



VIRTUAL DESIGN PUBLIC

JUNE 16, 2021

FOR THE PROPOSED

RECONSTRUCTION OF MOUNTAIN STREET

Project No. 607231

Project Management

IN THE TOWN OF WILLIAMSBURG, 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. 607231

A Live Virtual Design Public Hearing will be hosted on the MassDOT website below to present the design for the proposed Reconstruction of Mountain Street project in Williamsburg, MA.

WHEN: Wednesday, June 16, 2021 at 7PM

PURPOSE: The purpose of this hearing is to provide the public with the opportunity to become fully acquainted with the proposed Reconstruction of Mountain Street 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 new pavement, drainage, bicycle accommodation and safety improvements along the 3.25 mile long segment of Mountain Street beginning at the intersection of Kingsley Avenue and terminates near the Whately Town Line.

The existing pavement condition is poor and requires added maintenance and damage repairs. Rideability and drainage are also poor. The existing guard rail and signage are sub-standard. Storm drainage from the roadway discharges directly into Mountain Street Reservoir, an Outstanding Resource Water which supplies drinking water for the City of Northampton.

Situated in a rural setting, the resulting actions propose to address roadway condition, safety, bicycle accommodations and stormwater treatment to provide for the needs for all roadway users with consideration of the adjacent natural resources and properties. The Reconstruction of Mountain Street includes a sliver widening along both sides of the roadway with new pavement over a strengthened subgrade. Uniform shoulders with pavement markings are provided in each direction. Also included in the project is new drainage swales, pipes and structures, new roadway signage, modern beam guardrail with crashworthy end terminals, and stormwater treatment at outlets.

A secure right-of-way is necessary for this project. Acquisitions in fee and permanent or temporary easements may be required. The Town of Williamsburg 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 Patricia A. Leavenworth, P.E., Chief Engineer, via e-mail to MassDOTProjectManagement@dot.state.ma.us or via US Mail to Suite 6340, 10 Park Plaza, Boston, MA 02116, Attention: Project Management, Project File No. 607231. 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 is posted to 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 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 Live Virtual Design Public Hearing or a cancellation announcement will be hosted 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.

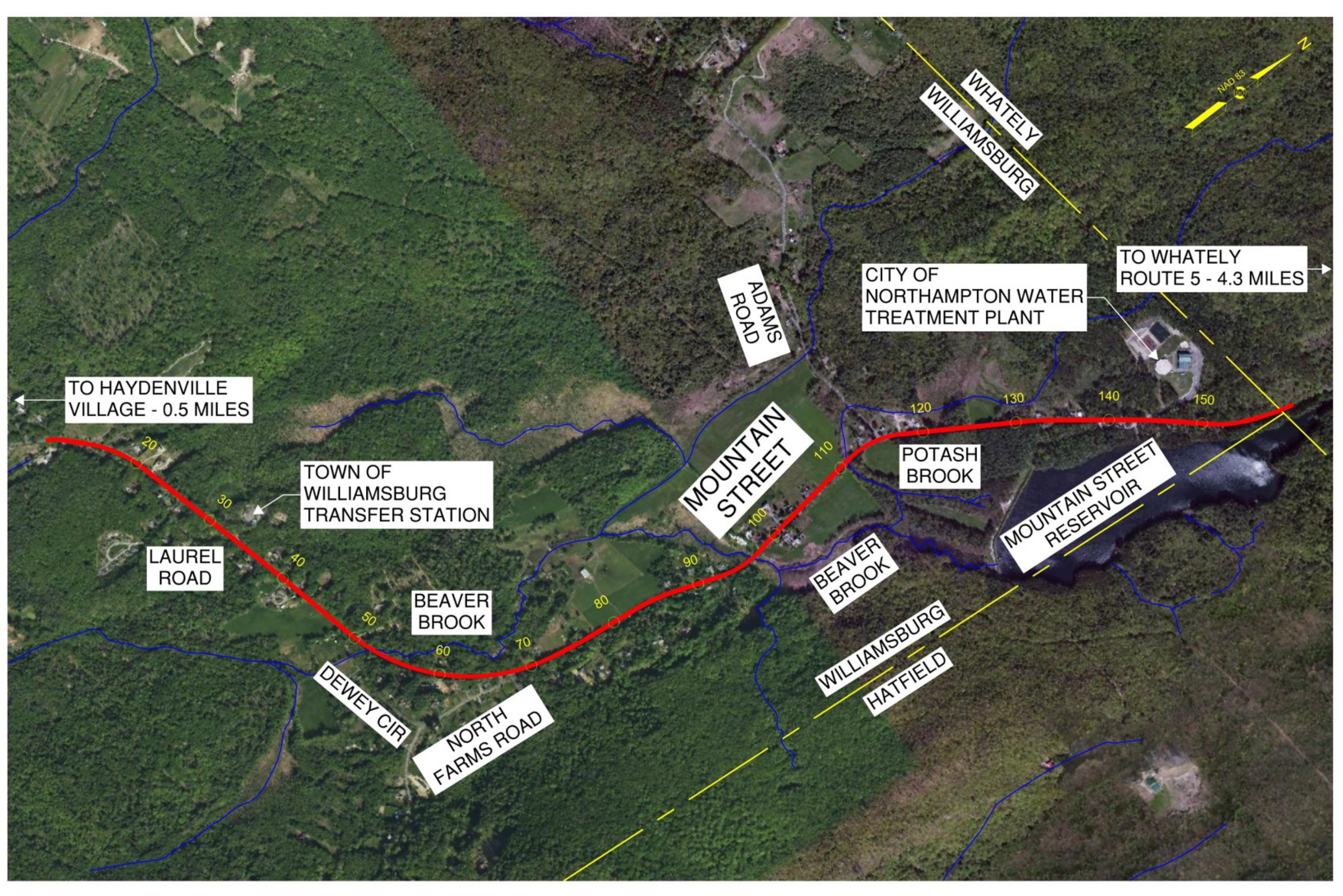
A Right of Entry is a document that is signed by the owner. It allows the Contractor to perform certain types of work on the owner's land. The work is usually minor in nature and frequently consists of loaming/seeding behind sidewalks, new driveway apron work, grading/sloping, and wetland protection,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



TO HAYDENVILLE VILLAGE - 0.5 MILES

TOWN OF WILLIAMSBURG TRANSFER STATION

LAUREL ROAD

DEWEY CIR

NORTH FARMS ROAD

BEAVER BROOK

MOUNTAIN STREET

BEAVER BROOK

POTASH BROOK

MOUNTAIN STREET RESERVOIR

ADAMS ROAD

CITY OF NORTHAMPTON WATER TREATMENT PLANT

TO WHATELY ROUTE 5 - 4.3 MILES

WHATELY
WILLIAMSBURG

WILLIAMSBURG
HATFIELD

NAD 83

N

20

30

40

50

60

70

80

90

100

110

120

130

140

150

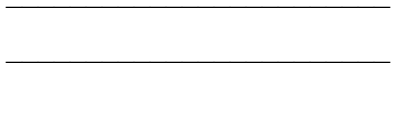
The Reconstruction of Mountain Street project proposes new pavement, drainage, bicycle accommodation and safety improvements along the 3.25 mile long segment of Mountain Street beginning at the intersection of Kingsley Avenue and terminates near the Whately Town Line.

The route serves residents, rural land uses and is gaining in popularity with bicyclists. The road provides access to Northampton's Wastewater Treatment Plant and Williamsburg's Transfer Station. Mountain Street is identified as a tertiary evacuation route by Western Regional Homeland Security Advisory Council. The width of Mountain Road varies from 22 feet to 26 feet and is about 25 feet wide on average. A 2015 traffic count performed by Pioneer Valley Planning Commission shows about 1500 vehicles per day using the road.

The existing pavement condition is poor and requires added repairs throughout the year. Rideability and drainage are also poor. The existing guardrail and signage are sub-standard. Roadway stormwater runoff is untreated. Mountain Street crosses Beaver Brook at two locations and Potash Brook at one location. Storm drainage from the roadway discharges directly into Mountain Street Reservoir, an Outstanding Resource Water which supplies drinking water for the City of Northampton. Utility poles parallel Mountain Street.

Situated in a rural setting, the resulting actions propose to address roadway condition, safety, bicycle accommodations and stormwater treatment to provide for the needs for all roadway users with consideration of the adjacent natural resources and properties. The Reconstruction of Mountain project includes a sliver widening along both sides of the roadway with new pavement over a strengthened subgrade. Uniform shoulders with pavement markings are provided in each direction. Also Included in the project is new drainage swales, pipes and structures, new roadway signage, modern beam guardrail with crashworthy end terminals, and stormwater treatment at outlets.

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
RECONSTRUCTION OF MOUNTAIN STREET
WILLIAMSBURG
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Attn: Project Management

