



LIVE VIRTUAL DESIGN PUBLIC HEARING

September 15, 2022

FOR THE PROPOSED

**Bridge Replacement Project, North Spencer Road (Route 31) over Seven Mile River
Project No. 609179
Bridge No. S-23-012
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.
CHIEF ENGINEER**

**THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION – HIGHWAY DIVISION
NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING MEETING
Project File No. 609179**

A Live Virtual Design Public Hearing will be published on the MassDOT website below to present the design for the proposed Bridge Replacement project on North Spencer Road in Spencer, MA.

WHEN: Thursday, September 15th, 2022, 6:30 PM –8:30 PM

PURPOSE: The purpose of this hearing is to provide the public with the opportunity to become fully acquainted with the proposed bridge replacement project on North Spencer Road in the Town of Spencer. 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 replacing the existing deteriorating bridge structure with a new single span bridge structure and will be constructed using accelerated construction methods to reduce traffic disruptions. To maintain vehicle traffic during construction, staged construction will be implemented with a single travel lane using controlled alternating one-way traffic patterns with traffic lights. The intersection of North Spencer Road and Hastings Road at the bridge's north approach will be reconstructed to improve the line of site over the proposed bridge rail. The limit of work is approximately 150 feet from each abutment and 150 feet down Hastings Road from the intersection of North Spencer Road. Bicycle accommodations consisting of a usable shoulder 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 of Spencer 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 Carrie E. Lavallee, P.E., Chief Engineer, via e-mail to DOTHighwayDesign@dot.state.ma.us or via US Mail to Suite 7360, 10 Park Plaza, Boston, MA 02116, Attention: Project Management Section, Project File No. 609179. 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 and prior to the hearing, 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 published on the internet at www.mass.gov/massdot-highway-design-public-hearings.

JONATHAN GULLIVER
HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATOR

CARRIE E. LAVALLEE, 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.

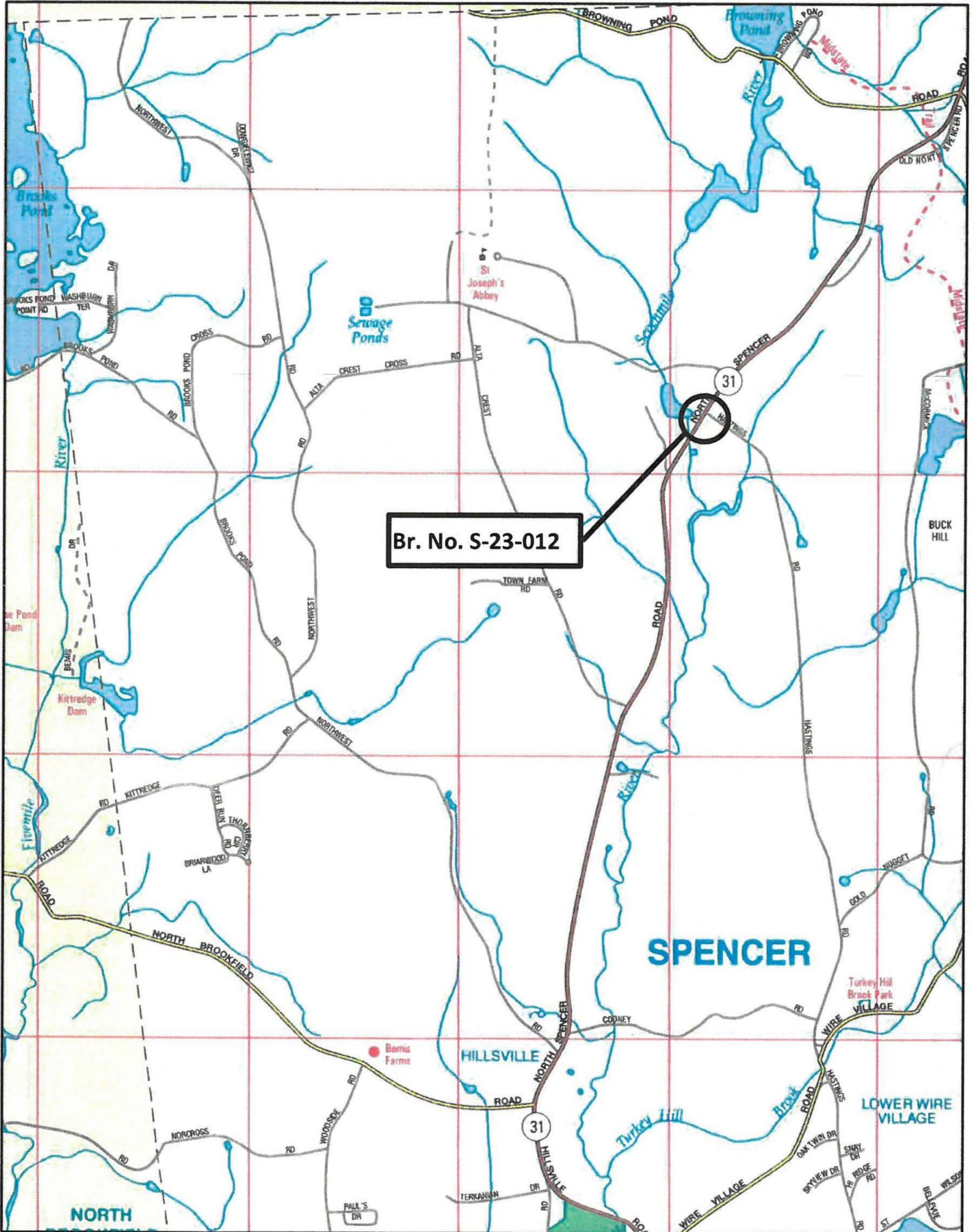
4. WHAT IS A FAIR PRICE FOR THE ACQUIRED PARCELS?

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.

LOCUS MAP



Spencer, MA
North Spencer Road (Route 31) over Seven Mile River
Bridge No. S-23-012

Scope

The Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) has assigned Bayside Engineering, Inc. as the design consultant for the planned bridge replacement of Bridge No. S-23-012, North Spencer Road (Route 31) over Seven Mile River (MassDOT Project File No. 609179). This simple span structure will be replaced due to its deteriorated condition. The proposed structure is to be constructed on the same alignment and will support a 37'-1" wide roadway. The structure will consist of a precast concrete 3-sided Culvert supported on a precast concrete foundation. A new roadway surface and S3-TL4 bridge rails will be installed. To maintain vehicle traffic during construction, staged construction will be implemented with a single travel lane using controlled alternating one-way traffic patterns with traffic lights. The limit of work is approximately 150 feet on each side of bridge and 150 feet down Hastings Road from the intersection of North Spencer Road.

Right of Way

All work will be conducted within the existing Worcester County Layout, except for two temporary easements.

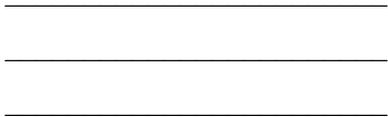
Traffic Detour

A detour will be set-up for Hastings Road closure during Stage II construction only. There will be no detour during Stage I construction.

Project Status

The plans are at the 25% Highway Design/Bridge Sketch Plan stage (Preliminary Design Stage). The next step is to evaluate comments received from this Design Public Hearing and progress project design to final Plans, Specifications and Estimate (PS&E). Subsequently, it is anticipated that the project will be advertised for construction in March 2024 with construction to start in the fall of 2024. The construction duration is estimated to be one construction season.

Please Fold and Tape



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

RE: Virtual Public Hearing
North Spencer Road (Route 31) over Seven Mile River
TOWN OF SPENCER
Project File No. 609179
Attn: Project Management

