



VIRTUAL DESIGN PUBLIC HEARING

August 23, 2022

FOR THE PROPOSED

**STORMWATER DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENTS AT WACHUSETT RESERVOIR ON
ROUTE 110 (METROPOLITAN ROAD)**

**Project No. 610659
Project Management**

IN THE STERLING, MASSACHUSETTS

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

**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,

Carrie Lavalee, 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

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.

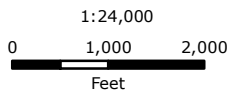


Legend

 Project Extent



Based on USGS Topographic Map for Clinton, MA Revised 1988. Contour Equals 3-Meters. [Site Quad] Sterling, MA Revised 1988. Contour Equals 3-Meters. Circles indicate 500-foot and half-mile radii



**FIGURE 1
SITE LOCATION**

Route 110
Storm Drain Improvements
Sterling, Massachusetts

May 2020

Summary

The Massachusetts Department of Transportation Highway Division (MassDOT) and the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) propose the reconstruction of Route 110 – Metropolitan Road in Sterling Massachusetts. The purpose of the project is to eliminate direct stormwater discharges to the Wachusett Reservoir, a terminal drinking water supply. The project will reconstruct and superelevate approximately 1,650 feet of the road, install berm along the southern edge of pavement (nearest the Reservoir), and install a drainage system to capture and discharge storm water on the north side of Route 110 – Metropolitan Road.

Objective

Eliminate direct stormwater discharges to the Wachusett Reservoir, a terminal drinking water supply, by:

- Reconstructing the existing roadway with superelevation and berms
- Removing drainage pipes crossing beneath the roadway to Wachusett Reservoir
- Installing catch basins and drainage system to capture runoff
- Installing a diversion pipe to allow stormwater to flow east and away from the Wachusett Reservoir

Proposed Activity

The proposed work involves installation of new drainage structures and culverts within and along Route 110, removal of existing cross culverts discharging to the Wachusett Reservoir, and the full-depth reclamation of the roadway. The roadway will be regraded to pitch flow away from the reservoir and into the new drainage system. Excavation will be required near the entrance to the North Dike Trail to lower an existing vertical curve and improve driver sight distance.

Utilities

Only storm drain utilities exist in the project limits. An existing 30-inch reinforced concrete pipe will be abandoned, and the headwall structures will be removed. To improve treatment capabilities, the new storm drain will have several "Best Management Practices" including catch basins with deep sumps and hoods.

Roadway

Approximately 1,650 feet of the roadway will be reclaimed and regraded to superelevate the road away from Wachusett Reservoir. Berm will be installed along the reconstructed roadway. Guardrail will be retained along reconstructed area and added to additional areas where warranted. Existing gravel pull-offs will remain.

THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
HIGHWAY DIVISION

FEDERAL AID PROJECT

Sterling, MA

Stormwater Drainage Improvements at Wachusett Reservoir on Route 110 (Metropolitan Road)
Project File No. 610659

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., 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



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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
STORMWATER DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENTS AT WACHUSETT RESERVOIR ON
ROUTE 110 (METROPOLITAN ROAD)
STERLING
Project File No. 610659
Attn: Project Management

