



DESIGN PUBLIC HEARING

SEPTEMBER 23, 2019

AT

TOWN HALL

12 SCHOOL STREET

SUNDERLAND, MASSACHUSETTS

6:00 PM

FOR THE PROPOSED

NORTH MAIN STREET RECONSTRUCTION PROJECT

Project No. 607245

Roadway Project Management

IN THE TOWN OF SUNDERLAND, 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. 607245

A Design Public Hearing will be held by MassDOT to discuss the proposed North Main Street Reconstruction project in Sunderland, MA.

WHERE: Sunderland Town Hall – 2nd floor
12 School Street
Sunderland, MA 01375

WHEN: Monday, September 23, 2019 @ 6:00 PM

PURPOSE: The purpose of this hearing is to provide the public with the opportunity to become fully acquainted with the proposed North Main Street Reconstruction project. All views and comments made at the hearing will be reviewed and considered to the maximum extent possible.

PROPOSAL: The project includes roadway improvements in accordance with Complete Streets practices that will enhance safety for all roadway users. The project includes pavement rehabilitation and drainage improvements. Pedestrian accommodation improvements will include new ADA accessible sidewalks, crosswalks, and wheelchair ramps. Bicycle accommodations consist of a minimum 5-foot bicycle lane or shoulder. The project extends from MA Route 116 northerly to Claybrook Road for a total length of 0.77 miles.

A secure right-of-way is necessary for this project. Acquisitions in fee and permanent or temporary easements may be required. The Town of Sunderland 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. 607245. 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 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 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.

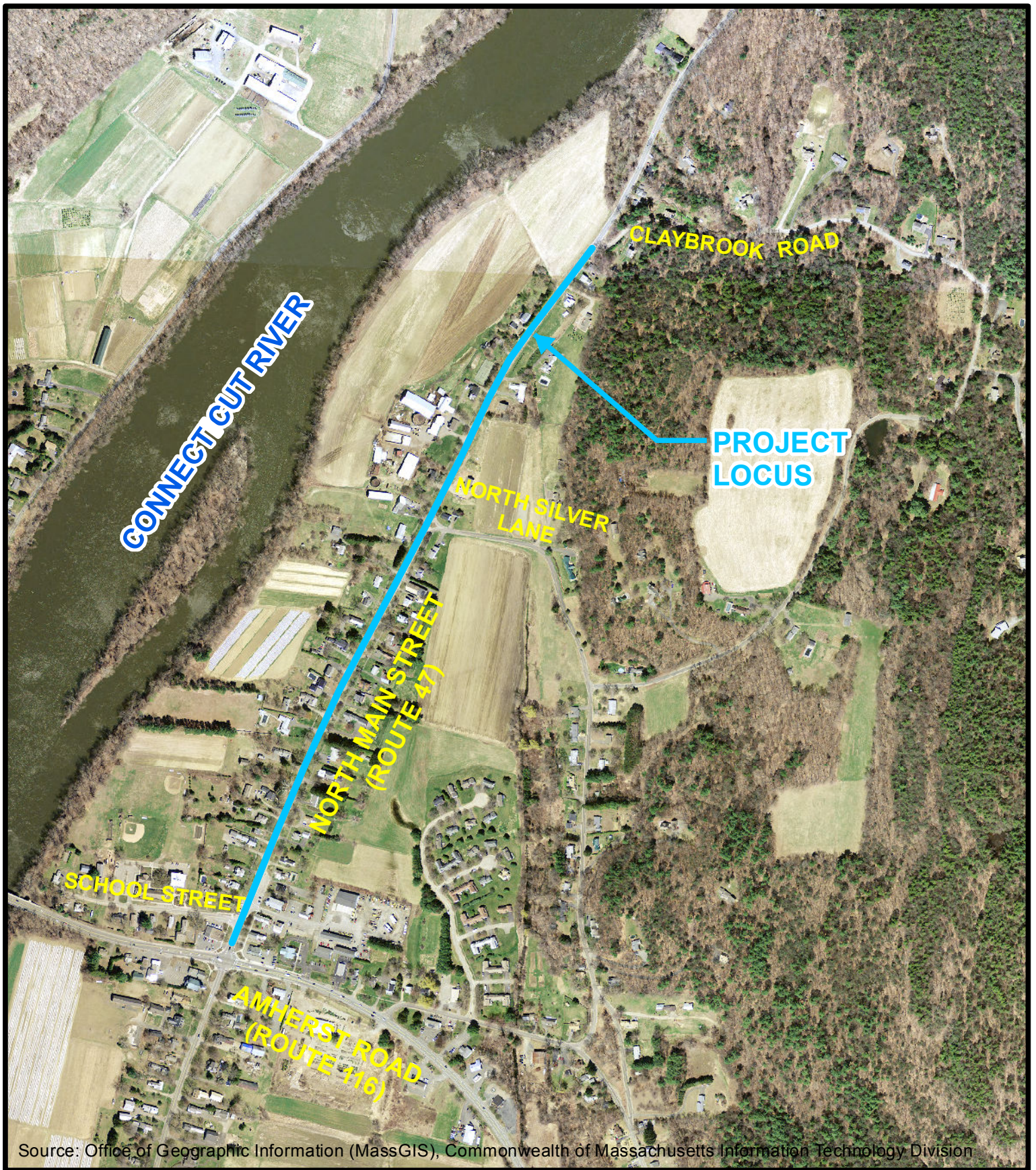
A Right of Entry is a document that is signed by the owner. It allows the Contractor to perform certain types of work on the owner's land. The work is usually minor in nature and frequently consists of loaming/seeding behind sidewalks, new driveway apron work, grading/sloping, and wetland protection, 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.



TOWN OF SUNDERLAND, MA

NORTH MAIN STREET (ROUTE 47)
ROADWAY IMPROVEMENTS
PROJECT ID: 607245

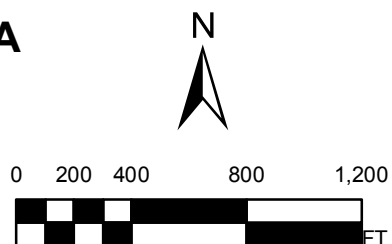


Figure 1. Locus Map

North Main Street (Rte. 47) Reconstruction **Sunderland, Massachusetts**

The Town of Sunderland and the Massachusetts Department of Transportation – Highway Division (MassDOT) are proposing pavement resurfacing and roadway widening to accommodate all roadway users (vehicle, bicycle, and pedestrians) along North Main Street. The road will be widened to 30 feet to allow for a proper shoulder width for bicycle use and the existing sidewalks will be reconstructed and extended to provide pedestrian accessibility. The project also includes the reconstruction of the existing, antiquated drainage system.

Proposed Improvements

Safety Improvements

Safety improvements are proposed throughout the project limits. Shoulder widths will be designed to meet MassDOT minimum requirements for minor arterials, which will improve safety for vehicles and bicyclists. Intersection improvements at North Silver Lane include removal of the triangular island and installation of center median islands on North Main Street.

Existing traffic signs that are in poor condition, or that are not warranted, will be removed. New regulatory and warning signs, conforming to the provisions of the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices and MassDOT, will be installed. Signing and pavement marking upgrades will be implemented in order to better delineate the travelways to address safety along the corridor. Safety enhancements at crosswalks include high visibility crosswalks and installation of rectangular rapid flashing beacons (RRFB's).

The intent of the signing, intersection, and crosswalk enhancements are to provide traffic calming and reduce speeds of vehicles within the village section of North Main Street where there is increased level of pedestrian and bicycle activity.

Roadway Cross Section

Pavement resurfacing is proposed for the North Main Street corridor and will include widening the road from 26 feet to 30 feet. Ten foot travel lanes and five foot paved shoulders are proposed. The improvements are proposed within the existing Right-of-Way with minimal impacts to private property.

Bicycle & Pedestrian Accommodations

Pedestrian accessibility improvements are planned. The existing sidewalks will be reconstructed as part of this project. Sidewalks, ramps and crosswalks will be designed for ADA and MassDOT compliance. Widening of the road to include 5 foot shoulders will provide separate lanes for bicycles and vehicles to safely share the road.

Drainage Improvements

Drainage infrastructure improvements are proposed. The existing drainage system is an old combined sewer/drainage clay pipe that was converted to the current storm drain in the late 1900's. The system is collapsing which is resulting in roadway pavement and sidewalk failure. The drainage system will be replaced using current materials and construction practice in compliance with MassDOT standards.

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
NORTH MAIN STREET RECONSTRUCTION
SUNDERLAND
Project File No. 607245
Roadway Project Management

