



DESIGN PUBLIC HEARING

DECEMBER 17, 2025

FOR THE PROPOSED

BRIDGE REPLACEMENT, T-10-003, JERUSALEM ROAD OVER HOP BROOK
Project File No. 608859

IN THE TOWN OF TYRINGHAM, 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 DESIGN PUBLIC HEARING

Project Description: Tyringham – Bridge Replacement, Br# T-10-003, Jerusalem Road over Hop Brook
Project File No. 608859

A Design Public Hearing will be held to present the design for the proposed project in Tyringham, MA.

WHERE: Tyringham Town Offices
 116 Main Rd.
 Tyringham, MA 01264

WHEN: Wednesday, December 17, 2025 @ 6:30 PM

PURPOSE: The purpose of this hearing is to provide the public with the opportunity to become fully acquainted with the proposed 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 a complete replacement of bridge T-10-003; this existing bridge structure, built in 1960, which carries Jerusalem Road over Hop Brook known as the "Library Bridge", located in Historic Tyringham Village is nearing its estimated lifespan due to daily wear and tear and is in need of a new bridge structure, wearing surface, and railing system on an off the bridge to bring it up to current design standards. No improvements to pedestrian or bicycle accommodation are proposed. The replacement bridge will be a 60-foot single-span concrete beam bridge. The bridge will be closed for the duration of construction; a detour will be provided for both vehicular and pedestrian traffic.

A secure right-of-way is necessary for this project. Acquisitions in fee and permanent or temporary easements may be required. The town 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 or via US Mail to Suite 7550, 10 Park Plaza, Boston, MA 02116, Attention: Project Management, Project File No. 608859. 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). 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.

Visit <https://www.mass.gov/orgs/highway-division/events> for more information or to view a recording of the presentation if you are unable to attend. In case of inclement weather, a cancellation announcement will be posted on the website above.

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,

Carrie E. Lavallee, 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 about 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 the 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.



LOCUS MAP

PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS

Existing Bridge T-10-003, known locally as the Library Bridge, was constructed in 1938 and consists of a steel girder/concrete deck superstructure that carries Jerusalem Road in a north-south direction over Hop Brook. The bridge has a 40-foot clear span and is 28 feet wide out to out. MassDOT determined that the existing bridge is in need of either a superstructure replacement or a full replacement. After a full analysis was completed, a full replacement of the existing bridge is the selected alternative. The proposed bridge will consist prestressed concrete NEXT beam superstructure with a concrete deck supported on integral abutments, which are supported on driven steel piles.

The proposed bridge has a clear span of 60-feet to meet stream crossing guidelines and better fit the configuration of the channel section of the brook. Increasing the span also reduces the potential scour at the abutments.

The proposed roadway horizontal alignment and vertical profile will match the existing conditions. The proposed roadway cross section also matches the existing conditions; two 10' lanes and no shoulders. A sidewalk, 5'-6" wide, will be constructed on the North side of the bridge and will match into existing sidewalk in the vicinity of the Post Office. The bridge will also carry two 10-foot lanes, matching the roadway section. The total width of the bridge increases slightly to 28'-6" to allow standard metal bridge railings to be installed.

Bridge rail and standard precast highway guardrail transitions are proposed on both ends of the bridge, which will improve compliance with MassDOT standards and regulations. The existing intersection with Main Street will remain unchanged.

Existing overhead utilities will be permanently relocated as required to accommodate construction of the new bridge.

THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
HIGHWAY DIVISION

FEDERAL AID PROJECT

Tyringham, MA
Bridge Replacement, T-10-003, Jerusalem Road over Hop Brook
Project File No. 608859

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 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.

Name: _____ Title: _____

Organization:

Address: _____

Please Fold and Tape

Please Place
Appropriate
Postage Here

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

RE: Public Hearing
Bridge Replacement, T-10-003, Jerusalem Road over Hop Brook
TYRINGHAM
Project File No. 608859
Attn: Project Management
