



VIRTUAL DESIGN PUBLIC HEARING

AUGUST 28, 2024

At 6:30 PM

FOR THE PROPOSED

Route 140 over Unnamed Tributary Culvert Replacement

Project No. 608456

Highway Design

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 VIRTUAL PUBLIC HEARING
Project File No. 608456

A Live Virtual Design Public Hearing will be hosted on the MassDOT website below to present the design for the proposed replacement of Route 140 (Milford Street) Culvert over the Unnamed Tributary to Center Brook in the Town of Upton.

WHEN: Wednesday, August 28, 2024, at 6:30 PM

PURPOSE: The purpose of this hearing is to provide the public with the opportunity to become fully acquainted with the proposed replacement of Route 140 (Milford Street) Culvert over the Unnamed Tributary to Center Brook in the Town of 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 consists of replacing Route 140 (Milford Street) Culvert over the Unnamed Tributary to Center Brook in the Town of Upton. Construction phasing will be used to keep Route 140 open during construction.

Two 5-foot cement concrete sidewalks are proposed on either side of the roadway within the project limits. Compliant bicycle accommodation is not being provided because Route 140 (Milford Street) is classified as a low potential for everyday biking and there are no existing bicycle facilities within the vicinity of the project.

A secure right-of-way is necessary for this project. Acquisitions in fee and permanent or temporary easements may be required. **MassDOT is responsible for acquiring all needed rights in private or public lands.** MassDOT's policy concerning land acquisitions will be presented at the hearing.

Project Inquiries, written statements and other exhibits regarding the proposed undertaking may be submitted to Carrie E. Lavalee, 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. 608456**. 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.

This hearing will be hosted, or a cancellation announcement posted, on the internet at <https://www.mass.gov/orgs/highway-division/events>.

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 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?

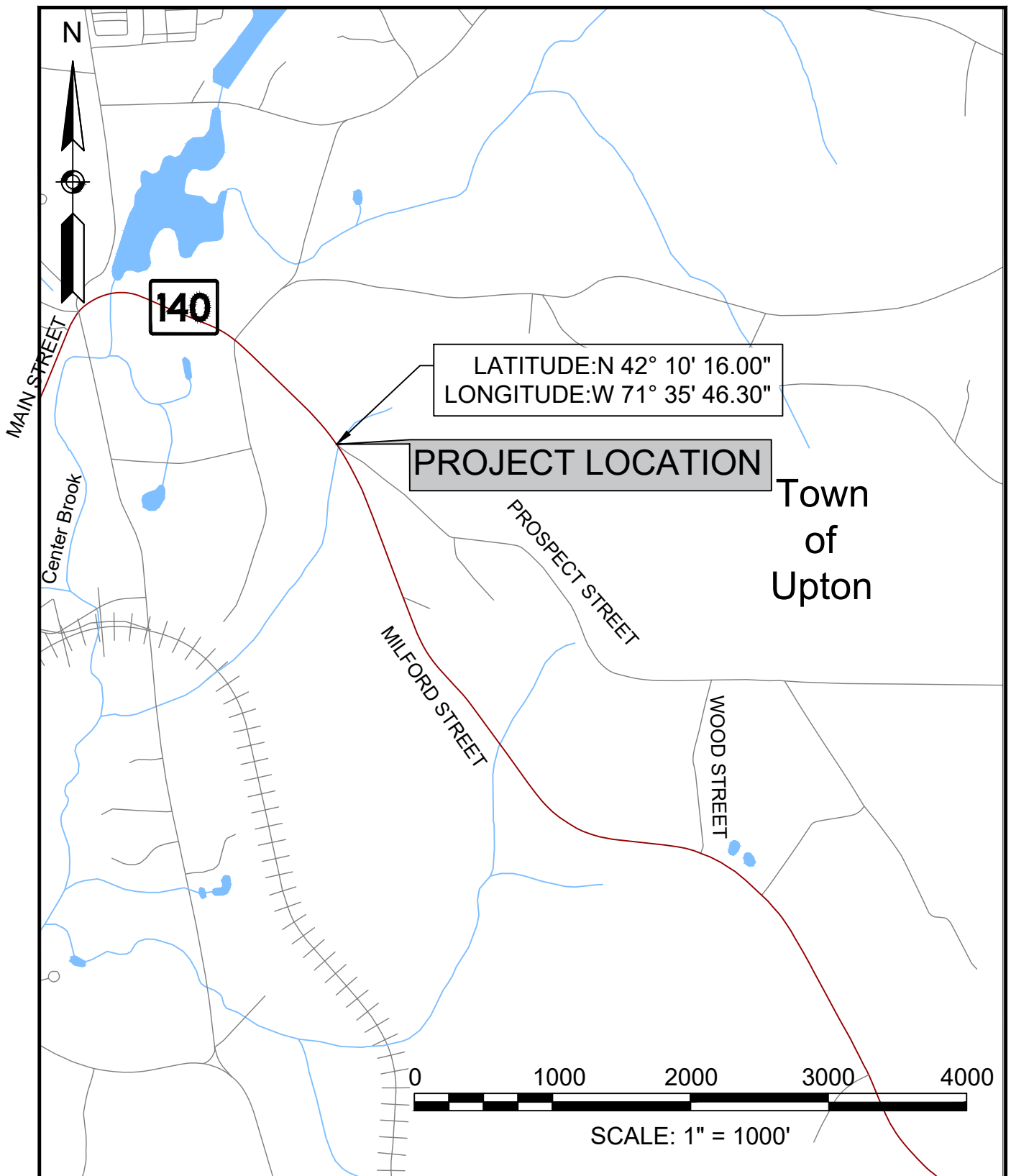
No. If, after the figure established as market value has been offered to the owner, the owner feels he or she is not being offered a fair price, he or she has the right, within three years, to appeal to the courts. Pending a court decision, he or she can be paid on a "pro-tanto" basis (or "for the time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



PREPARED FOR:

LOCUS MAP

Source:

CULVERT REPLACEMENT PROJECT
MILFORD STREET (RTE 140) OVER
UNNAMED TRIBUTARY, UPTON, MA
WORCESTER COUNTY

 **BSC GROUP**
803 Summer Street
Boston, Massachusetts
02127

617 896 4300

Job No.:	28450.01	Date:	12/11/2023
Scale:	1"=1000'	Revised:	
Dwg. No.:	Locus	Figure:	1 OF 1

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The proposed project consists of replacing the existing dual culvert crossing (30-inch RCP and 48-inch CMP) at the Unnamed Tributary to Center Brook, located just north of the Prospect St intersection, with a 9.25-foot wide by 7.5-foot tall by 64-foot long cement concrete box culvert. Improving intersection geometry, minor drainage improvements and utility relocations are also proposed. The project limits are approximately 443-feet along Milford St and 125-feet along Prospect St. Full depth pavement reconstruction is proposed within the excavation limits to install the proposed culvert. Standard milling and overlay is proposed beyond the full depth reconstruction area to the project limits.

To accommodate the installation of the proposed culvert, overhead wires and an existing telephone conduit will need to be relocated. Currently the overhead wires run diagonally across the roadway between the northeast and southwest quadrants. The proposed relocation has the overhead wires continuing south on the east side of the road and then crossing over Milford St approximately 50-ft south of the culvert crossing. One new utility pole and three new guy wires are proposed to accommodate the utility relocation. An existing Verizon telephone conduit that runs over the existing culvert will need to be relocated due to the proposed culvert having insufficient cover to accommodate a conduit above it. Approximately 40-feet of new conduit will need to be run from an existing utility pole to the existing telephone vault located under the landscape island at the Prospect St intersection.

Suggested diversion of the Unnamed Tributary is proposed as a 125-foot HDPE diversion pipe.

Additional miscellaneous site work is proposed to improve Milford Street. New guardrail and appropriate end treatments are proposed to replace the existing guardrail. A sidewalk is proposed to be constructed on either end of the culvert to accommodate future pedestrian connections. An existing paved waterway is proposed to be replaced and stone for pipe ends installed to prevent erosion.

MAINTENANCE OF TRAFFIC DURING CONSTRUCTION

The culvert is proposed to be constructed in two stages, allowing for two-way traffic to be maintained during construction. To accommodate the phased construction Milford St will be shifted to the east during Stage 1 and shifted to the west during Stage 2.

RIGHT OF WAY IMPACTS

Work will primarily occur within the SHLO and Prospect St ROW. Temporary easements will be required during the construction phase for access, grading, erosion control, and control of water. Permanent easements will be required for future maintenance of the relocated overhead utilities and telephone conduit, as well as for the proposed wingwalls and scour protection.

PROJECT COST

The preliminary construction cost of this project based on 25% design stage is approximately \$1.6 million, which will come from: the Federal Highway Administration funding 80% of the total construction cost. MassDOT funds the remaining 20%. This project must be programmed in the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program in the appropriate Federal Fiscal Year for MassDOT to solicit bids for eventual construction.

PROJECT SCHEDULE

The plans presented this evening represent 25% design plans. Project is expected to be advertised for construction in Winter 2025 subject to ROW Certificate is issued and all Environmental Permits are obtained. Construction is anticipated to begin in the Summer of 2026.

Project Questions

1. What is the purpose of this project?
 - a. The purpose of the project is to replace two deteriorating and undersized culverts with an appropriately sized concrete box culvert.
2. How will traffic be managed during construction?
 - a. Phased construction is proposed to maintain two-way traffic
3. How will utilities be affected by the proposed culvert?
 - a. The overhead utilities will be permanently relocated to allow for construction of the proposed culvert. Minor drainage improvements will be incorporated into the design.

THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
HIGHWAY DIVISION

FEDERAL AID PROJECT

Upton, MA
Route 140 over Unnamed Tributary Culvert Replacement
Project File No. 608456

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: Virtual Public Hearing
ROUTE 140 OVER UNNAMED TRIBUTARY CULVERT REPLACEMENT
UPTON
Project File No. 608456
Attn: Project Management

