



**PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING**

**SEPTEMBER 19, 2024**

**FOR THE PROPOSED**

**Bridge Replacement - Maple Street over I-495**

**Project No. 612173**

**Bridge No B-06-022**

**Highway Design**

**IN THE TOWN OF BELLINGHAM, 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 PUBLIC INFORMATIONAL MEETING  
Project File No. 612173

A Public Informational Meeting will be held by MassDOT to discuss the proposed Bridge Replacement, B-06-022, Maple Street over I-496 project in Bellingham, MA.

WHERE: Bellingham Town Hall, Upper Level of the Arcand Meeting Room  
10 Mechanic Street  
Bellingham, MA 02019

WHEN: Thursday, September 19, 2024 @ 7 PM

PURPOSE: The purpose of this meeting is to provide the public with the opportunity to become fully acquainted with the proposed Bridge Replacement, B-06-022, Maple Street over I-495 project. All views and comments made at the meeting will be reviewed and considered to the maximum extent possible.

PROPOSAL: The proposed project consists of the replacement of the bridge on Maple Street over Interstate 495. Bicycle accommodations consisting of a usable shoulder have been provided in accordance with applicable design guides. A widened sidewalk is proposed on the eastern side of the bridge. The construction of the bridge is planned in two stages.

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](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 (10) business days before the meeting.

In the event 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  
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.  
Acting Chief Engineer

## **WHAT IS A PUBLIC INFORMATIONAL MEETING?**

### **WHY A PUBLIC INFORMATIONAL MEETING?**

**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 meeting 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 meeting 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 INFORMATIONAL MEETING 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 regarding 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.



## PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The proposed project consists of the replacement of Bridge B-06-022, which carries Maple Street over Interstate 495 in Bellingham. The proposed bridge will carry two 12'-0" wide lanes, two 6'-0" shoulders on either side, and one 5'-6" sidewalk on the easterly side. The total out-to-out width of the proposed superstructure is 36 feet.

The bridge is currently in serious condition and needs to be replaced.

The proposed bridge will consist of a two span continuous structure that is 107.5' long made of six steel girders. The clearance over I-495 will be maintained and the roadway profile will be slightly lowered to improve the sight distance along Maple Avenue. The proposed bridge will have crashworthy barriers and protective screens to today's standards. The existing gas and water pipes that are supported on the superstructure will be replaced and relocated.

During construction, the Maple Street bridge will have traffic signal alternating one way traffic along 12 feet of roadway. Pedestrian access will be maintained during construction. A short-term overnight closure of the bridge will occur with a detour route provided to guide traffic around the bridge along Route 126 and Route 140.

THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS  
MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
HIGHWAY DIVISION

FEDERAL AID PROJECT

Bellingham, MA  
Bridge Replacement B-06-022 Maple Street over I-495  
Project File No. 612173

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

RE: Public Information Meeting  
Bridge Replacement, B-06,022, Maple Street over I-495  
**BELLINGHAM**  
Project File No. 612173  
Attn: Project Management

