



VIRTUAL DESIGN PUBLIC HEARING

DECEMBER 10TH, 2020

FOR THE PROPOSED

Resurfacing and Related Work on Route 9 – Phase II

Project No. 609049

Project Management

IN THE TOWN OF WEST BROOKFIELD, 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 PUBLIC HEARING MEETING
Project File No. 609049

A Virtual Design Public Hearing will be published on the MassDOT website below to present the design for the proposed Resurfacing and Related Work on Route 9 – Phase II project in West Brookfield, MA.

WHEN: Thursday, December 10th, 2020

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 on Route 9 – Phase II 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 roadway resurfacing and widening. Drainage improvements are proposed to remove stormwater runoff and snowmelt from the highway. Guardrail will be replaced and new signage and pavement markings will be included. Bicycle accommodations consisting of a usable shoulder have been provided in accordance with applicable design guides.

A secure right-of-way is necessary for this project. Acquisitions in fee and permanent or temporary easements may be required. The town of West Brookfield 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. 609049. 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.

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 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 notice or a cancellation announcement will be posted on the internet at 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

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.

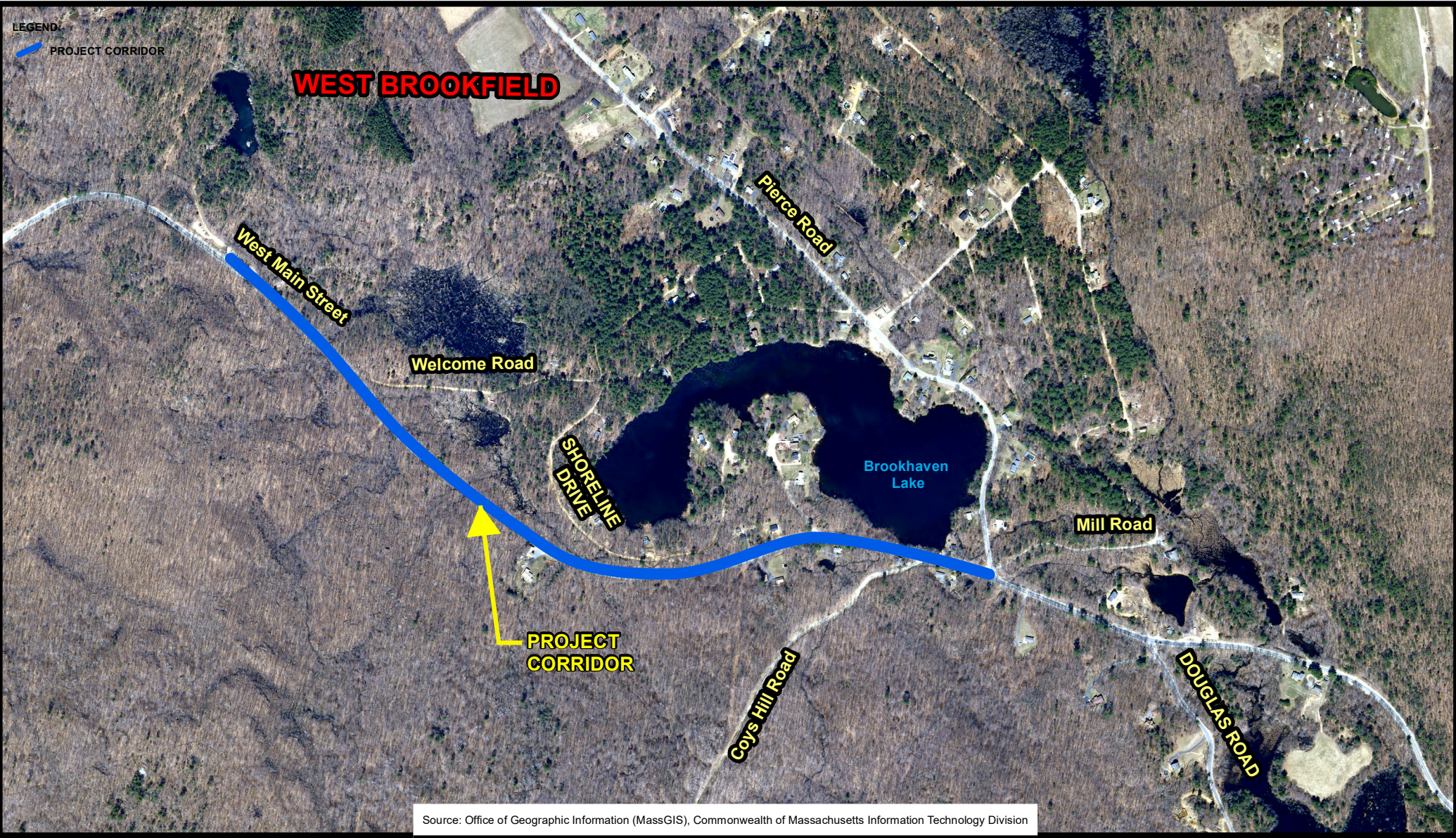
A Right of Entry is a document that is signed by the owner. It allows the Contractor to perform certain types of work on the owner's land. The work is usually minor in nature and frequently consists of loaming/seeding behind sidewalks, new driveway apron work, grading/sloping, and wetland protection,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

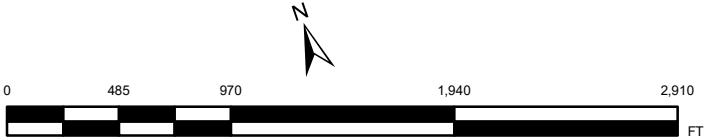


Source: Office of Geographic Information (MassGIS), Commonwealth of Massachusetts Information Technology Division

TOWN OF WEST BROOKFIELD, MA

Resurfacing & Related Work on Route 9 – Phase II

**WEST MAIN STREET, WEST BROOKFIELD
ROADWAY IMPROVEMENTS
PROJECT ID: 609049**



Resurfacing & Related Work on Route 9 (Phase II)
Welcome Road to Pierce Road
West Brookfield, Massachusetts

The Massachusetts Department of Transportation – Highway Division (MassDOT) and the Town of West Brookfield Highway Department are proposing to rehabilitate and widen the roadway surface along a 1-mile portion of Route 9 from Welcome Road to Pierce Road in West Brookfield to provide bicycle accommodation and improve safety for all roadway users. The project also consists of related items of work; including new signing, striping, guardrail replacement where necessary, slope stabilization and improvements to existing drainage infrastructure.

Proposed Improvements

Pavement Rehabilitation

Due to the pavement surface deficiencies, the proposed pavement rehabilitation technique is a combination of milling & overlay and full depth reconstruction. The project will also include approximately eight to ten feet of box widening along the roadway to achieve the desired cross section.

Roadway Cross Section

The existing cross section of Route 9 consists of two travel lanes with narrow paved shoulders. Roadway widths are typically 24'-26' wide with 11.5' lanes and a 1-2' paved shoulders. These lane and shoulder widths do not meet state and federal minimum standards for the roadway classification. Route 9 is a Rural Principal Arterial, and part of the National Highway System (NHS). Widening the roadway to include 12' lanes and 5' shoulders is proposed to improve safety for all roadway users. The five-foot shoulders will meet minimum requirements to accommodate bicyclists and will also provide room for emergency and maintenance vehicles as well as pedestrians.

Drainage Improvements

Drainage alterations along the roadway will be needed to accommodate the proposed widening. The project will continue to utilize the existing "country drainage" system including paved swales, natural swales and drop inlets where possible. Asphalt berm may be constructed on portions of the roadway along steep grades where shoulder washout may occur. Drainage structures impacted by the proposed roadway work will be adjusted accordingly, and structures in poor condition will be replaced as necessary.

Safety Improvements

The primary objective of this project is to improve the safety for all users. This section of roadway has experienced a high number of accidents. A Road Safety Audit (RSA) was performed in 2012 to identify existing deficiencies and potential countermeasures. Some of the recommendations from the RSA that will be implemented as part of the project include improving visibility and sight distance, widening to provide paved shoulders meeting design standards, removing roadside obstructions, drainage improvements to reduce icing, new pavement markings to delineate the traveled ways and shoulders, and installing new signs conforming to the provisions of the MUTCD and MassDOT.

Address: _____

Please Fold and Tape



Please Place
Appropriate
Postage Here

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

RE: Virtual Public Hearing
RESURFACING AND RELATED WORK ON ROUTE 9 – PHASE II
WEST BROOKFIELD
Project File No. 609049
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