



25% DESIGN PUBLIC HEARING

SEPTEMBER 19, 2019

AT

**VINSON OWEN SCHOOL LIBRARY
75 JOHNSON ROAD**

WINCHESTER, MASSACHUSETTS

7:00 PM

FOR THE PROPOSED

**IMPROVEMENTS AT VINSON OWEN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL SAFE ROUTES TO
SCHOOL PROJECT**

PROJECT FILE NO. 608791

IN THE TOWN OF WINCHESTER, MASSACHUSETTS

**COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
HIGHWAY DIVISION**

**THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION – HIGHWAY DIVISION
NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING**

Project File No. 608791

A Design Public Hearing will be held by MassDOT to discuss the proposed improvements at the Vinson-Owen Elementary School, Safe Routes to School, project in Winchester, MA.

WHERE: Vinson Owen School Library
**75 Johnson Road
Winchester, MA 01890**

WHEN: Thursday September 19, 2019 @ **7:00 PM**

PURPOSE: The purpose of this hearing is to provide the public with the opportunity to become fully acquainted with this proposed Safe Routes to School project. All views and comments made at the hearing/meeting will be reviewed and considered to the maximum extent possible.

PROPOSAL: The proposed project will improve the safety and accessibility for students walking and biking to the Vinson Owen Elementary School from nearby neighborhoods. The project consists of construction of a permanent traffic signal at the intersection of Johnson Road and Ridge Street, as well as a left turn lane on the Johnson Road westbound approach. The proposed improvements also include new sidewalks and ADA compliant curb ramps along Johnson Road and the west side of Ridge Street. The overall intent is to increase the safety for all users and enhance the functionality of the intersection. The project also includes the addition of a flashing pedestrian beacon and a crosswalk at the intersection of Coolidge Road and Ridge Street. 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 Winchester is responsible for acquiring all needed rights in private or public lands. MassDOT's policy concerning land acquisitions will be discussed at this hearing.

Written views received by MassDOT subsequent to the date of this notice and up to five (5) days prior to the date of the hearing shall be displayed for public inspection and copying at the time and date listed above. Plans will be on display one-half hour before the hearing begins, with an engineer in attendance to answer questions regarding this project. A project handout will be made available on the MassDOT website listed below.

Written statements and other exhibits in place of, or in addition to, oral statements made at the Public Hearing regarding the proposed undertaking are to be submitted to Patricia A. Leavenworth, P.E., Chief Engineer, MassDOT, 10 Park Plaza, Boston, MA 02116, Attention: **Roadway Project Management**, Project File No. **608791**. Such submissions will also be accepted at the hearing. Mailed statements and exhibits intended for inclusion in the public hearing transcript must be postmarked no later than ten (10) business days after this Public Hearing. Project inquiries may be emailed to dot.feedback.highway@state.ma.us

This location is accessible to people with disabilities. MassDOT provides reasonable accommodations and/or language assistance free of charge upon request (including but not limited to interpreters in American Sign Language and languages other than English, open or closed captioning for videos, assistive listening devices and alternate material formats, such as audio tapes, Braille and large print), as available. For accommodation or language assistance, please contact MassDOT's Chief Diversity and Civil Rights Officer by phone (857-368-8580), fax (857-368-0602), TTD/TTY (857-368-0603) 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 (10) business days before the meeting.

In case of inclement weather, hearing cancellation announcements will be posted on the internet at <http://www.massdot.state.ma.us/Highway/>

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.

FOR MUNICIPAL RIGHT OF WAY

RIGHT OF WAY ISSUES

A secure right of way is necessary for this project. Temporary construction easements may be required. Your municipality is responsible for acquiring all necessary rights in private or public lands. If your property is affected, your rights are fully protected under law.

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?

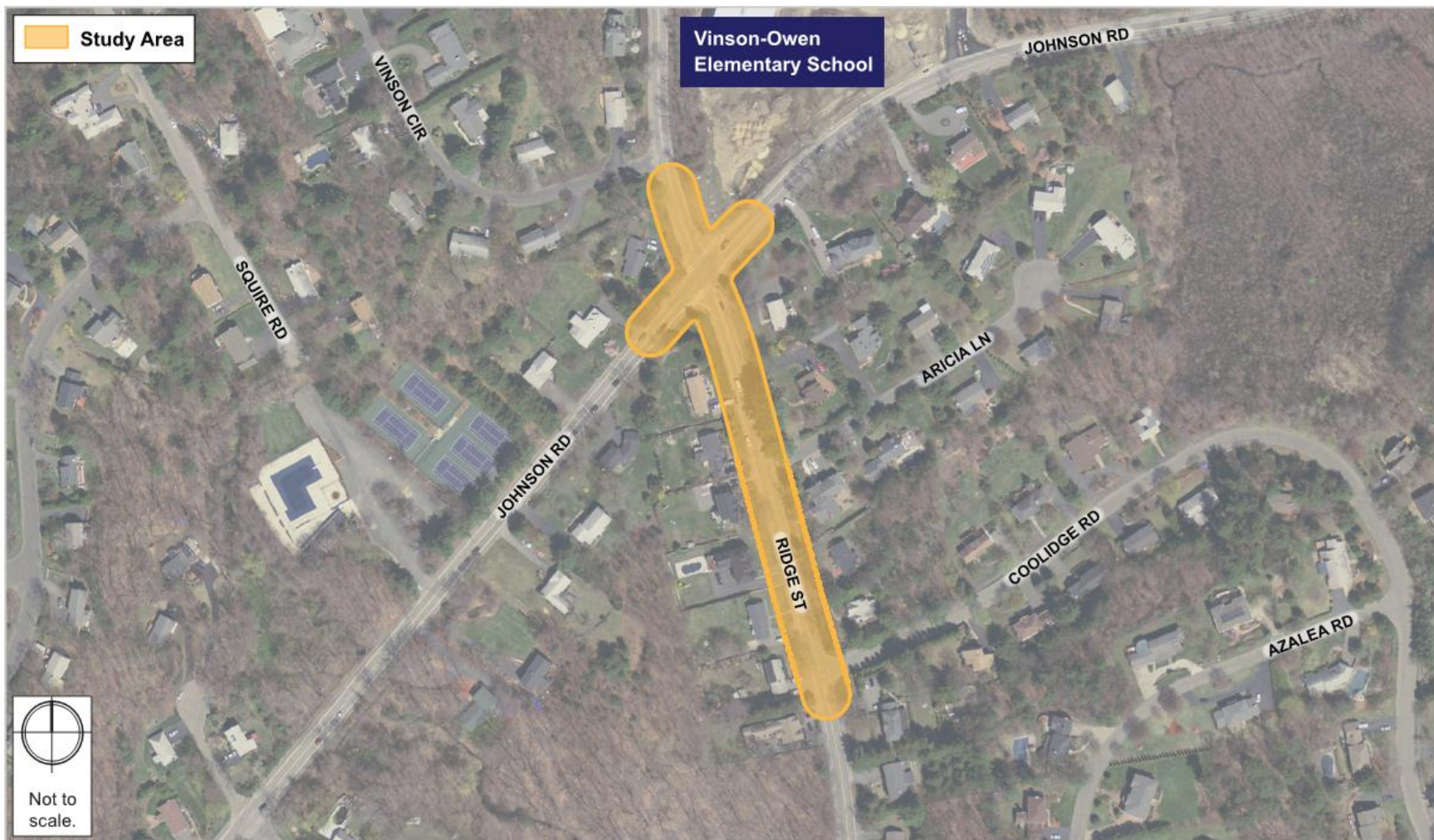
In the event that donations are not considered, or completed, every effort will be made to ensure that an equitable value is awarded. Municipal and/or outside appraisers will complete an appraisal. Consideration is given to the type of rights needed, whether in fee, permanent or temporary easements.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



Figure 1. *Project Location Map*



Project Location

MassDOT is proposing geometric improvements at the intersection of Johnson Road and Ridge Street. The project limits also include proposed work at the intersection of Ridge Street and Coolidge Road.

Purpose

The purpose of this project is to provide safety improvements and enhanced access for children to walk to school, in addition to providing enhanced traffic flow for vehicles, pedestrians, and bicycles. The total length of the project is approximately 0.35 miles.

Existing Conditions

Johnson Road at Ridge Street is an intersection with four approaches that is currently controlled by a temporary signal. The Johnson Road eastbound approach is approximately 12.5 feet wide with a 3-foot shoulder, and the Johnson Road westbound approach is approximately 11.5 feet wide with a 6-foot shoulder. The Ridge Street northbound approach is approximately 14.5 feet wide with a 2.5-foot shoulder, and the southbound approach varies in width from about 15 feet to 24 feet. The existing signage is in fair condition and there are crosswalks provided across both Ridge Street approaches, and across the east side of Johnson Road.

Ridge Street at Coolidge Road is a three-approach intersection. The Coolidge Road westbound approach does not have the right of way, but there is no signage control. Coolidge Road is approximately 30 feet wide. The Ridge Street north and southbound approaches are free approaches, approximately 12.5 feet wide with a 2.5-foot shoulder. The pavement markings and signage are in fair condition. There is a sidewalk on the west side of the intersection, as well as the north side of Coolidge Road, but there is no continuity between the two sidewalks, and the ramp from Coolidge Road is not ADA compliant. There are no bicycle accommodations.

Proposed Project

The proposed project will improve the safety and accessibility for students walking and biking to the Vinson Owen Elementary School from nearby neighborhoods. The project consists of construction of a permanent traffic signal at the intersection of Johnson Road and Ridge Street, as well as a left turn lane on the Johnson Road westbound approach. The proposed improvements also include new sidewalks and ADA compliant curb ramps along Johnson Road and the west side of Ridge Street. The overall intent is to increase the safety for all users and enhance the functionality of the intersection. The project also includes the addition of a flashing pedestrian beacon and a crosswalk at the intersection of Coolidge Road and Ridge Street, as well as a crosswalk and ADA compliant curb ramps at the intersection of Aricia Lane and Ridge Street.

The project may also include an additional segment of sidewalk on the west side of Olde Village Road pending a survey and review of potential impacts.

Project Schedule

The project is currently at the 25% Design Stage. This project has been programmed in the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) for Federal Fiscal Year 2020. The design phase is anticipated to proceed with the 75%/100% and Final design submissions. Comments from this evening will be reviewed and considered to the maximum extents possible.

Project Cost

The estimated total contract cost for this project is approximately \$1,671,089. The project construction cost will be funded with a combination of monies from the Federal Highway Administration and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

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Winchester, MA
Proposed Improvements at the Vinson-Owen Elementary School
Project File No. 608791

Patricia A. Leavenworth, P.E., Chief Engineer
MassDOT – Highway Division
10 Park Plaza, Boston, MA 02116-3973
Attn: Highway Project Management Section, Project File No. 608791

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

RE: Public Hearing
Vinson-Owen School SRTS
WINCHESTER
Project File No. 608791
Attn: Highway Project Management Section

