



**VIRTUAL DESIGN PUBLIC HEARING**

**WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2020**

**FOR THE PROPOSED**

**Roundabout Construction at Intersection of Patriot Road, South/North  
Main Street & Gardner Road  
Project File No. 608784  
Project Management**

**IN THE TOWN OF TEMPLETON, 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 DESIGN PUBLIC HEARING**  
**Project File No. 608784**

A Virtual Design Public Hearing will be published on the MassDOT website below to present the design for the proposed **Roundabout Construction at Intersection of Patriot Road, South Main Street, North Main Street & Gardner Road** project in Templeton, MA.

WHEN: **Wednesday, November 4, 2020**

PURPOSE: The purpose of this hearing is to provide the public with the opportunity to become fully acquainted with the proposed **Roundabout Construction at Intersection of Patriot Road, South/North Main Streets & Gardner Road** 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 the conversion of an existing intersection of Patriot Road (Route 2A), Gardner Road (Route 101), North and South Main Street into a roundabout and accompanying infrastructure improvements including curb modifications, ADA compliant wheelchair ramps and sidewalks, modifications to drainage, signage and pavement markings. The roundabout will include accommodations for bicycles using a combination or exclusive bike lanes and shared lanes on the roadway approaches and a shared use sidewalk around the roundabout.

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. **608784**. 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 is posted to the MassDOT website listed below. Project inquiries may be emailed to [dot.feedback.highway@state.ma.us](mailto: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](mailto: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. This Virtual Design Public Hearing or a cancellation announcement will be posted 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

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?

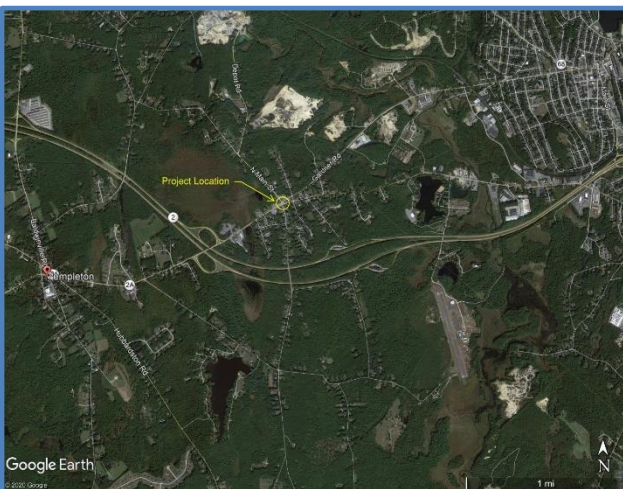
No. If, after the figure established as market value has been offered to the owner, the owner feels he or she is not being offered a fair price, he or she has the right, within three years, to appeal to the courts. Pending a court decision, he or she can be paid on a "pro-tanto" basis (or "for the time 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.



**Locus Map – Templeton Roundabout Project**  
Intersection of Patriots Road, North Main Street,  
South Main Street, and Gardner Road

**Templeton- Roundabout Construction at Intersection of Patriot Road,  
South/North Main Street & Gardner Road  
Project File No. 608784**

**PROJECT LOCATION**

The project is located at the intersection of Patriots Road, North Main Street, South Main Street, and Gardner Road in the Town of Templeton approximately ½ mile east of Route 2. The attached Locus Map shows the intersection location.

**PROJECT PURPOSE**

The purpose of this project is to reduce confusion for drivers entering the wide five-legged intersection increasing safety for all modes of transportation and improve intersection operation. The Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) and the Town of Templeton are proposing pedestrian, bicyclist, and vehicular safety and mobility improvements consisting of the construction of a roundabout at the intersection and associated roadwork along approximately 845 feet of Patriots Road, 225 feet of North Main Street, 175 feet of South Main Street, and 375 feet of Gardner Road. This proposed project is primarily intended to improve traffic operations at the intersection and improve safety and accessibility for pedestrians and bicyclists from the surrounding neighborhoods.

**EXISTING CONDITIONS**

Patriots Road is a two-way, generally east-west roadway that has two through traffic lanes approximately 12-foot wide each accompanied by an 11-foot wide left turn lane on both intersection approaches. The road has four-foot wide shoulders on either side. Bituminous asphalt sidewalks are present along both sides of the road within the intersection's vicinity. Sidewalk width is generally six-foot wide. The sidewalks do not have accessible ramps at driveway crossings and discontinue on the south side of the road east of the intersection and along the north side of the road west of the intersection. Fully accessible pedestrian ramps were installed on all quadrants of the intersection along Patriots Road in November 2018. The road is classified as a minor arterial and has a posted speed limit of 35 MPH. Patriots Road is not part of the National Highway System (NHS) network.

Gardner Road is a one-way roadway that has one shared through-right turn lane that is 11-foot wide, and one left-turn lane that is 12-foot wide. The road does not have shoulders within the project limits. A six-foot wide bituminous asphalt sidewalk is located on the south side with ramps only at the main intersection. Driveways do not have accessible ramps. Gardner Road is classified as a minor arterial and has a posted speed limit or 30 MPH. Gardner Road is not part of the NHS network. The road generally runs from the northeast to southwest.

Main Street is a two-way roadway with two traffic lanes approximately 12-foot wide each. The road has two-foot wide shoulders on either side along with an eight-foot bituminous asphalt sidewalk located around the northwest corner between Main Street and Patriots Road. No sidewalks are present north of the intersection; however, a bridge located approximately 250 feet north of the intersection features a five-foot wide bituminous asphalt pedestrian path on the west side of Main Street. A six-foot wide bituminous asphalt sidewalk extends along the east side of the street south of the intersection with Patriots Road. No sidewalks are present on the west side of the street south of the intersection. Main Street is classified as a major

collector and does not have a posted speed limit in the vicinity of the intersection. The road generally runs from the northwest to the southeast. This document will reference Main Street in the north-south direction.

## **PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS**

The project includes transportation improvements along South Broadway (Route 28) and Merrimack Street. The proposed improvements include:

- Construction of a Roundabout
- Resurfacing the roadway, resetting curb lines and modifying drainage infrastructure around the intersection and on the roadway approaches within the project limits.
- Reconstruction of sidewalks on both sides of Patriots Road, South Main Street, the west side of North Main Street, and the south side of Gardner Road and the construction of a new sidewalk along the east side of North Main Street within the project limits to rectify non-compliant cross slopes, irregular/heaving surfaces, deterioration and dissimilar materials;
- Construction of Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) / Architectural Access Board (AAB) compliant accessible curb ramps at the intersection and at driveways within the project limits;
- Installing bike accommodations throughout the project limits including bike lanes and shared facilities.
- Striping of new thermoplastic crosswalks, yield lines, centerlines, and shoulder lines within the project limit.

## **TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT**

During typical construction operations, all roadways in the project area will remain open to residents and other traffic to the extent practical. Occasional short traffic disruptions including local detours 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. Pedestrian and vehicular access to abutting properties will be maintained throughout construction.

## **RIGHT OF WAY IMPACTS**

Temporary construction easements will be required for minor grading impacts to lawns, driveways, and walkways and to restore impacts to adjacent properties. Small permanent easements will also be required on the southwest and southeast corners of the intersection for construction of the roundabout and sidewalks. MassDOT will be responsible for securing all necessary easements. MassDOT's policy concerning land acquisition will be discussed at this hearing.

## **PROJECT COST**

The current estimate of the construction cost of this project is approximately \$1.67 million based on 25% design stage.

## **PROJECT SCHEDULE**

The design plans presented in this virtual public hearing are at the 25% design stage. All views and comments submitted in response to the hearing will be reviewed and considered to the maximum extent possible. Design, environmental permitting and right of way acquisition must be completed by Summer of 2022. Construction is anticipated to begin in the Spring of 2023.



THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS  
MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
HIGHWAY DIVISION

**FEDERAL AID PROJECT**

Templeton, MA  
**Roundabout Construction at Intersection of Patriot Road, South/North Main Street &  
Gardner Road**  
Project File No. 608784

This sheet is provided for your comments. Your input is solicited and appreciated. Please mail this sheet with any additional comments 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.**

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

RE: Virtual Public Hearing

**Templeton**, Roundabout Construction at Intersection of Patriot Road, South/North Main  
Street and Gardner Road; **Project File No. 608784**  
**Project Management**

