



VIRTUAL DESIGN PUBLIC HEARING

December 17, 2020 at 7:00 PM

FOR THE PROPOSED

**Traffic Signal and Safety Improvements at Three Intersections on Route 6 (Grand Army of
The Republic Highway)
Project No. 608759
Project Management**

IN THE TOWN OF SWANSEA, 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. 608759

A live Virtual Design Public Hearing will be held to present the design for the proposed **Traffic Signal and Safety Improvements at Three Intersections on Route 6 (Grand Army of The Republic Highway)** project in Swansea, MA.

WHEN: Thursday, December 17, 2020 at 7:00PM

PURPOSE: The purpose of this hearing is to provide the public with the opportunity to become fully acquainted with the proposed **Traffic Signal and Safety Improvements at Three Intersections on Route 6 (Grand Army of The Republic Highway)** 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 consists of intersection improvements at three intersections: Route 6 / Route 136 (Market Street / James Reynolds Road), Route 6 / Maple Avenue, and Route 6 / Route 118 (Swansea Mall Drive) in the Town of Swansea, MA. The proposed improvements include traffic signal upgrades, geometric improvements, improved bicycle and pedestrian accessibility, new signs, new pavement markings, new roadway pavement, and/or geometric modifications. Shared use accommodations consisting of 8.5 feet minimum width sidewalk along the Route 6, Route 136, and Route 118 have been provided. Bicycle accommodations consisting of 5 feet wide bicycle lanes along the Maple Avenue 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.

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: **Project Management**, Project File No. **608759**. Mailed statements and exhibits intended for inclusion in the public hearing transcript must be postmarked no later than ten (10) business days after the hearing. Project inquiries may be emailed to dot.feedback.highway@state.ma.us.

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 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 business days before the hearing.

A computer link to this live Virtual Design Public Hearing or a cancellation announcement will be posted on the internet at www.mass.gov/massdot-highway-design-public-hearings.

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 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 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.

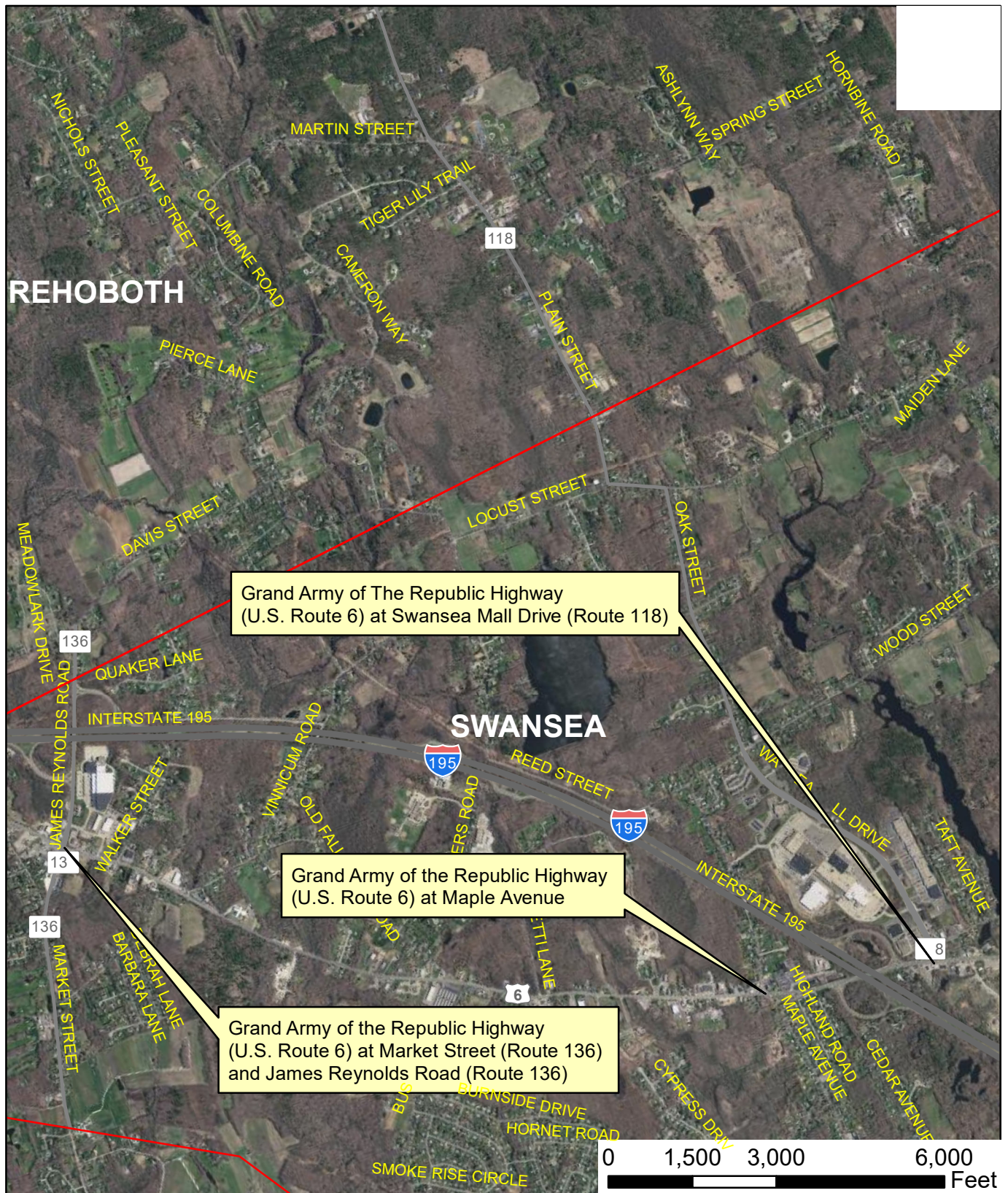


Figure 1: Locus

Traffic Signal and Safety Improvements at Three Intersections on U.S. Route 6
Swansea, MA

Traffic Signal and Safety Improvements at Three Intersections on Route 6, Swansea, MA

PROJECT LOCATION

The proposed project consists of intersection improvements at three intersections: Route 6 / Route 136 (Market Street / James Reynolds Road), Route 6 / Maple Avenue, and Route 6 / Route 118 (Swansea Mall Drive) in the Town of Swansea, MA. The proposed improvement includes traffic signal upgrades, geometric improvements, improved bicycle and pedestrian accessibility, new signs, new pavement markings, new roadway pavement, and/or geometric modifications. The attached Locus Map shows the project location.

PROJECT PURPOSE

The purpose of this project is to address safety concerns at these high crash locations and improve safety for all modes of transportation, upgrade traffic signal, and improve/provide pedestrian and bicycle accommodations. Recommendations from the Road Safety Audit (RSA) is the basis for the design.

PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS

The proposed improvements include the following:

- Construction of Roadway / Intersection (Milling & Overlay / Full Depth Box Widening)
- Extension / addition of exclusive left turn lanes.
- Construction of Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) / Architectural Access Board (AAB) compliant accessible wheelchair ramps within project limits.
- Construction of new / reconstruction of existing sidewalks.
- Providing bicycle accommodations consisting of 5 feet wide bicycle lanes along Maple Avenue.
- Installation of new traffic signal equipment including emergency vehicle pre-emption system.
- Installation of new MUTCD compliant pavement markings and traffic signage.
- Installation of new drainage structures and modification of existing drainage structures within the project limits.

TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT

During construction operations, all roadways within 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 pole relocations and overhead utility wires. The permanent easements will also be required for the addition of turning lanes and construction of sidewalks. The Right of Way Bureau is responsible for acquiring all of the necessary rights in private and public lands for the design, construction, and implementation of this project. 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 \$8.4 Million.

PROJECT SCHEDULE

The project being presented is at the 25% design stage. Design, permitting and right of way acquisition is anticipated to be complete by the Winter of 2024 and construction is anticipated to begin in the Spring of 2024.

THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
HIGHWAY DIVISION

FEDERAL AID PROJECT

Swansea, MA
Traffic Signal and Safety Improvements at Three Intersections on Route 6
Project File No. 608759

This sheet is provided for your comments. Your input is solicited and appreciated. Please return your sheet, with comments, via email to dot.feedback.highway@state.ma.us, or mail to:

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

PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT LEGIBLY.

Name: _____ Title: _____

Organization: _____

Address: _____

Please Fold and Tape



Please Place
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Postage Here

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

RE: Virtual Public Hearing

**Traffic Signal and Safety Improvements at Three Intersections on Route 6
Swansea**

Project File No. 608759

Insert section: Project Management

