



VIRTUAL DESIGN PUBLIC HEARING

SEPTEMBER 20, 2022

FOR THE PROPOSED

**Millbury Street Improvements, Safe Routes to School
Project No. 609528
Project Management**

IN THE TOWN OF GRAFTON, 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 HEARING
Project File No. 609528

A Live Virtual Design Public Hearing will be hosted on the MassDOT website below to present the design for the proposed Safety Improvements on Millbury Street, a Safe Routes to School project in the Town of Grafton, MA.

WHEN: 7:00-8:00 PM, Tuesday, September 20, 2022

PURPOSE: The purpose of this hearing is to provide the public with the opportunity to become fully acquainted with the proposed Millbury Street Improvements. All views and comments submitted in response to the hearing will be reviewed and considered to the maximum extent possible.

PROPOSAL: The project proposes to reconstruct Millbury Street from Sean Mikeal Way to Crosby Road. The improvements are intended to provide enhanced pedestrian safety and mobility and improved bicycle accommodation with specific emphasis on safe access to the Millbury Street Elementary School. Improvements include new sidewalks and curb ramps for pedestrian accommodation meeting ADA/AAB requirements as well as striped bicycle lanes on both sides of Millbury Street. Minor geometric improvements are proposed along with milling and overlaying of the roadway pavement prior to the application of new pavement markings and high visibility crossings of Millbury Street at strategic locations.

A secure right-of-way is necessary for this project. Acquisitions in fee and permanent or temporary easements may be required. **The Town is responsible for acquiring all needed rights in private or public lands (depending on parcel).** MassDOT's and the Town's policies 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., Chief Engineer, via e-mail to MassDOTProjectManagement@dot.state.ma.us or via US Mail to Suite 6340, 10 Park Plaza, Boston, MA 02116, Attention: **Project Management, Project File No. 609528**. 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). 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 Live Virtual Design Public Hearing or a cancellation announcement will be hosted on the internet at www.mass.gov/massdot-highway-design-public-hearings.

JONATHAN GULLIVER
HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATOR

CARRIE E. LAVALLEY, 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. Lavalley, P.E.
Acting 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 ISSUES

A secure Right of Way is required 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. Procedures are different depending on whether the Municipality is making the acquisitions. Briefly, here are some of the answers to questions you might ask.

Municipal Acquisitions

1. REASON FOR PROJECT?

The construction of this project will serve the needs of local users as well as those of the greater surrounding communities. The proposed enhancement has been designed to service 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 process and procedures used in acquiring any necessary rights required for the proposed project.

3. APPRAISALS, DONATIONS, RIGHTS OF ENTRY?

Impacted Property owners are entitled to an appraisal and Just Compensation, however, municipalities will often seek donations of parcels as 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 temporary 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, etc.

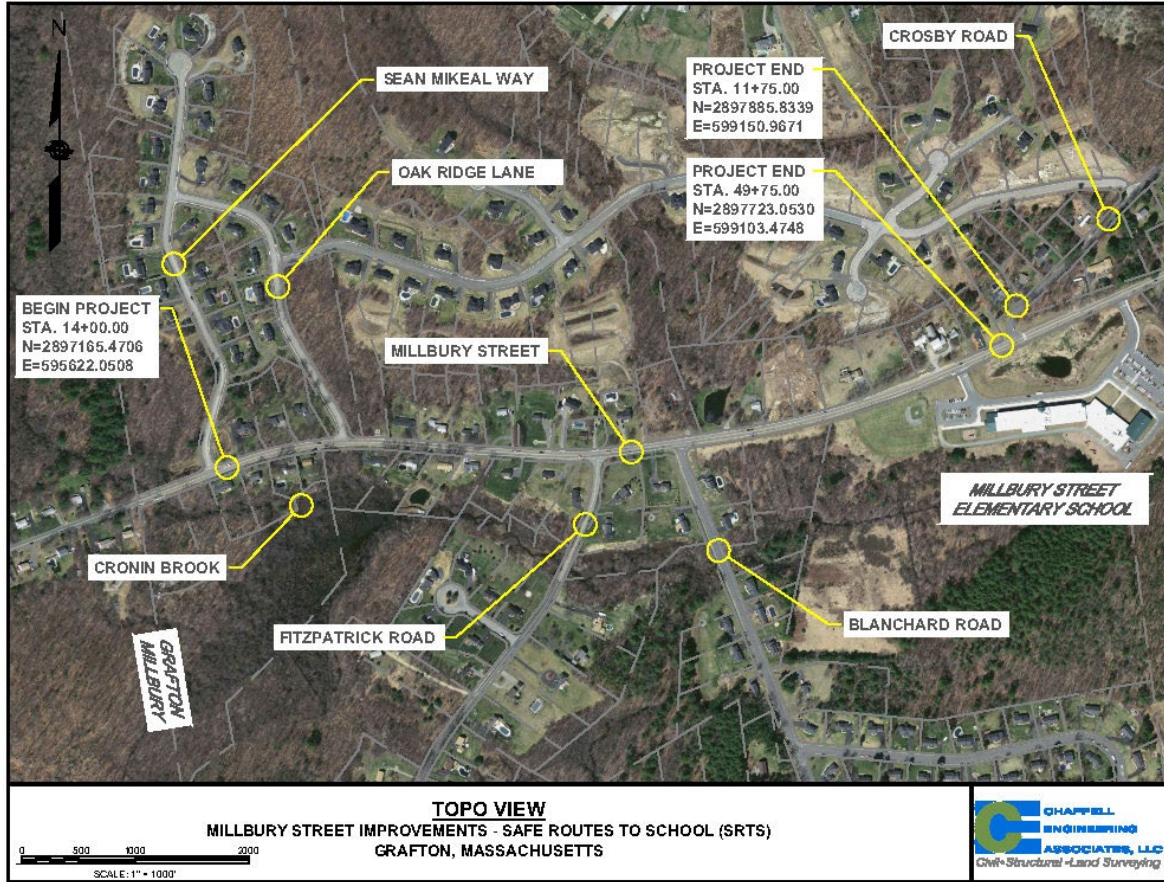
4. WHAT IS A FAIR PRICE FOR THE ACQUIRED PARCELS?

When donations or Rights of Entry 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 and review 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 (Just compensation), for the rights to be acquired.

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 from the date of the

recording of the acquired parcel(s). The owner(s) may be paid pro tanto (for the time being). The pro tanto payment will not prejudice the court's final decision.



PROJECT LIMITS

**MILLBURY STREET ROAD IMPROVEMENTS
SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL
PROJECT NO. 609528**

PROJECT LOCATION

The project is located on Millbury Street and begins at the intersection of Millbury Street with Sean Mikael Way and extends easterly to the west entrance to the Millbury Elementary School.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this project is to improve roadway safety conditions in advancement of the intersecting streets and the surrounding area for motorists, bicycles and pedestrians in conjunction with the Safe Routes to School program. The improvements are intended to provide enhanced pedestrian safety and mobility and improved bicycle accommodation with specific emphasis on safe access to the Millbury Street Elementary School.

EXISTING CONDITIONS

Millbury Street is a two-lane road with approximately 14-foot wide travel lanes with approximately 2-foot wide shoulders. The existing roadway is deteriorated with alligator cracking, longitudinal cracking, raveling and rutting. The existing horizontal and vertical roadway geometry is in compliance with current standards. There are no sidewalks or bicycle accommodations for pedestrians or bicyclists. There are no direct crossings of Millbury Street to provide access to the school.

PROPOSED CONDITIONS

Improvements include new sidewalks and curb ramps for pedestrian accommodation meeting ADA/AAB requirements as well as striped bicycle lanes on both sides of Millbury Street. Minor geometric improvements are proposed along with milling and overlaying of the roadway pavement prior to the application of new pavement markings. Retaining walls will be constructed and utility poles will be relocated as needed to allow for sidewalk construction.

MAINTENANCE OF TRAFFIC DURING CONSTRUCTION

The anticipated traffic control on Millbury Street is expected to consist of narrowing the travel lanes with the majority of the work to be conducted off of the travel way. The roadway is expected to remain open with two lanes of travel available during sidewalk construction. The roadway may be reduced to one lane of travel while paving the existing roadway for short-term periods of approximately 4 to 6 hours.

Proposed mitigation measures to limit impacts to traffic include restricting work during peak hours; limiting work area/length during a typical workday to ensure that the Contractor is able to begin and complete a segment of roadway work such that normal traffic operation can be restored at the end of each workday, and using police control during construction. Access to all

residences and pedestrian routes will be maintained during construction as much as possible. Abutters will be notified in advance should access to their property need to be restricted temporarily.

RIGHT OF WAY

The Town of Grafton is responsible for all Right-of-Way (ROW) acquisition. The proposed improvements will require ROW acquisitions in the form of temporary and permanent easements.

PROJECT COST

The total preliminary construction cost estimate for this Safe Routes to School project is approximately \$3.0 million.

PROJECT STATUS

The design plans presented here represent the 25% design level. Comments made at this public hearing will be incorporated to the maximum extent feasible in the final design documents. The project is scheduled to be advertised in February of 2024 and the construction is anticipated to begin in the summer of 2024.

PROJECT QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

The following questions and answers are intended to start conversation and discussion among the proponents, the designers, and the public assembled here. Please feel free to expand on these and include your own questions. There is also a comment form you can send to MassDOT should you have more questions or comments.

1. IS IT GOING TO BE NOISY?

Construction hours are typically during the day, outside of rush hour. No nighttime construction is anticipated for this project.

2. WHAT ABOUT THE TREES?

We have made every effort to save as many trees as possible. Those which may not survive construction or are in the way of handicap facilities such as safe and navigable sidewalks and ramps will be removed.

3. HOW WILL SCHOOL ACCESS BE AFFECTED?

We will work with the Millbury Street Elementary School and Town Departments of Public Works to make temporary accommodations during the school hours. It is our intentions to keep the bus routes the same.

4. I HAVE TO GET IN & OUT OF MY DRIVEWAY!

The Contractor is obligated to accommodate abutters. Additionally, we anticipate police details on-site to aid in traffic movement.

5. WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN TO MY FENCE/ BUSHES/ STEPS/ LAWN?

Property Owners will be contacted by the Town to discuss their individual property as the Right of Way process proceeds.

In general, grass in back of the new sidewalk will be regrown. Privately owned items within Town property lines will need to be removed unless a license is granted by the Town to allow the encroachment.

THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
HIGHWAY DIVISION

FEDERAL AID PROJECT

Grafton, MA
Millbury Street Improvements
Safe Routes to School
Project File No. 609528

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

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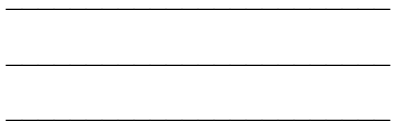
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Organization: _____

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

RE: Virtual Public Hearing
Millbury Street Improvements, Safe Routes to School
GRAFTON
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