



**VIRTUAL DESIGN PUBLIC HEARING**

**SEPTEMBER, 10, 2025**

**FOR THE PROPOSED**

**Winchendon- Intersection Improvements at Blair Square: Front Street, Central Street and Spring Street  
and Routes 12 and 202 Project  
Project No. 612771  
Highway Design**

**IN THE TOWN OF WINCHENDON, 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 DESIGN PUBLIC HEARING

**Project Description: Winchendon- Intersection Improvements at Blair Square: Front Street, Central Street and Spring Street and Routes 12 and 202**

**Project File No. 612771**

A Virtual Design Public Hearing will be hosted on the MassDOT website below to present the design for the proposed project in Winchendon, MA.

WHEN: 6:00 PM, Wednesday, September 10, 2025

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 consists of 11-foot travel lanes, delineated turn lanes, 5-foot sidewalk adjacent to a 5.5-foot unidirectional bicycle lane. A 4-foot buffer is proposed on both sides of Front Street (Route 12/202) throughout most of the project limits. The project includes pavement resurfacing within limits of work. It also includes the installation of Rapid Rectangular Flashing Beacons (RRFBs) at midblock crosswalks as well as construction of ADA/AAB compliant pedestrian curb ramps at these crossings. Pedestrian facilities are proposed on both sides of Front Street and Central Street and north side of Spring Street.

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. Lavalley, P.E., Chief Engineer, via e-mail to [MassDOTProjectManagement@dot.state.ma.us](mailto:MassDOTProjectManagement@dot.state.ma.us) or via US Mail to Suite 7550, 10 Park Plaza, Boston, MA 02116, Attention: Project Management, Project File No. 612771. Statements and exhibits intended for inclusion in the hearing transcript must be emailed or postmarked no later than ten (10) business days (14 calendar 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](mailto: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. LAVALLEY, 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?**

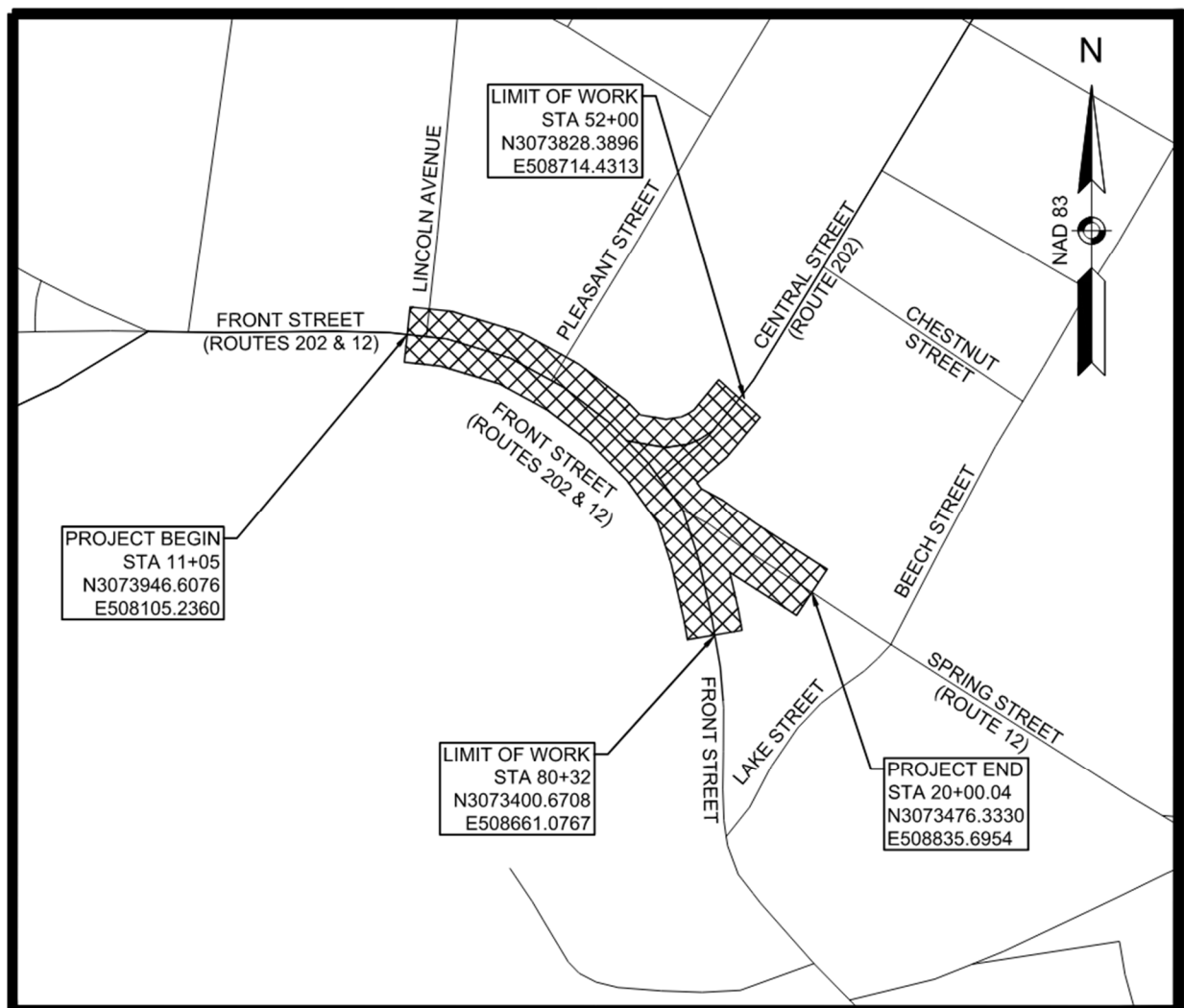
In the event that donations are not considered, or completed, every effort will be made to ensure that an equitable value is awarded. Municipal and/or outside appraisers will complete an appraisal. Consideration is given to the type of rights needed, whether in fee, permanent or temporary easements. 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.

## Locus Map

### WINCHENDON- INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS AT BLAIR SQUARE: FRONT STREET, CENTRAL STREET AND SPRING STREET AND ROUTES 12 AND 202



## **Proposed Improvements**

Blair Square is located at the intersection of Front Street (Routes 12/ U.S. 202), Central Street (U.S. 202), and Spring Street (Route 12) in the Town of Winchendon. The project extends along Front Street from Lincoln Avenue to approximately 300 feet south of Central Street (a total of 830 feet), along Central Street for 200 feet north of the intersection and along Spring Street for 300 feet east of the intersection. The project limits encompass a critical downtown intersection with an above average crash rate that serves both regional through movements and local access to adjacent commercial and residential land uses.

An intersection control evaluation study demonstrated that the intersection would be best improved through a stop-controlled intersection. Central Street will remain as a stop control. Additional improvements identified include formalizing left turn lanes on Front Street and Central Street; Front Street south of the intersection will become a designated one-way street away from the intersection; geometric improvements, and improvements to pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure.

These geometric improvements include adjustments to the horizontal alignment of roadways approaching the intersection and improvements to the vertical geometry of the roadways. These changes will improve intersection function and safety through sight distance improvements. The pavement within the project area will be reconstructed to accommodate vertical and horizontal changes.

Sidewalks will be reconstructed to meet ADA/AAB standards with new curb ramps. Curb extensions, pedestrian refuge islands, and adjustments to the locations of crosswalks will reduce pedestrian crossing distances. Additionally high-visibility crosswalks, and the installation of rectangular rapid flashing beacons (RRFBs) will provide additional visibility of pedestrians. The project will also provide bike lanes that are raised at sidewalk level and separated from vehicle traffic that will extend the existing Central Street bicycle facilities through the intersection onto Front Street and Spring Street. Bicycle improvements will include marked crossings for bicyclists across the intersection.

Improvements will also include high-visibility pavement markings including the delineation of on-street parking to reduce encroachment into travel lanes and ensure adequate space for truck turning movements. The drainage system will be updated and along with other utilities; such as the relocation of utility poles as needed. Decorative streetlights will be relocated or replaced as needed to provide adequate lighting. Other streetscape improvements will include trash receptacles, bicycle racks, benches, as well landscaping and street trees where feasible.

THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS  
MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
HIGHWAY DIVISION

FEDERAL AID PROJECT

Winchendon, MA  
Project Intersection Improvements at Blair Square: Front Street, Central Street and Spring Street  
and Routes 12 and 202  
**Project File No. 612771**

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

RE: Virtual Public Hearing  
INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS AT BLAIR SQUARE: FRONT STREET,  
CENTRAL STREET AND SPRING STREET AND ROUTES 12 AND 202  
**WINCHENDON**  
Project File No. 612771  
Attn: Project Management

