



DESIGN PUBLIC HEARING WEBINAR

June 17, 2020

FOR THE PROPOSED

**Improvements at Richard L. Wilkins Elementary School (SRTS)
MassDOT Project No. 608829**

Roadway Project Management Section

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 WEBINAR**

Project File No. 608829

A Design Public Hearing Webinar will be published on the MassDOT website to present the design for the proposed Improvements at Richard L. Wilkins Elementary School (former West School) in connection with the safe route to school (SRTS) project in the Town of Stoughton, MA.

WHEN: Wednesday, June 17, 2020

PURPOSE: The purpose of this hearing webinar is to provide the public with the opportunity to become fully acquainted with the proposed Improvements on Central Street section within the vicinity of the Richard L. Wilkins Elementary School. All views and comments submitted in response to the webinar will be reviewed and considered to the maximum extent possible.

PROPOSAL: The proposed project consists of constructing Shared Use Path along the southerly side of Central Street; from Pratts Court to Pearl Street. Other improvements include constructing ADA compliant wheelchair ramps, new roadway pavement, new markings and signings, rectangular new crosswalks rapid flashing beacons (RRFB), and new school zone flashing warning beacons. The improvements also include constructing an off-road pick-up/drop off area in front of the school. The shared use accommodations consist of a 10.5 feet wide Shared Use Path along the southerly side of Central Street.

A secured right-of-way will be required for this project. Acquisitions of properties in fee and securing permanent or temporary easements may be required. The **Town of Stoughton** is responsible for acquiring all needed rights in private and public lands. MassDOT's policy concerning land acquisitions will be presented during the webinar.

Written comments or views may be received by MassDOT subsequent to the date of this notice and up to five (5) days prior to the date of the webinar, plans and a project handout will be made available on the MassDOT website listed below.

Written statements and other exhibits 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. **608829**. Mailed statements and exhibits intended for inclusion in the public hearing webinar transcript must be postmarked no later than ten (10) business days after the webinar is posted to the MassDOT website listed below. 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 webinar.

Hearing webinar 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 WEBINAR?

WHY A PUBLIC HEARING WEBINAR?

During the COVID-19 pandemic the Commonwealth of Massachusetts will utilize technologies as an assured virtual method for furnishing to the public information concerning the State and municipal highways and roadways 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 State and local jurisdiction officials of roadways and highways of the necessity for making decisions in roadway and 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 and comments 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. The public also encouraged to express views and positions whether for or against any part or the entirety of a proposal. It will be helpful to MassDOT if expressed views are accompanied by brief explanation of such views.

RIGHT OF WAY ISSUES

A secured 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 the 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 provides for the public good.

2. WHO CONTACTS ME?

Representatives of the municipality may have already contacted you or will be contacting you. They will explain the process and 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 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.

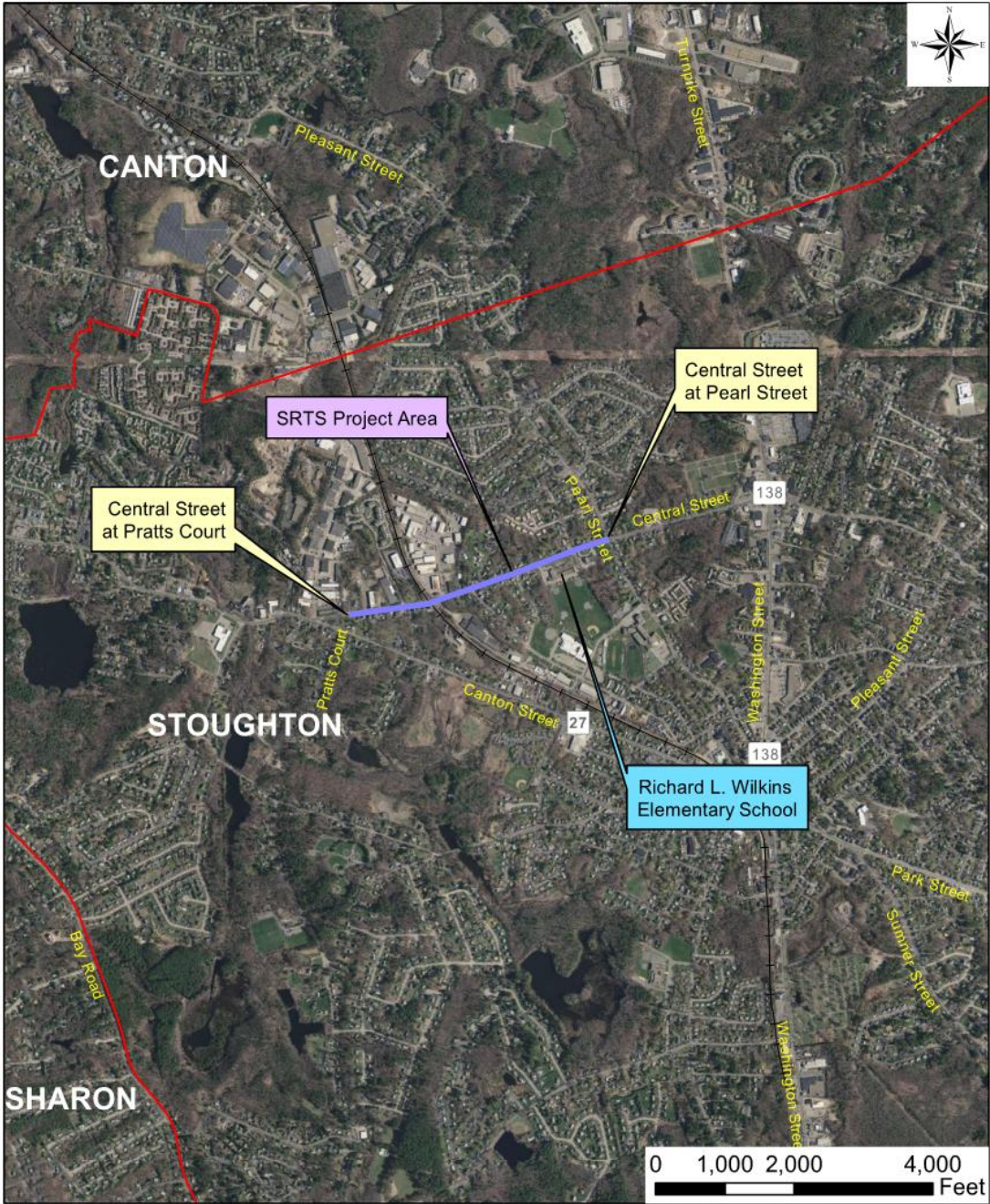


Figure 1 – Locus Map
 Richard L. Wilkins Elementary School (SRTS)
 Stoughton, MA

Data Source: MassGIS
 Nitsch Project #9720.21



Improvements at Richard L. Wilkins Elementary School (SRTS) Stoughton, MA

PROJECT LOCATION

The project consists of the section of Central Street; between Pearl Street and east of Pratts CT extension at Central Street. The Locus Map shows the project location and project limits.

PROJECT PURPOSE

Safe Route to School is a federally funded program intended to encourage to provide a safe infrastructure and encourage students and their parents to walk and bike to school. The purpose of this project is to improve/provide infrastructures such as sidewalks, pedestrian crossing, signals, signage, and bicycle accommodation that would make walking and bicycling safer and attractive modes for students and other public traveling to and from Wilkins Elementary School.

PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS

The proposed project includes the construction of a Shared Use Path along the southerly side of Central Street, ADA compliant wheelchair ramps, new pavement, new pavement markings and signs, rectangular rapid flashing beacons, and new school zone flashing warning beacons. The proposed improvements include the following:

- Mill and overlay Central Street pavement from Pratts Court to Pearl Street
- Installation of a Shared-use Path along the southerly side of Central Street from Pratts Court to Pearl Street
- Construction of Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) / Architectural Access Board (AAB) compliant accessible wheelchair ramps within project limits
- Construct New / Reconstruct existing sidewalks
- Construct off-road Pick-up / Drop-off Area (22 spaces) in front of School
- Construct accessible ramp connecting Central Street and School Entrance
- Install Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacons (RRFB)
- Install new School Zone Flashing Warning Beacons
- Install new MUTCD compliant pavement markings and traffic signage
- Install new Granite Curbs along the south side of Central Street
- Install new drainage structure and modify existing drainage structures within the project limits

TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT

During typical construction operations, all roadways in the project area will remain open to vehicular traffic. Occasional short traffic disruptions and travel lane/shoulder closures may occur, but every effort will be made to minimize inconvenience to the travelling public and abutting residents and businesses during construction. Pedestrian and vehicular access to abutting properties will be maintained throughout construction.

RIGHT OF WAY IMPACTS

Temporary construction easements will be required for grading impacts to lawns, driveways, and walkways, and to restore impacts to adjacent properties. Permanent easements will be required for utility poles relocation, guy wires for utility poles, and overhead utility wires. The permanent easements will also be required for relocating existing mast arm and signal post to the back of the sidewalk, guardrail installation, sidewalk, pedestrian ramp construction, and construction of off-road pick-up / drop-off area in front of the school. The Town of Stoughton will be responsible for securing all necessary easements. MassDOT's policy concerning land acquisition will be discussed at this hearing.

PROJECT COST

The current estimate of the total construction cost of this project is approximately \$3.2 Million

PROJECT SCHEDULE

The design plans presented this evening are at the 25% / 75% design level and are not ready for construction yet. Design, permitting, and right of way acquisition are anticipated to be complete by September 2021. Construction is anticipated to begin in the Fall of 2021.

THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
HIGHWAY DIVISION

FEDERAL AID PROJECT

Stoughton, MA
Improvements at Richard L. Wilkins Elementary School (SRTS)
Project File No. 608829

This sheet is provided for your comments. Your input is solicited and appreciated. Please mail this sheet with any additional comments 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 Webinar.

PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT LEGIBLY.

Name: _____ Title: _____

Organization: _____

Address: _____

Please Fold and Tape



Please Place
Appropriate
Postage Here

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

RE: Public Hearing Webinar
Improvements at Richard L. Wilkins Elementary School (SRTS)
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