PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING

JANUARY 22, 2025

FOR THE PROPOSED

Intersection Improvements, Randolph Street and Richards A Fitts Drive (Route 139) at Chestnut Street and Old Randolph Street
Project No. 612525

Highway Design

IN THE TOWN OF ABINGTON, 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 PUBLIC INFORMATIONAL MEETING
Project File No. 612525

A Virtual Public Informational Meeting will be hosted on the MassDOT website below to present the design for the proposed Route 139 at Chestnut Street Intersection Improvements project in **Abington, MA**.

WHEN: **6:00 PM, Wednesday, January 22, 2025**

PURPOSE: The purpose of this meeting is to provide the public with the opportunity to become fully acquainted with the proposed Route 139 at Chestnut Street Intersection Improvements project. All views and comments submitted in response to the meeting will be reviewed and considered to the maximum extent possible.

PROPOSAL: The proposed project consists of geometric improvements to address safety concerns. The preferred alternative is a traffic signal with 11-ft travel lanes and dedicated 10-ft turn lanes on Route 139. Bike lanes with a width of 5-ft are proposed with newly constructed minimum 5.5-ft sidewalks throughout the intersection. There will be some segments consisting of a 10-ft shared us path. The bike lanes on Route 139 will be buffered. Pedestrian crossings are also proposed through all four legs of the intersection with pedestrian signalization.

This meeting 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 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 meeting.

This meeting 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 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.

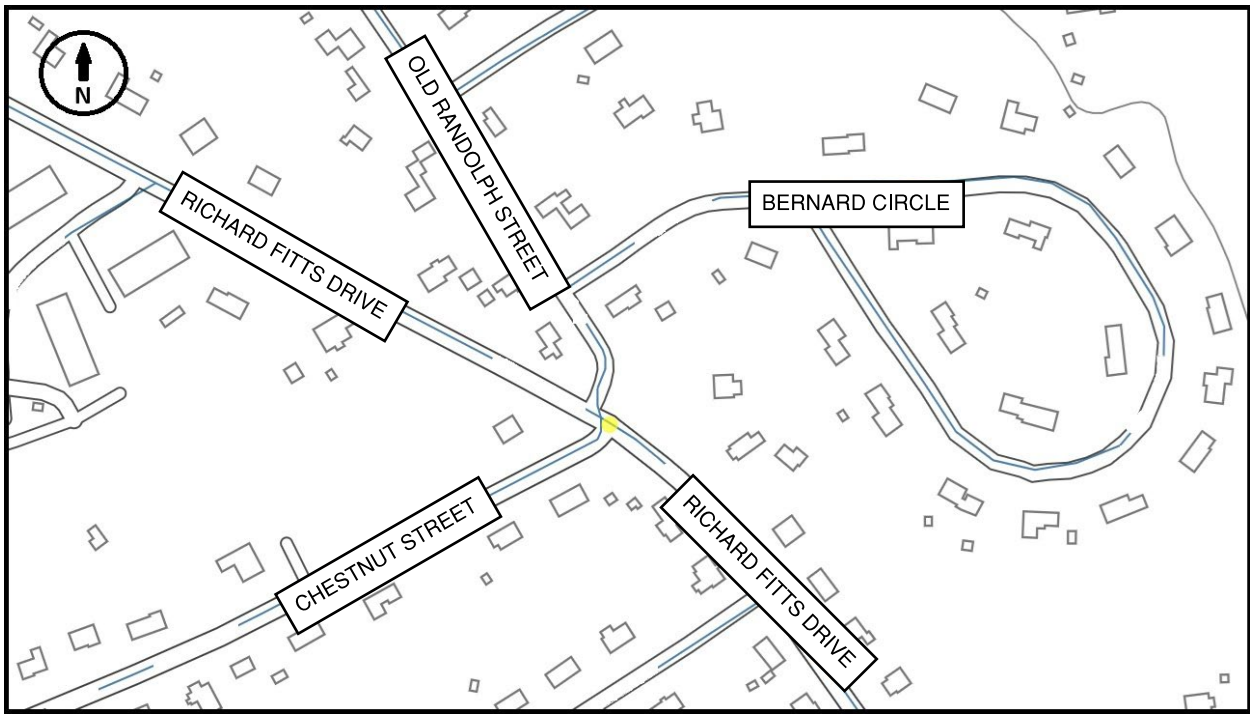
4. WHAT IS A FAIR PRICE FOR THE ACQUIRED PARCELS?

   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


N
OLD RANDOLPH STREET
RICHARD FITTS DRIVE
BERNARD CIRCLE
CHESTNUT STREET
RICHARD FITTS DRIVE

The intent of the project is to improve this intersection through the design and construction of a new intersection configuration which will include safety improvements as a top priority. Capacity, operations, and geometric improvements are also taken into account. The preferred alternative is a traffic signal with 11-ft travel lanes and dedicated 10-ft turn lanes on Route 139. Bike lanes with a width of 5-ft are proposed with newly constructed minimum 5.5-ft sidewalks throughout the intersection. Some segments will also include a 10-ft shared use path. The bike lanes on Route 139 will be buffered. Pedestrian crossings are also proposed through all four legs of the intersection with pedestrian signalization.

The project is also anticipated to involve pavement milling & HMA overlay, full depth HMA construction, curbing, utility relocations, signage and pavement markings. The project does not foresee including a substantial amount of work related to drainage design within the limits of the project area.

THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
HIGHWAY DIVISION

FEDERAL AID PROJECT

Abington, MA
Intersection Improvements, Randolph Street and Richard A Fitts Drive (Route 139) at Chestnut Street and Old Randolph Street
Project File No. 612525

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 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 record must be emailed or postmarked no later than ten (10) business days after the meeting.

PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT LEGIBLY.

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Organization: _____

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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 Information Meeting
INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS, RANDOLPH STREET AND RICHARD A FITTS DRIVE (ROUTE 139) AT CHESTNUT STREET AND OLD RANDOLPH STREET
ABINGTON, MA
Project File No. 612525
Attn: Project Management