



**VIRTUAL DESIGN PUBLIC HEARING**

**JANUARY 26, 2023**

**FOR THE PROPOSED**

**Route 140 Corridor Improvements  
Project No. 608490**

**Project Management**

**IN THE TOWN OF UPTON, 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. 608490**

A Live Virtual Design Public Hearing will be hosted on the MassDOT website below to present the design for the proposed Resurfacing and Related Work on Route 140 project in Upton, MA.

WHEN: 6:30 PM Thursday January 26, 2023

PURPOSE: The purpose of this hearing is to provide the public with the opportunity to become fully acquainted with the proposed Resurfacing and Related work project in Upton. All views and comments submitted in response to the hearing will be reviewed and considered to the maximum extent possible.

PROPOSAL: The proposed project on Route 140, between Williams Street and Elm Street in Upton will involve repaving the entire length and converting the 38-foot-wide pavement that currently consists of 12-foot lanes and 7-foot shoulders on each side into a proposed section with 11-foot lanes with a 5-foot bike lane and a 3-foot buffer on each side. Also included in the project is a new westbound left turn lane at the intersection with Williams Street, intersection improvements at Mechanic Street, Pleasant Street, and Elm Street, and a roundabout at the intersection with Grove Street and North Main Street. The existing sidewalks will be replaced with new 5-foot-wide asphalt sidewalks and accessible ramps on both sides of Route 140 within the project limits. The sidewalks will transition into and out of a shared use path at the proposed roundabout at the intersection with Grove and North Main Streets.

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.

Project inquiries, written statements and other exhibits regarding the proposed undertaking may be submitted to Carrie E. Lavalley, 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 6340, 10 Park Plaza, Boston, MA 02116, Attention: Project Management, Project File No. 608490. 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,

Carrie E. Lavalley, P.E.  
Acting 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.

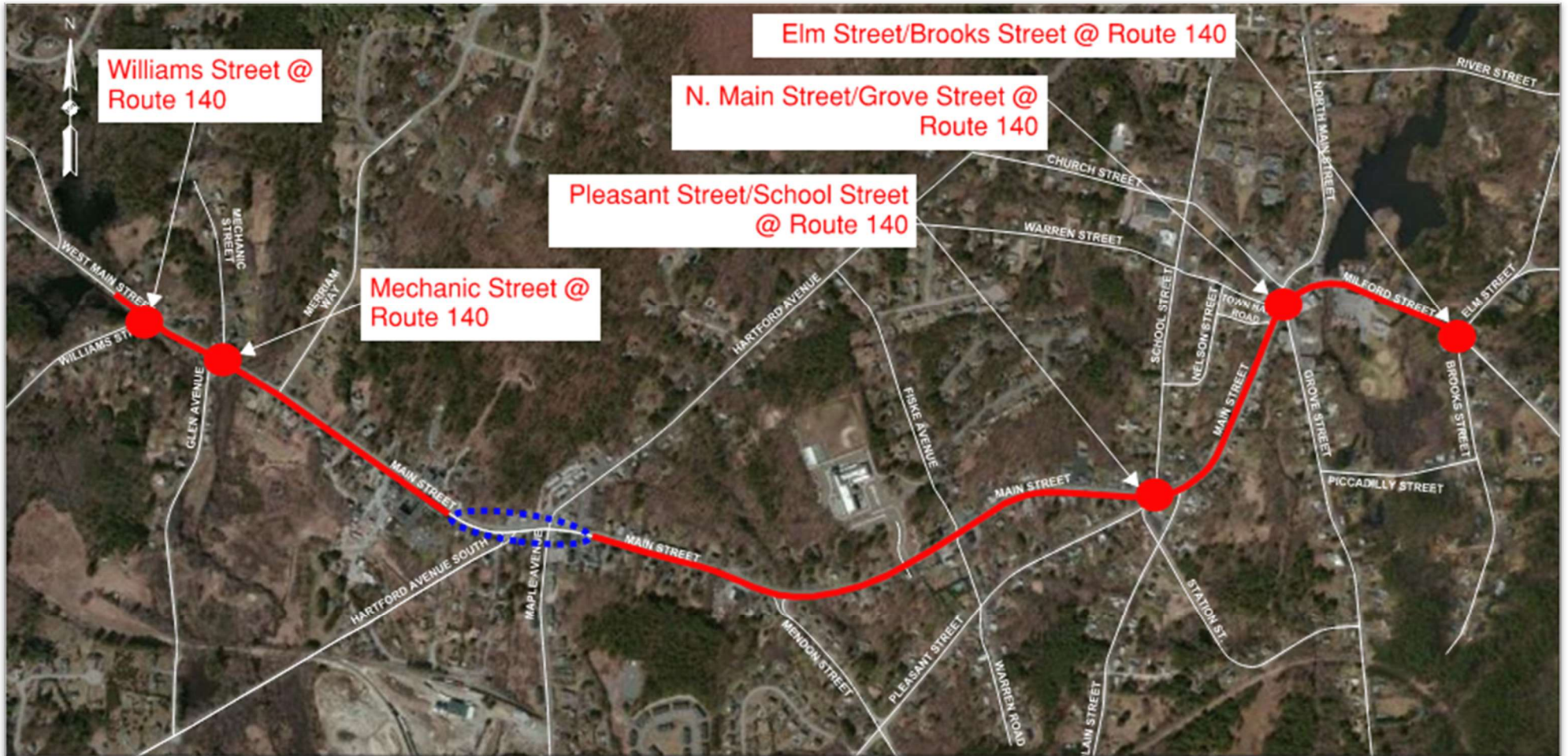
### **4. WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO MY HOUSE?**

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.

-  Route 140 Project Limits
-  MassDOT Project 606125 Area (Hartford Ave - By Others)
-  Key Intersection



### Project Location:

Route 140, also known as Main Street, is a bidirectional two-lane highway in the Town of Upton. The project is located between Williams Street and the intersection of Brooks Street/Elm Street with Milford Street.

### Project Purpose:

The purpose of this project is to provide improvements to multimodal accommodations by enhancing roadway safety for all users. New pavement and upgraded drainage will provide a safer roadway with delineated 11-foot travel lanes, a 3-foot buffer, a 5-foot bicycle lane, and new 5-foot sidewalks. Improvements also include intersection realignment and the construction of a roundabout at the intersection of Route 140 with Grove Street and N. Main Street.

### Existing Conditions:

Route 140 (Main Street) is a two-lane road with a Functional Classification of “Principal Arterial” and is located on the National Highway System (NHS). Abutting properties generally consists of residential homes, except for some commercial properties located near the Upton Town Hall.

The roadway throughout the project limits is generally 38 feet wide. The roadway consists of 12-foot lanes with 7-foot shoulders and 4 to 5-foot wide sidewalks. The existing town layout typically is located at the back of sidewalk and is approximately 49-feet wide. The posted speed limit within the project limits varies between 30 and 35 MPH. A reduced speed school zone is located at the Memorial Elementary School. Most of the existing pedestrian ramps do not meet American with Disabilities Act (ADA) standards. The current condition of the sidewalks throughout the roadway is generally fair to poor.

Utilities under the roadway throughout the project include gas, sewer, water, electrical, telecommunications, and drainage.

### Proposed Improvements:

The proposed improvements include new pavement and pavement markings within the existing 38-foot roadway width. The restriped roadway will provide two 11-foot travel lanes with 3-foot buffers and 5-foot bicycle lanes, consistent with MassDOT’s commitment to complete streets. In addition to roadway improvements, current sidewalks will be updated to current ADA standards with new pavement with ADA compliant curb ramps and crossings.

The proposed project will also address intersection safety and geometry at several intersections throughout the corridor. The intersection improvements are as follows:

- At Williams Street a left turn lane on Route 140 westbound will be implemented, allowing vehicles travelling westbound through the intersection to safely pass queued left turn vehicles.
- At the intersection of Route 140 with Mechanic Street, the pedestrian crossing across Mechanic Street will be shortened to provide easier pedestrian access between ADA compliant curb ramps.
- At the intersection of Route 140 with Pleasant Street and School Street, Pleasant Street will be realigned to provide an easier through movement across Route 140 to School

Street. The current layout forces vehicles to turn right onto Route 140 then left onto School Street. The newly aligned roadway would allow for a single through movement for vehicles crossing Route 140. ADA compliant sidewalks, curb ramps, and crosswalks will be provided at this location.

- A one lane roundabout will be constructed at the intersection of Route 140 with Grove Street and N. Main Street. The one lane roundabout provides mountable medians and a truck apron around the roundabout for large vehicles to safely navigate all roundabout movements. The roundabout includes a shared use path around all intersection legs for pedestrian and bicycle movements. All roundabout legs also include ADA compliant curb ramps and high visibility crossings for pedestrians and bicyclists. The shared use path will transition back to buffered bicycle lanes and sidewalks approximately 100-feet after each end of the roundabout on Route 140. The Town Common area will remain with minimal impacts. The existing paths across the commons will be repaved.
- At the intersection of Route 140 with Brooks Street and Elm Street, the Brooks Street approach will be realigned and reduced in width to the west to provide a better line of sight down Route 140. To provide increased sight distance, the existing rock/wooded slope to the west of Brooks Street will be partially cleared. This area will transition back to existing roadway width, providing 11-foot lanes with a non-buffered 5-foot bicycle lane.

#### Maintenance of Traffic during Construction:

The proposed roadway will be constructed in phases to be determined by the contractor. One lane of traffic in each direction will be maintained at all times. Pedestrian accommodation will be maintained at all times.





Please Fold and Tape



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Please Place  
Appropriate  
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Carrie E. Lavalley, P.E.  
Chief Engineer  
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Boston, MA 02116-3973

RE: Virtual Public Hearing  
Route 140 Corridor Improvements  
**UPTON**  
Project File No. 608490  
Attn: Project Management

