



DESIGN PUBLIC HEARING

August 8, 2019

AT

SWAMPSCOTT TOWN HALL

22 MONUMENT AVENUE

SWAMPSCOTT, MASSACHUSETTS

6:30 PM

FOR THE PROPOSED

Intersection & Signal Improvements at SR 1A (Paradise Road) at Swampscott Mall

Project No. 607761

Roadway Project Management

IN THE TOWN OF SWAMPSCOTT, MASSACHUSETTS

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

**JONATHAN GULLIVER
HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATOR**

**PATRICIA A. LEAVENWORTH, P.E.
CHIEF ENGINEER**

**COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION – HIGHWAY DIVISION
NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING**

Project File No. 607761

A Design Public Hearing will be held by MassDOT to discuss the proposed Intersection & Signal Improvements at SR 1A (Paradise Road) at Swampscott Mall project in Swampscott, MA.

**WHERE: Swampscott Town Hall
22 Monument Avenue, Selectmen's Meeting Room
Swampscott, MA 01907**

WHEN: Thursday, August 8, 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 Intersection & Signal Improvements at SR 1A (Paradise Road) at Swampscott Mall 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 safety enhancements at the intersection. This includes full traffic signal reconstruction, traffic sign and pavement marking improvements, minor geometric improvements, and the reconstruction of sidewalk and wheelchair ramps. New crosswalks will be provided across the two driveway legs of the intersection. The traffic signal system will be completely replaced as part of the project. In addition, the existing crosswalk 700 feet north of the intersection will be reconstructed and enhanced with a Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacon. Bicycle accommodations consisting of a usable shoulder 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 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, Highway Design, Project File No. 607761. 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.

TO SAFEGUARD THE PROPERTY OWNER

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.



Figure 1: Locus Map

Intersection and Signal Improvements at SR 1A (Paradise Road) at Swampscott Mall
 Swampscott, Massachusetts

Map Source: Office of Geographic and Environmental Information (MassGIS), Commonwealth of Massachusetts
 Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs. 2013 Orthophotography.
 FEMA NFHL Data, <https://msc.fema.gov/portal>, 2014-09-17.



MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION – HIGHWAY DIVISION
DESIGN PUBLIC HEARING

Swampscott- Intersection & Signal Improvements at SR 1A (Paradise Road) at Swampscott Mall
Project File No. 607761

PROJECT LOCATION : The Project is located at the intersection of Route 1A (Paradise Road) at Swampscott Mall in Swampscott. The intersection is south of Vinnin Street and Loring Avenue.

PROJECT PURPOSE : A Road Safety Audit (RSA) was conducted at the Project intersection and an RSA Report was issued in August 2015, due to the crash history at the intersections. Between 2011-2013, the intersection of Route 1A at Swampscott Mall ranked 79th on the Top 200 Crash Intersections on MassDOT's Top Crash Locations (statewide). Since the RSA was completed, the intersection has been identified by MassDOT as a Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) High Crash Location (based on 2012-2014 data). The crash clusters are an indication that the intersections continue to be high vehicle crash locations. As a result of the crash history at the intersections, the purpose of the Project is to implement safety improvements with minimal work on approach roadways, minimal work to existing utilities, and minor geometric changes (associated with the reconstruction of wheelchair ramps), such that the improvements can be implemented within the near term.

PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS: The proposed improvements are targeted towards addressing highway and traffic safety at the intersection and includes:

- Replacement of the traffic signal system with modern equipment
- New Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacon at the midblock crosswalk
- Reconstructed accessible concrete sidewalks and curb ramps
- Road surface asphalt removal and overlay
- Replacement of traffic signs and pavement markings

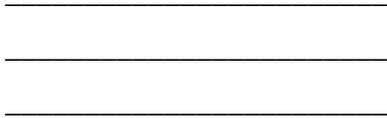
TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT : All roadways will remain open during the construction period. The project will likely require daytime (off-peak) lane closures. All travel lanes are anticipated to be open during peak traffic hours. Pedestrians are anticipated to be accommodated, when necessary, using temporary facilities (temporary curb ramps, walkways, etc.).

RIGHT OF WAY IMPACTS: Permanent Taking will be required for this project at the intersection corners. Temporary construction easements associated with Project construction will also be required. The Commonwealth of Massachusetts will be responsible for securing all necessary easements.

PROJECT SCHEDULE: The design plans displayed at this meeting are at the preliminary design stage. Comments made at this hearing will be incorporated to the maximum extent feasible. The final design will commence following the hearing. The project is expected to be advertised for construction in Fall of 2020 subject to obtaining necessary environmental permits and Right-Of Way certificate.

PROJECT CONSTRUCTION COST: The estimated cost of the project is \$ 1,500,000. This project is funded under the HSIP Federal Aid Program whereby 90% of the construction cost will be funded by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and 10% of the construction cost will be funded by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Please Fold and Tape



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

RE: Public Hearing
Swampscott- Intersection & Signal Improvements at SR 1A (Paradise Road) at Swampscott
Mall
Project File No. 607761
Roadway Project Management

