DESIGN PUBLIC HEARING

APRIL 29, 2025

AT

Uxbridge Town Hall

21 South Main Street, Uxbridge, MA 01569

6:30PM to 7:30PM

FOR THE PROPOSED

Rehabilitation of Route 16 (Douglas Street), from Taft Hill Road to 200-Feet West of Main Street
Project No. 610931

IN THE TOWN OF UXBRIDGE, 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

Rehabilitation of Route 16 (Douglas Street), from Taft Hill Road to 200-Feet West of Main Street
Project File No. 610931

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

WHERE: Uxbridge Town Hall
21 South Main Street
Uxbridge, MA 01569

WHEN: Tuesday, April 29, 2025, at 6:30PM

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 the rehabilitation of Douglas Street (Route 16), from Taft Hill Road to 200-feet west of Main Street. The project will include a shared-use path adjacent to the north side of Douglas Street, the replacement and extension of sidewalks to Hunter Road on the southside of Douglas Street, drainage improvements, addition of crosswalks, ADA complaint ramps and roadway alignment adjustments.

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. **610931**. 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.

In case of inclement weather, a cancellation announcement will be 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

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.

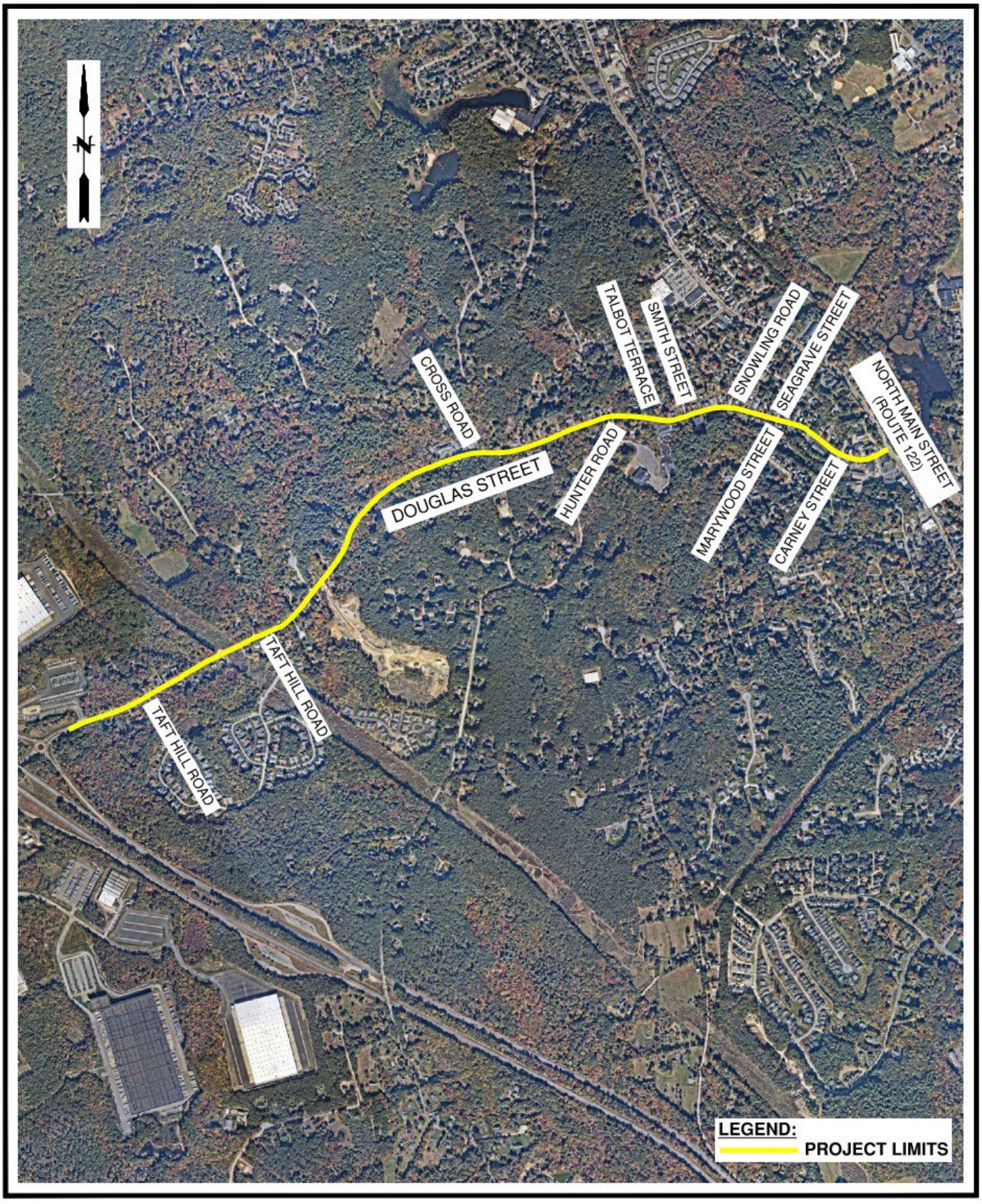
   A Right of Entry is a document that is signed by the owner. It allows the Contractor to perform certain types of work on the owner's land. The work is usually minor in nature and frequently consists of loaming/seeding behind sidewalks, new driveway apron work, grading/sloping, and wetland protection, 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.



FUSS & O'NEILL

610931 UXBRIDGE - DOUGLAS STREET (ROUTE 16) LOCUS MAP

Project Description

The Town of Uxbridge and the Massachusetts Department of Transportation – Highway Division (MassDOT) is proposing the rehabilitation of approximately 10,000 feet of Douglas Street (Route 16) between Taft Hill Road to 200 feet west of Main Street. The project includes roadway reconstruction, sidewalk & shared-use path construction, mid-block crossings and on-street bike lanes.

Proposed Improvements

The primary project improvements include roadway reconstruction and the construction of shared-use paths. The proposed improvements will include full-depth pavement, installation of new curbing, sidewalks, ADA compliant ramps, crosswalks including mid-block crosswalks, closed drainage system, bicycle accommodations consisting of a 10-foot shared-use path on the north side of Douglas Street and modification to the existing roadway cross section to contain two 11-foot-wide vehicle travel lanes and 4-foot-wide shoulders.

Existing Conditions

Douglas Street (Route 16) is classified as an urban principal arterial under the jurisdiction of the Town of Uxbridge. The land use on Douglas Street serves business, industrial, and residential purposes. The speed limit is posted as 40 mph, 35 mph, and 25 mph on Douglas Street within the project limits. One travel lane in each direction is provided along Douglas Street with a 5-foot sidewalk on the south side of Douglas Street between Snowling Road and Main Street. In the project area, the existing pavement width of Douglas Street varies with an approximate maximum of 40 feet and the Town layout right-of-way is typically 60 feet wide.

Right of Way Impacts

A handful of properties will require a fee taking to allow for improved roadway alignment and shared-use path construction. Several properties will require a public utility easement by the Town of Uxbridge for relocating existing poles and overhead wires. Temporary construction easements will be required to complete the shared-use path and sidewalk grading, driveway reconstruction, erosion controls, and loam and seeding. MassDOT's policy regarding land acquisitions will be discussed at this hearing.

Maintenance of Traffic During Construction

Douglas Street (Route 16) will remain open to traffic during construction. Temporary alternating lane closures will be required during workday non-peak hours. Driveway access for abutting properties and businesses shall be maintained at all times during construction.

Project Status – Project Schedule

The project has been programmed in the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program for Federal Fiscal Year 2027. The Plans presented this evening are at the 25% Design Stage (Preliminary Design Stage). Comments from this evening will be reviewed and considered to the fullest extent possible.

Project Construction Cost

The Town of Uxbridge will be funding various stormwater improvements. The majority project construction costs will be funded with a combination of moneys from the Federal Highway Administration and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and is currently estimated at approximately $14.8 million.

THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
HIGHWAY DIVISION

FEDERAL AID PROJECT

Uxbridge, MA
Rehabilitation of Route 16 (Douglas Street), from Taft Hill Road to 200-Ft West of Main Street
Project File No. **610931**

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.

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Appropriate
Postage Here

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

RE: Design Public Hearing
Rehabilitation of Route 16 (Douglas Street), from Taft Hill Road to 200-Ft West of Main St.
TOWN OF UXBRIDGE
Project File No. 610931
Attn: Project Management