Impacts

There are few properties that require permanent acquisitions or easements by the Town of Spencer for utility pole relocation, hydrant relocation, guardrail installation and drainage outfalls. Temporary constructions easements will be required to accommodate grading at driveways and along the proposed shared-use path. MassDOT's policy regarding land acquisitions will be discussed at this hearing.

Maintenance of Traffic During Construction

The intent of this project is that all streets will remain open to through traffic during construction; however, short-duration detours may be required to facilitate drainage improvements and pavement reconstruction. Driveway access for abutting properties shall be maintained at all times during construction.

Project Status – Project Schedule

The project has been programmed in the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program for Federal Fiscal Year 2023. The Plans on display this evening are at the 25% Design Stage (Preliminary Design Stage). Comments from this evening will be reviewed and considered to the maximum extent possible.

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 \$9.5 million.

THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
HIGHWAY DIVISION

FEDERAL AID PROJECT

Spencer, MA
Roadway Rehabilitation of Meadow Road
Project File No. 608873

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:

Carrie E. Lavalley, P.E., Acting 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

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

RE: Virtual Public Hearing
ROADWAY REHABILITATION OF MEADOW ROAD PROJECT
TOWN OF SPENCER
Project File No. 608873
Attn: Project Management

