

**THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS**  
**MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION – HIGHWAY DIVISION**  
**NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING MEETING**  
**Project File No. 608719**

A Live Virtual Design Public Hearing will be hosted on the MassDOT website below to present the design for the proposed **Norwottuck Rail Trail Resurfacing** project in **Amherst and Belchertown, MA**.

**WHEN: 7:00 PM Thursday, November 18, 2021**

**PURPOSE:** The purpose of this hearing is to provide the public with the opportunity to become fully acquainted with the proposed **Norwottuck Rail Trail Resurfacing** 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 rehabilitating a 1.5 mile segment of the Norwottuck Rail Trail (also known as the Massachusetts Central Rail Trail). The paved surface was originally constructed in 1997. The pavement surface is cracked and deteriorating in many places and reaching the end of its planned life. There are also several root-damaged areas and edge drop-offs which pose significant safety concerns for people walking and people biking. Improvements to the Warren Wright Parking Area are also planned.

A secure right-of-way is necessary for this project. Acquisitions in fee and permanent or temporary easements may be required. The **Department of Conservation and Recreation** 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., Acting Chief Engineer, via e-mail to [DOTHighwayDesign@dot.state.ma.us](mailto:DOTHighwayDesign@dot.state.ma.us) or via US Mail to Suite 6340, 10 Park Plaza, Boston, MA 02116, Attention: **Highway Design**, Project File No. **608719**. 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 is posted to 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 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 business days before the hearing.

This Live Virtual Design Public Hearing or a cancellation announcement will be hosted on the internet at [www.mass.gov/massdot-highway-design-public-hearings](http://www.mass.gov/massdot-highway-design-public-hearings).

JONATHAN GULLIVER  
HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATOR

CARRIE. E. LAVALLEE, P.E.  
ACTING CHIEF ENGINEER