



DESIGN PUBLIC HEARING

JUNE 16, 2026

FOR THE PROPOSED

**STURBRIDGE – ROUNDABOUT CONSTRUCTION AT THE
INTERSECTION OF ROUTE 20 AND ROUTE 131**

**Project No. 611933
Project Management**

IN THE TOWN OF STURBRIDGE, 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 DESIGN PUBLIC HEARING**

Project Description: Sturbridge – Roundabout Construction at the Intersection of Rte 20 and Rte 131
Project File No. 611933

A Design Public Hearing will be held to present the design for the proposed project in Sturbridge, MA.

WHERE: Sturbridge Town Hall, Veterans Memorial Hall
308 Main St,
Sturbridge, MA 01566

WHEN: Tuesday, June 16th, 2026 at 6:00PM

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

PROPOSAL: The proposed project aims to enhance vehicle traffic and access to commercial areas along Route 20, including for pedestrians and bicyclists, in accordance with the Town of Sturbridge's Commercial Tourist District Plan. The proposed project seeks to replace the existing intersection of Route 20 (Charlton Road) and Route 131 (Main St) with a two-lane roundabout; and reconstruction of the intersection of Route 20 and New Boston Road. A buffered shared use path along with crosswalks for bicyclists and pedestrians 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 Commonwealth of Massachusetts 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. Lavalley, P.E., Chief Engineer, via e-mail to MassDOTProjectManagement@dot.state.ma.us or via US Mail to Suite 7550, 10 Park Plaza, Boston, MA 02116, Attention: Project Management, Project File No. 611933. 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 held.

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.

In case of inclement weather, a cancellation announcement will be posted on the internet at <https://www.mass.gov/orgs/highway-division/events>.

JONATHAN GULLIVER
HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATOR

CARRIE E. LAVALLEY, 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 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 Lavalley, 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 about 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 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 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 to 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.

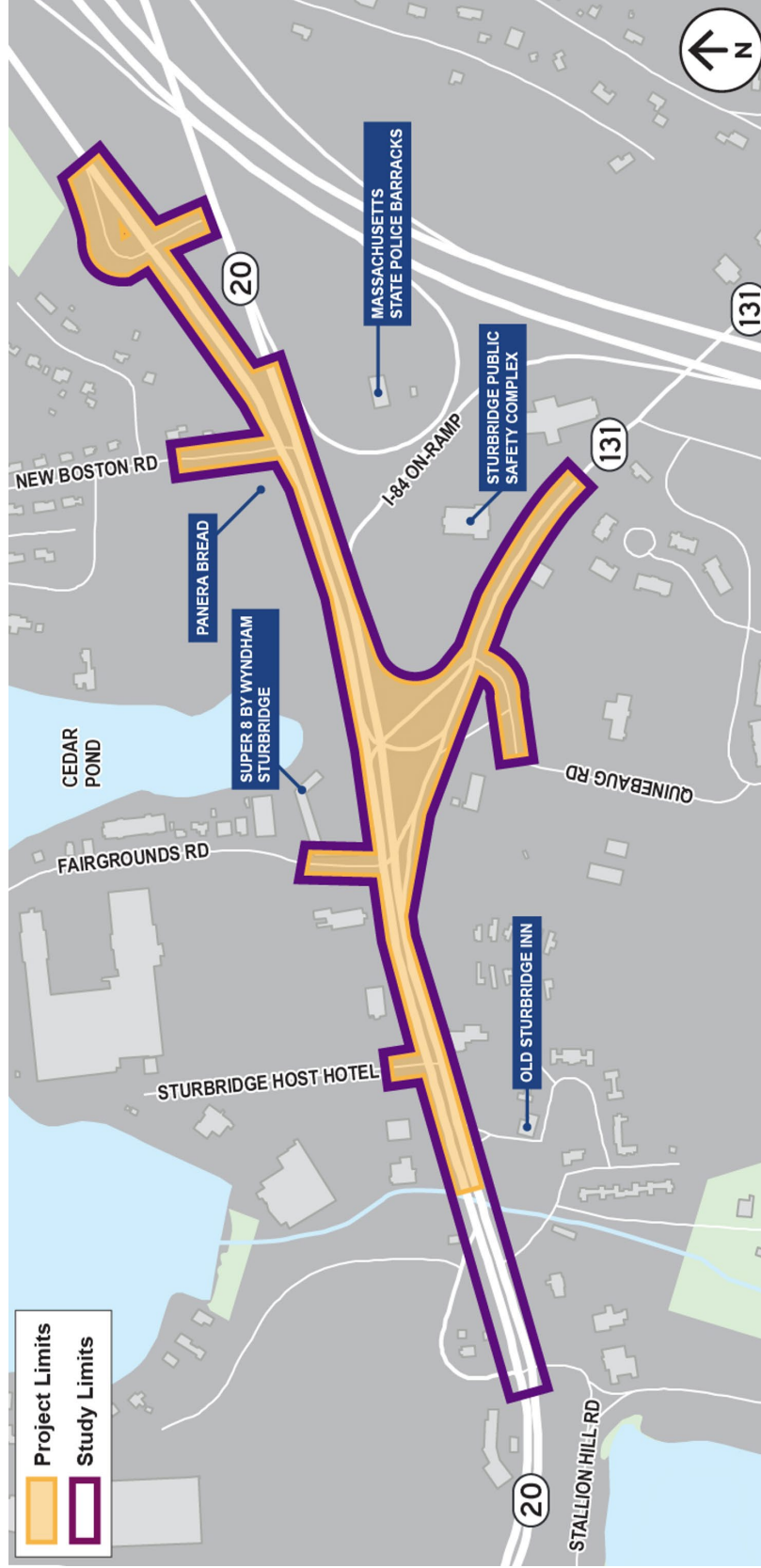


Figure 1: Project Location

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

PROJECT LOCATION

The project extends across 2.34 miles of Route 20 and Route 131 from just east of Stallion Hill Road in the west, south of Quinebaug Road in the south, to East-West Access Road in the east. The focus of the project area is the intersection of Route 20 and Route 131. The Town selected the intersection of Route 20 at Route 131 for improvements as it is the gateway entrance to their town and the community's historic and tourist area. The project area includes the following intersections:

- Route 20 (Main Street)/Sturbridge Host Hotel Driveway
- Route 20 (Main Street and Charlton Road)/Fairgrounds Road
- Route 20 (Main Street and Charlton Road)/Route 131 (Main Street)
- Route 20 (Main Street and Charlton Road)/New Boston Road
- Route 131 (Main Street) at Quinebaug Road

PROJECT PURPOSE

The purpose of this project is to provide improvements to the intersection of Route 20 at Route 131, Route 20 at New Boston Road, and the surrounding roadway, providing safety improvements for all modes of transportation and transforming the roadway into a renewed connection to businesses along Route 20 and down Route 131 to Sturbridge Center.

EXISTING CONDITIONS

There have been 148 reported collisions in seven years at the intersections and throughout the corridor (2015-2021). 33 of the collisions reported resulted in injury. Route 20 crash data shows recurring rear-end crashes due to high vehicle speeds and turning conflicts. There is a lack of pedestrian and cyclist connectivity; there are no crossings or bicycle accommodations within the project area. The Town's Commercial Tourist District Plan recommends significant improvements to the Route 20 Corridor states desire to enhance vehicle traffic, access to commercial areas, pedestrian and bicycle access, reduce crashes, and enhance the visual imagery of the corridor.

HEARING PURPOSE

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

PROJECT PROCESS

The Sturbridge – Roundabout Construction at the Route 20/ Route 131 Intersection is currently in the 25% design phase. The project will advance through 75% design and 100% design submissions, at which point it will undergo environmental permitting. PS&E submission is anticipated for the summer of 2027. The project is scheduled to be advertised for construction in the fall/ winter of 2027, with construction anticipated to begin in 2028.

PROJECT COST

The estimated total contract cost for this project is approximately \$16.9 million. The project construction cost will be funded with a combination of money from the Federal Highway Administration and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
HIGHWAY DIVISION

FEDERAL AID PROJECT

Sturbridge, MA
Sturbridge – Roundabout Construction at the Route 20/ Route 131 Intersection
Project File No. 611933

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



Please Place
Appropriate
Postage Here

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

RE: Public Hearing
ROUNDAABOUT CONSTRUCTION AT THE ROUTE 20/ ROUTE 131 INTERSECTION
STURBRIDGE
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