



VIRTUAL DESIGN PUBLIC HEARING

AUGUST 21st, 2024

FOR THE PROPOSED

**FLOOD RELIEF ON ROUTE 20, GRAFTON STREET (RT 122) INTERCHANGE TO
FLINT POND**

**Project No. 612608
Highway Design**

IN THE CITY OF WORCESTER/TOWN OF SHREWSBURY, 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 File No. 612608**

A Virtual Design Public Hearing will be hosted on the MassDOT website below to present the design for the proposed **Flood Relief on Route 20, Grafton Street (RT 122) Interchange to Flint Pond** project in **Worcester/Shrewsbury/District 3, MA**.

WHEN: 6:00PM, Wednesday, August 21st, 2024

PURPOSE: The purpose of this hearing is to provide the public with the opportunity to become fully acquainted with the proposed **Flood Relief on Route 20, Grafton Street (RT 122) Interchange to Flint Pond** 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 drainage infrastructure improvements including catch basins and drain pipe to reduce flooding at the intersection of Route 20 and Grafton St (RT 122) to the outfall location at Flint Pond. A lane closure will be needed to install the proposed drainage infrastructure, and the existing level of bicycle and pedestrian access will be maintained.

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 DOTHighwayDesign@dot.state.ma.us or via US Mail to Suite 7360, 10 Park Plaza, Boston, MA 02116, Attention: **Highway Design, Project File No. 612608**. 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). 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. 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.

Figure 2: Aerial Locus

Route 20 Drainage Improvements
Shrewsbury, Massachusetts



 Site Locus

Source: VHB

Path: \\vhb.com\gis\proj\Wat-TEV15592.15 Worcester Rt 20 Drainage\Project\ERC Figures\Route 12 Drainage ERC Figures.aprx (cbardier, 5/1/2024)

Project Description

The Massachusetts Department of Transportation – Highway Division (MassDOT) is proposing stormwater improvements to Route 20 in Worcester and Shrewsbury from the intersection with Grafton Street (Route 122) to Flint Pond. The project will include the installation of additional drainage infrastructure to reduce the flood frequency and duration at the intersection during storm events.

Proposed Improvements

The project includes the installation of new catch basins, manholes, drainage pipe, headwall, and a stone stilling basin. New catch basins will be installed at the low point on Route 20 located at the intersection with Grafton Street (Route 122). An additional 36" drainage main will be installed parallel to the existing drainage system, extending from the intersection of Route 20 and 122 to the existing outfall location into Flint Pond with the proposed new stilling basin and headwall.

Existing Conditions

The proposed project is located mostly in Worcester, with a portion of the project located in Shrewsbury. Frequent flooding of Route 20 at its intersection with Grafton Street (Route 122) causes road closures until flooding recedes. The existing inlet capacity at the low point and size of the drainage trunkline are insufficient for the current level of development in the watershed. The existing drainage system travels approximately 4000 feet easterly and outfalls directly into Flint Pond near the bridge.

Right of Way Impacts

New right of way is proposed at the area around the outfall in order to install and maintain the stilling basin and headwall. This land is private property and will be impacted to assist construction and maintenance of the existing drainage infrastructure.

Maintenance of Traffic during Construction

A single lane closure of the highspeed lane in the eastbound direction will be utilized for most of the project length during construction. Closer to the Shrewsbury town line, the drainage main and lane closure will switch over to the right-most lane in the eastbound direction.

Work hours are proposed to be:

	Day-Time	Night-Time
Off-Roadway	7am – 5pm	Upon Approval
Route 20	9am – 3pm	9pm – 5am (Next Day)

Project Status- Project Schedule

The project has been programmed in the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program for Federal Fiscal Year 2026. The Plans presented this evening are at the 75% Design Stage. Comments from this evening will be reviewed and considered to the maximum extent possible.

Project Construction Cost

The project construction costs will be funded with a combination of money from the Federal Highway Administration and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and is currently estimated at approximately \$5.7 million.

THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
HIGHWAY DIVISION

FEDERAL AID PROJECT

Worcester/Shrewsbury, MA
Flood Relief on Route 20, Grafton Street (RT 122) Interchange to Flint Pond
Project File No. 612608

This sheet is provided for your comments. Your input is solicited and appreciated. You may e-mail comments directly to DOTHighwayDesign@dot.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: Highway Design

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.

Name: _____ Title: _____

Organization: _____

Address: _____

Please Fold and Tape

Please Place
Appropriate
Postage Here

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

RE: Virtual Public Hearing
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