



DESIGN PUBLIC HEARING

OCTOBER 9, 2019

AT

**POLICE STATION CONFERENCE ROOM
26 ROSE STREET**

STOUGHTON, MASSACHUSETTS

6:30 PM

FOR THE PROPOSED

**INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS AND RELATED WORK AT CENTRAL STREET,
TOSCA DRIVE AND CANTON STREET
Project No. 608279
Roadway Project Management**

IN THE TOWN OF STOUGHTON, 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 HEARING**

Project File No. 608279

A Design Public Hearing will be held by MassDOT to discuss the proposed Intersection Improvements and Related Work at Central Street, Tosca Drive and Canton Street project in Stoughton, MA.

WHERE: Police Station Conference Room
26 Rose Street
Stoughton, MA 02072

WHEN: **Wednesday, October 9, 2019 @ 6:30 PM**

PURPOSE: The purpose of this hearing is to provide the public with the opportunity to become fully acquainted with the proposed Central Street/Tosca Drive/Canton Street Intersection Improvements project. All views and comments made at the hearing will be reviewed and considered to the maximum extent possible.

PROPOSAL: The proposed project consists of reconstruction of the Route 27 (Central Street & Canton Street)/Central Street/ Tosca Drive Intersection in order to improve traffic safety for all roadway users and traffic operations. The proposed work includes roadway geometric improvements, new traffic signals, 4.5- to 5-foot wide sidewalks with ADA-compatible ramps, new pavement, pavement markings and signage. Bicycle accommodations consisting of a 2- to 5-foot wide shoulder and shared lane marking have been provided.

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. MassDOT's policy concerning land acquisitions will be discussed at this hearing.

Written views received by MassDOT subsequent to the date of this notice and up to five (5) days prior to the date of the hearing shall be displayed for public inspection and copying at the time and date listed above. Plans will be on display one-half hour before the hearing begins, with an engineer in attendance to answer questions regarding this project. A project handout will be made available on the MassDOT website listed below.

Written statements and other exhibits in place of, or in addition to, oral statements made at the Public Hearing regarding the proposed undertaking are to be submitted to Patricia A. Leavenworth, P.E., Chief Engineer, MassDOT, 10 Park Plaza, Boston, MA 02116, Attention: Roadway Project Management, Project File No. 608279. Such submissions will also be accepted at the hearing. Mailed statements and exhibits intended for inclusion in the public hearing transcript must be postmarked no later than ten (10) business days after this Public Hearing. Project inquiries may be emailed to 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). 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 meeting.

In case of inclement weather, hearing 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 regarding 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 ISSUES

A secure right of way is necessary for this project. Temporary construction easements may be required. Your municipality is responsible for acquiring all necessary rights in private or public lands. If your property is affected, your rights are fully protected under law.

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.

Project Location Map



Project Location

The Town of Stoughton in conjunction with the Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) Highway Division is proposing intersection improvements at the intersection of Route 27 (Central Street & Canton Street)/Central Street/ Tosca Drive to provide improved traffic safety for all roadway users and traffic operations.

The approximate limits as part of this project extend approximately 500 feet west of Tosca Drive, approximately 300 feet along Tosca Drive north of Central Street, approximately 600 feet east of Tosca Drive (to the end of the existing park/triangle island), and approximately 400 feet south of Central Street. The total length of this project is approximately 2,200 feet.

Purpose

The purpose of the project is to improve vehicular safety and capacity as well as pedestrian and bicycle accessibility throughout the corridors. A fully actuated traffic signal is proposed at the intersection to improve operations, safety, and facilitate turning movements of heavy vehicles. As part of the project, geometric improvements are proposed at the intersections of Central Street with Canton Street and with Tosca Drive, and pedestrian and bicycle accommodations are proposed to enhance pedestrian and bicycle safety and accessibility.

Existing Conditions

Within the project area, Route 27, Central Street, and Tosca Drive are all under the jurisdiction of the Town of Stoughton. Route 27 (Central Street & Canton Street) is a two-lane road that is aligned in an overall northwest-southeast direction which provides connection between the Town of Stoughton to the east and the Town of Sharon to the west. Central Street, east of Tosca Drive, is a two-lane roadway that runs in an east-west direction and provides a connection between Route 27 to the west and Washington Street (Route 138) to the east. Tosca Drive is a two-lane roadway with no outlet that runs in a north-south direction from Route 27 to the south. Frederick H. Pye Memorial Park is located east of the intersection, within the project limits. The intersection is not aligned properly, resulting in limited sight lines and a crash rate higher than the statewide and district-wide average for unsignalized intersections. There are no pedestrian crossings provided at the intersection to connect the sidewalk along the southerly side of Route 27 (Central Street & Canton Street) with the sidewalk on the northerly side of Central Street. The sidewalk on Tosca Drive is not ADA-compliant and is regularly used as roadside parking space. There are no advance warnings signs or bicycle accommodations provided throughout the project area.

Proposed Project

The intersection will be realigned to become two, T-type signalized intersections operating under one controller to improve operations, safety, and to facilitate turning movements of heavy vehicles. Limited widening along the intersection approaches will be needed. Concrete sidewalks will be constructed throughout the project limits. Crosswalks will be provided at each leg of the intersection with ADA-compliant ramps and MUTCD-compliant markings and signage to improve the safety of pedestrians. Share-the-road pavement markings (Sharrows) and

appropriate bicycle warning signage will be implemented throughout the project limits. A shared-use path is proposed from the Central Street intersection with Canton Street, along its southern side, extending through the park to the project's eastern limit, where it meets the proposed shared-use path of the abutting West Elementary School improvement project.

Right of Way

MassDOT's policy concerning land acquisitions will be discussed at this hearing. The Town is responsible for securing all needed rights to perform the related roadway work. Permanent Right of Way Takings will be required for this project to allow for installation of traffic signal equipment, proposed sidewalks and drainage improvements. Permanent Utility Easements will be required to allow for relocation of utility poles and guy wires. Temporary Construction Easements will be required for this project to allow for grading and construction of driveways.

Maintenance of Traffic During Construction

Route 27 is a critical link between the Town of Stoughton and the Town of Sharon. Thus, traffic control plans that involve detouring traffic away from the intersection have not been considered. Vehicular traffic flow will be maintained, and bicycle access will be provided during construction. We anticipate that 10- to 11-foot travel lanes will remain open during the majority of roadway widening and sidewalk construction. However, one-lane of traffic with bi-directional traffic flow may be needed at times.

Project Schedule

The project is currently at the 25% Design Stage. The project timeline as currently anticipated indicates advertisement for construction in late 2021/early 2022, with construction starting in spring/summer 2022 and estimated to last one year.

Project Cost

The proposed project is estimated to cost approximately \$3.1 million and funded through the 2022 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for the Old Colony Metropolitan Planning Organization, with a combination of monies from the Federal Highway Administration and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
HIGHWAY DIVISION

FEDERAL AID PROJECT

Stoughton, MA
Intersection Improvements and Related Work at Central Street, Tosca Drive and Canton Street
Project File No. 608279

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: Roadway Project Management

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 Hearing.

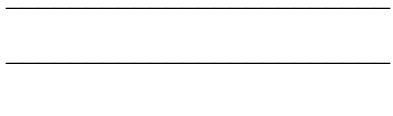
PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT LEGIBLY.

Name: _____ Title: _____

Organization: _____

Address: _____

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

RE: Public Hearing
Intersection Improvements and Related Work at Central St, Tosca Dr. and Canton S.
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