



**VIRTUAL DESIGN PUBLIC HEARING**

**December 14th, 2022**

**FOR THE PROPOSED**

**Corridor Improvements on Broadway (Route 138) – Phase 2  
Project No. 608753  
Project Management**

**IN THE CITY OF TAUNTON, 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 PUBLIC HEARING**  
**Project File No. 608753**

A Live Virtual Design Public Hearing will be hosted on the MassDOT website below to present the design for the proposed Corridor Improvements on Broadway (Route 138) – Phase 2 project in **Taunton, MA**.

**WHEN: 6:30PM, Wednesday, December 14, 2022**

**PURPOSE:** The purpose of this hearing is to provide the public with the opportunity to become fully acquainted with the proposed Corridor Improvements on Broadway (Route 138) – Phase 2 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 full depth reconstruction on Broadway from Purchase Street to Jackson Street; traffic signal reconstruction at the intersections with 1) Washington Street and 2) East Britannia Street; 11-foot travel lane and minimum 5-foot bicycle lane in both directions; new cement concrete sidewalk along the corridor; new pedestrian curb ramps with detectable warning panels; crosswalks across all intersecting side streets; improvements to the existing drainage system; and new pavement markings and signs. Bicycle accommodations consisting of bicycle lanes and buffered bicycle lanes are 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 City of Taunton 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. Lavallee, P.E., Chief Engineer, via e-mail to [MassDOTProjectManagement@dot.state.ma.us](mailto:MassDOTProjectManagement@dot.state.ma.us) or via US Mail to Suite 7550, 10 Park Plaza, Boston, MA 02116, Attention: **Project Management, Project File No. 608753**. 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 hosted on the MassDOT website listed below.

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](mailto: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.

This Live Virtual Design Public Hearing or a cancellation announcement will be hosted on the internet at [www.mass.gov/massdot-highway-design-public-hearings](http://www.mass.gov/massdot-highway-design-public-hearings).

JONATHAN GULLIVER  
HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATOR

CARRIE E. LAVALLEE, 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**

Your Municipality is responsible for securing the right of way for this project. If your property, or a portion of it, must be acquired by the Municipality 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. 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?**

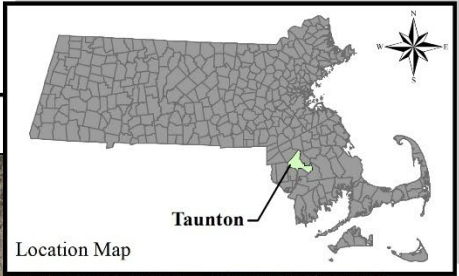
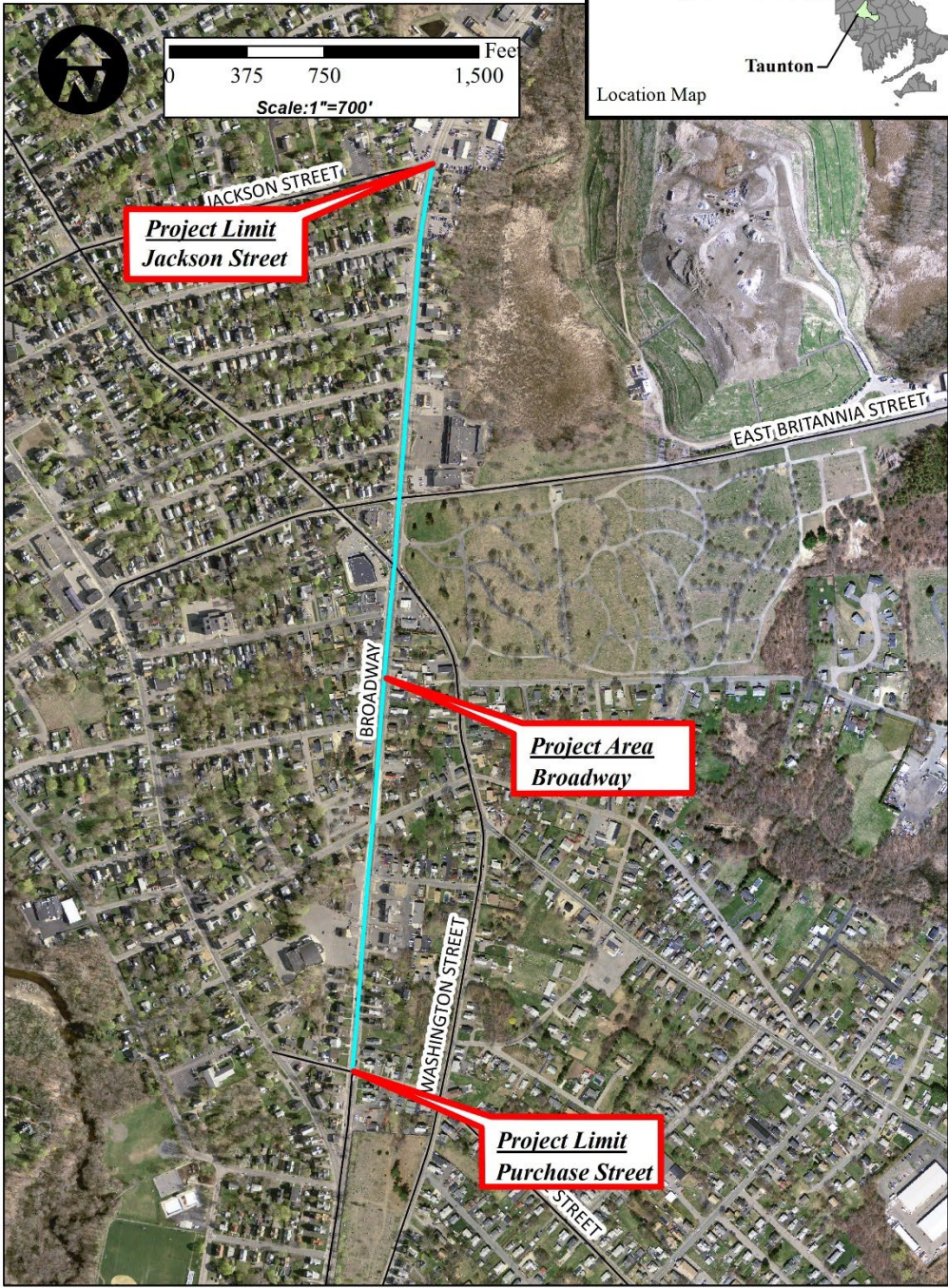
In the event that donations are not considered, or completed, every effort will be made to ensure that an equitable value is awarded. Municipal and/or outside appraisers will complete an appraisal. Consideration is given to the type of rights needed, whether in fee, permanent or temporary easements. 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.



Figure No. 1 - Project Location Map



The Massachusetts Department of Transportation Highway Division (MassDOT) is proposing to construct improvements to Broadway, from Purchase Street to Jackson Street, a distance of approximately 0.84 miles.

The proposed project is located along a section of Route 138 in the City of Taunton, Massachusetts. Route 138 generally travels south-north beginning at the Massachusetts/Rhode Island State Line in Fall River and ending in the Mattapan neighborhood of Boston. This section of Route 138 within the project serves an arterial connection between the Taunton Green and the Raynham Town Line.

The purpose of this project is to improve traffic operations and safety for all users along Broadway. The project includes roadway and related drainage improvements, reconstruction of sidewalks with ADA compliant ramps, provision of bicycle accommodations as well as geometric modifications and upgraded traffic signal systems. In general, the pavement rehabilitation strategy for this roadway is intended to be full depth reconstruction in order to remove sections of concrete base and abandoned street car rails and wood railroad ties. Utility poles will be relocated to provide widened shoulders and compliant sidewalk widths.

The following proposed improvements were developed to address the existing deficiencies and are based on an examination of existing conditions, known deficiencies, future traffic volumes, safety review, pedestrian assessment and discussions with MassDOT and City of Taunton officials.

- Provide one 11-foot travel lane and 6-foot bicycle lane in both directions along Broadway within the project limits.
- Provide a variable width buffer between the travel lane and the bicycle lane
- Rehabilitate pavement by means of full depth reconstruction
- Reconstruct cement concrete sidewalk along the corridor.
- Install new pedestrian curb ramps with detectable warning panels and new sidewalks. Proposed ramps and sidewalks will meet MassDOT and ADA requirements.
- Provide crosswalks across all intersecting side streets.
- Make improvements to the existing drainage system. Adjust existing system and structures, as necessary, to address any drainage concerns including best management practices to the maximum extent practicable.
- Provide new pavement markings and signs. All signs will be MUTCD compliant.
- Upgrade the existing traffic signals located at Broadway and Washington Street and at Broadway and E. Britannia Street.

THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS  
MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
HIGHWAY DIVISION

FEDERAL AID PROJECT

Taunton, MA  
Corridor Improvements on Broadway (Route 138) – Phase 2  
Project File No. 608753

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](mailto:MassDOTProjectManagement@dot.state.ma.us) or you may mail this sheet with any additional comments to:

Carrie E. Lavallee, 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.**

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

RE: Virtual Public Hearing  
Corridor Improvements on Broadway (Route 138) – Phase 2  
**CITY OF TAUNTON**  
Project File No. 608753  
Attn: Project Management

