

**VIRTUAL DESIGN PUBLIC HEARING / PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING / ORAL
PRESENTATION**

Wednesday, September 18, 2024

At

6:30 PM

FOR THE PROPOSED

**Route 129 (Lowell Street) Over I-93
BRIDGE REPLACEMENT PROJECT**

Project No.: 608703

Bridge Number: W-38-029

Major Projects

IN THE TOWN OF WILMINGTON, IN MIDDLESEX COUNTY, 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. 608703

A Virtual Design Public Hearing will be hosted on the MassDOT website below to present the design for the proposed Route 129 (Lowell Street) over I-93 bridge replacement project in **Wilmington, MA**.

WHEN: Wednesday, September 18, 2024, at 6:30 PM. 8:00 PM

PURPOSE: The purpose of this hearing is to provide the public with the opportunity to become fully acquainted with the proposed Route 129 (Lowell Street) over I-93 Bridge Replacement 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 will replace Bridge No. W-38-029 which carries Route 129 (Lowell Street) over I-93. The project will improve safety and accessibility for all roadway users. The completed project will include two sidewalks with ADA compliant pedestrian ramps within the project limits. The proposed two span bridge will consist of new steel plate girders composite with a reinforced concrete deck and asphaltic wearing surface. The proposed bridge will provide an 11-foot travel lane and a 5-foot shoulder with a 2-foot buffer in each direction with sidewalks at both sides. Construction will be done in two stages while maintaining two-way traffic and avoiding lane closures.

There are no anticipated impacts to right-of-way for this project. If however, this changes, 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. Lavallee, P.E., Chief Engineer, via e-mail to massdotmajorprojects@dot.state.ma.us or via US Mail to Suite 7210, 10 Park Plaza, Boston, MA 02116, Attention: **Major Projects**, Project File No. **608703**. Statements and exhibits intended for inclusion in the hearing transcript must be emailed or postmarked no later than ten (10) business days after the hearing is hosted.

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 webinar.

This Virtual Design Public Hearing or a cancellation announcement will be published/ on the internet at 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 Lavalley, 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?

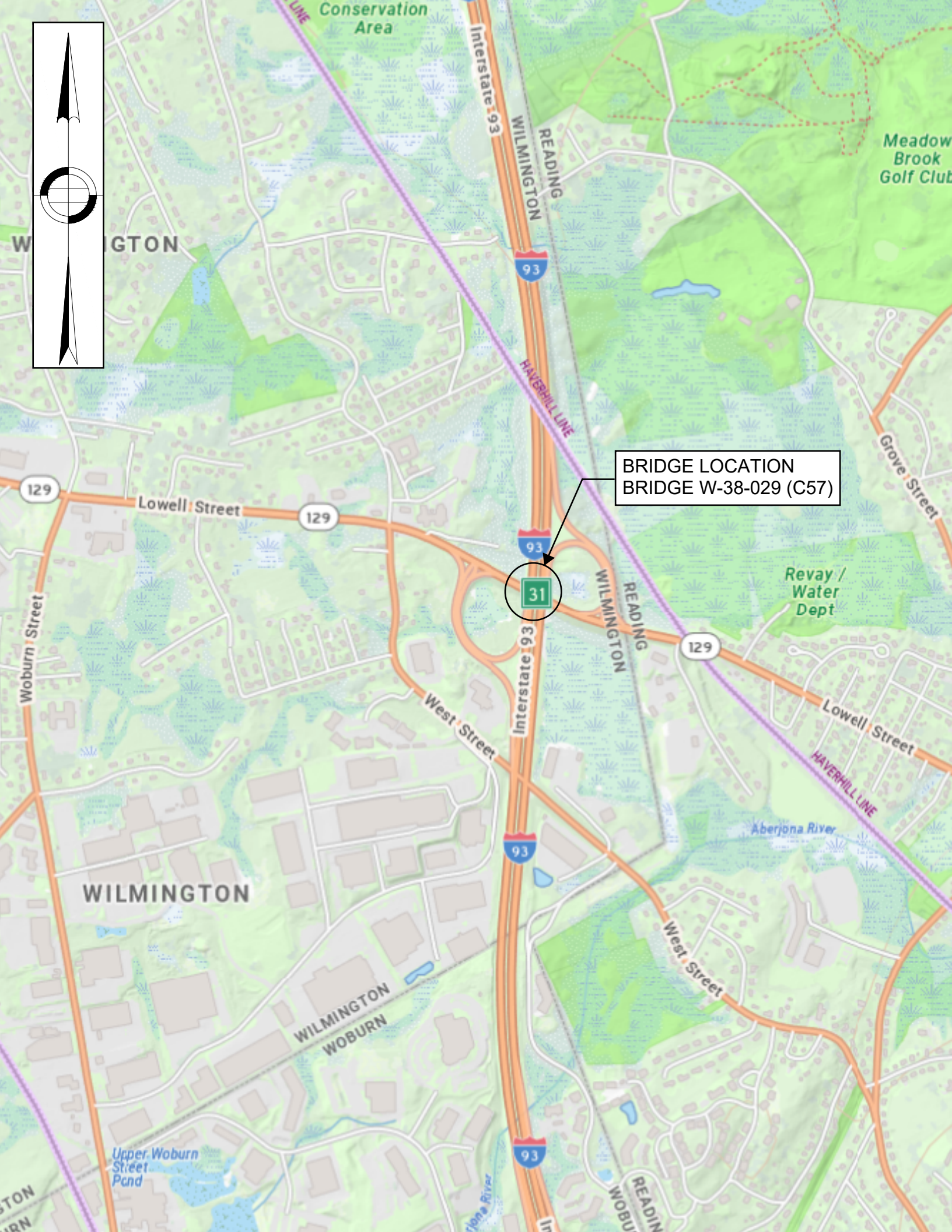
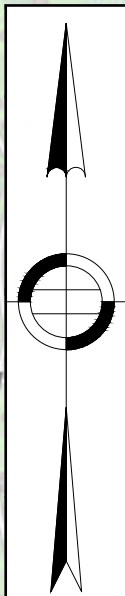
No. If, after the figure established as market value has been offered to the owner, the owner feels he or she is not being offered a fair price, he or she has the right, within three years, to appeal to the courts. Pending a court decision, he or she can be paid on a "pro-tanto" basis (or "for the time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



BRIDGE LOCATION
BRIDGE W-38-029 (C57)

Project Description

Route 129 (Lowell Street) Over I-93 Bridge Replacement Project

Project Purpose

The purpose of the project is to replace the currently deficient bridge with a new structure that will meet current design loadings and bridge standards. The proposed replacement of the bridge will provide a safer, more reliable structure and improve vertical clearances on I-93 while allowing for possible future widening of the highway.

Scope of Work

Bridge No. W-38-029 which carries Route 129 (Lowell Street) over I-93 is proposed to be replaced based on its age and conditions identified in recent inspections. The bridge will be replaced with a new two-span steel plate girder with a concrete deck supported on two reinforced concrete abutments and a concrete multi-column pier. The proposed structure will improve vertical clearance on I-93 and improve pedestrian and bicycle accommodations while minimizing approach work and changes to the horizontal alignment.

This project will replace the superstructure and substructure of this critical bridge to ensure its continued safety. Per MassDOT policy, the project will also enhance cyclist and pedestrian accommodations within the project areas, where possible, and allow for the continuation of these accommodations outside of the bridge limits in the future.

In addition to the bridge construction activities, some approach roadway and sidewalk modifications are included in the project to maintain convenient and safe access across both bridges for all roadway users.

Right of Way

All construction work is expected to occur within the Right of Way and there are no anticipated impacts or Temporary Easements.

Environmental Permits

All required environmental permits will be obtained prior to proceeding with the project if necessary. The Project is not anticipated to have any direct impacts to wetland resource areas adjacent to the project. Therefore, filings with MassDEP and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) related to Section 401 and 404 of the Federal Clear Water Act (CWA) are not anticipated to be required.

Project Status

The design plans displayed at this meeting are preliminary. Comments made at this public hearing will be incorporated to the maximum extent feasible in the final design. Project is currently at 25% of the design phase and the final design and construction advertisement are anticipated in the winter of 2025 and summer of 2025 respectively.

Project Cost

Currently, the estimated construction cost is approximately \$25,500,000.

THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
HIGHWAY DIVISION

FEDERAL AID PROJECT

Wilmington, MA
Bridge Replacement
Route 129 (Lowell Street) over I-93 Bridge Replacement
Project File No. 608703

This sheet is provided for your comments. Your input is solicited and appreciated. You may e-mail comments directly to dot.feedback.highway@state.ma.us or you may mail this sheet with any additional comments to:

Carrie E. Lavalley, P.E., Chief Engineer
MassDOT – Highway Division
10 Park Plaza, Boston, MA 02116-3973
Attn: Major Projects

Statements and exhibits intended for inclusion in the public hearing/meeting transcript must be emailed or postmarked no later than ten (10) business days after the hearing/meeting/presentation.

PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT LEGIBLY.

Name: _____ Title: _____

Organization: _____

Address: _____

Please Fold and Tape



Please Place
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Postage Here

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

RE: Virtual Public Hearing /Public Information Meeting/Oral Presentation
ROUTE 129 (LOWELL STREET) OVER I-93 BRIDGE REPLACEMENT
WILMINGTON
Project File No. 608703
Attn: Major Projects

