



**DESIGN PUBLIC HEARING**

**DECEMBER 3, 2025**

**FOR THE PROPOSED**

**Pleasant Street Pedestrian and Bicycle Improvements  
Project No. 610535  
Project Management**

**IN THE CITY OF WORCESTER, 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 DESIGN PUBLIC HEARING**

**Project Description: Worcester – Pedestrian and Bicycle Improvements, Pleasant Street (Route 122)  
Project File No. 610535**

A Design Public Hearing will be held to present the design for the proposed project in Worcester, MA.

WHERE: West Tatnuck Elementary School,  
300 Mower Street,  
Worcester, MA 01602

WHEN: Wednesday, December 3, 2025 @ 6:30 pm

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 project consists of enhancing the safety of pedestrians and bicyclists on Pleasant Street by reconstructing existing sidewalks, constructing new 5-foot-wide sidewalks where feasible, adding 5-foot-wide bike lanes along the roadway, and incorporating additional pedestrian crossings across Pleasant Street with the addition of ADA compliant curb ramps at each intersection. The project will retain the existing curb line in most locations and maintain the existing utility poles. Bicycle accommodation consisting of a 5-foot-wide bicycle lane has 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 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 [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. 610535. Statements and exhibits intended for inclusion in the public hearing transcript must be emailed or postmarked no later than ten (10) business days (14 calendar days) after the hearing is hosted on 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](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.

In case of inclement weather, a cancellation announcement will be posted on the internet at <https://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 E. Lavallee, P.E.  
Chief Engineer

## **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?**

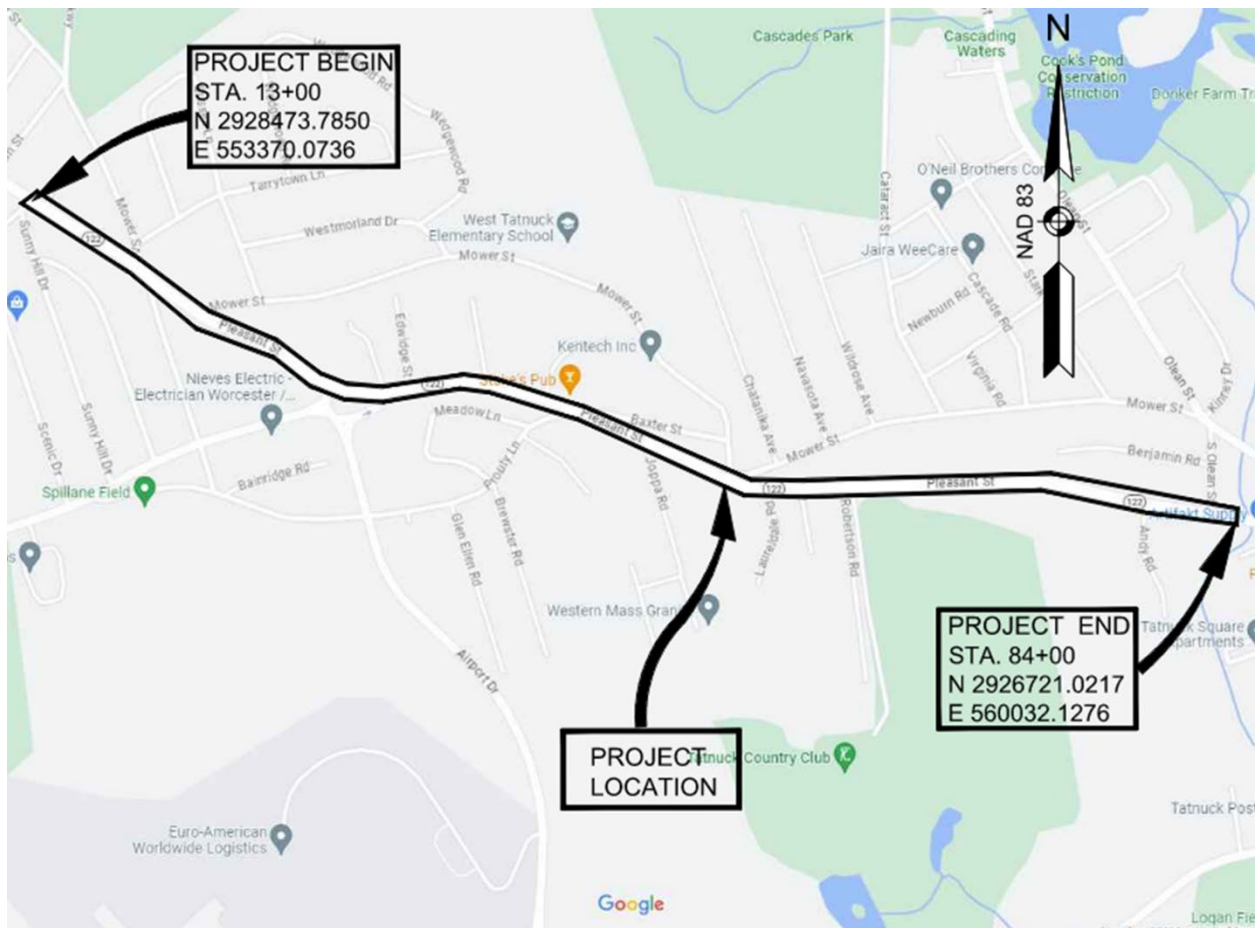
No. If, after the figure established as market value has been offered to the owner, the owner feels he or she is not being offered a fair price, he or she has the right, within three years, to appeal to the courts. Pending a court decision, he or she can be paid on a "pro-tanto" basis (or "for the time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



# Pleasant St

## **For Pedestrians:**

- New and improved sidewalks will meet the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requirements as well as the Public Right-of-Way Accessibility Guidelines (PROWAG)
- Continuous sidewalk connections where feasible
- Improved crossing markings and signage
- Additional crossing locations across Pleasant St
- Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacon (RRFB) at three locations
- Accessible bus stops where feasible

## **For Bicyclists:**

- 5 foot minimum bike lane on both sides of the roadway
- Variable width buffer between bike lane and vehicular lane

## **PROJECT QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS**

### **-Why is the sidewalk not continuous on the north side?**

Utility conflicts, steep slopes, and right-of-way impacts limit the amount of sidewalk this project can incorporate on the north side of the project.

### **-Why are we reducing to one travel lane in each direction?**

Reducing the lanes will increase safety for all road users but especially for pedestrians. Reducing lanes means a pedestrian needs to cross only two active lanes of vehicles, both vehicles and pedestrians have better sight lines to see each other, and reducing lanes has a speed moderating effect on drivers.

### **-How will reducing to one lane in each direction affect traffic?**

Reducing lanes will make it safer to turn onto, cross, and turn off Pleasant Street. Drivers will only need to cross one lane of oncoming traffic to make a left turn which will lower driver stress and increase safety. The reduction of lanes also improves sight distance for vehicles on the existing roadway curves allowing drivers a longer reaction time. Making turns easier and safer can allow the traffic to flow more consistently and avoid the “accordion-style” traffic pattern.

### **-How will left turns from Pleasant St onto Upper Lower Mower St intersection operate?**

Left turns will continue to be restricted between 7 a.m. and 9 a.m., except for buses. At other times of the day left turns will be safer to make turning onto Mower Street with increased visibility and fewer lanes to cross to make the turn.



THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS  
MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
HIGHWAY DIVISION

FEDERAL AID PROJECT

Worcester, MA  
Pedestrian and Bicycle Improvements on Pleasant Street  
Project File No. 610535

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

RE: DESIGN PUBLIC HEARING  
PEDESTRIAN AND BICYCLE IMPROVEMENTS ON PLEASANT STREET  
WORCESTER  
PROJECT FILE NO. 610535  
Attn: PROJECT MANAGEMENT

