



VIRTUAL LIVE DESIGN PUBLIC HEARING

TUESDAY, MAY 16, 2023

7:00 PM

FOR THE PROPOSED

**Resurfacing and Related Work on US Route 202 From Kendall Street to School Street
Project No. 608466**

Project Management

IN THE TOWN OF GRANBY, 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. 608466

A Live Virtual Design Public Hearing will be hosted on the MassDOT website below to present the design for the proposed Resurfacing and Related Work on Route 202 From Kendall Street to School Street project in Granby, MA.

WHEN: 7:00 PM, Tuesday, May 16, 2023

PURPOSE: The purpose of this hearing is to provide the public with the opportunity to become fully acquainted with the proposed Resurfacing and Related Work on Route 202 From Kendall Street to School Street 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 improving the roadway condition of Route 202 by milling and resurfacing while retaining the existing horizontal and vertical roadway geometry. The proposed cross section will consist of two (2) 11-foot travel lanes, two (2) 2-foot shoulders and one (1) 10-foot shared use path following the latest design standards and in accordance with the Healthy Transportation Policy to increase pedestrian and bicycle trips. Where construction will impact the existing drainage system, alterations, and upgrades, including new structures, pipes, pipe extensions or trunk lines, will be evaluated and designed as needed. Most of the utility poles within the project area will be relocated and/or upgraded.

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. Lavalley, P.E., Chief Engineer, via e-mail to MassDOTProjectManagement@dot.state.ma.us or via US Mail to Suite 7550, 10 Park Plaza, Boston, MA 02116, Attention: Project Management, Project File No. 608466. 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. 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. Lavallee, P.E.
Chief Engineer

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.

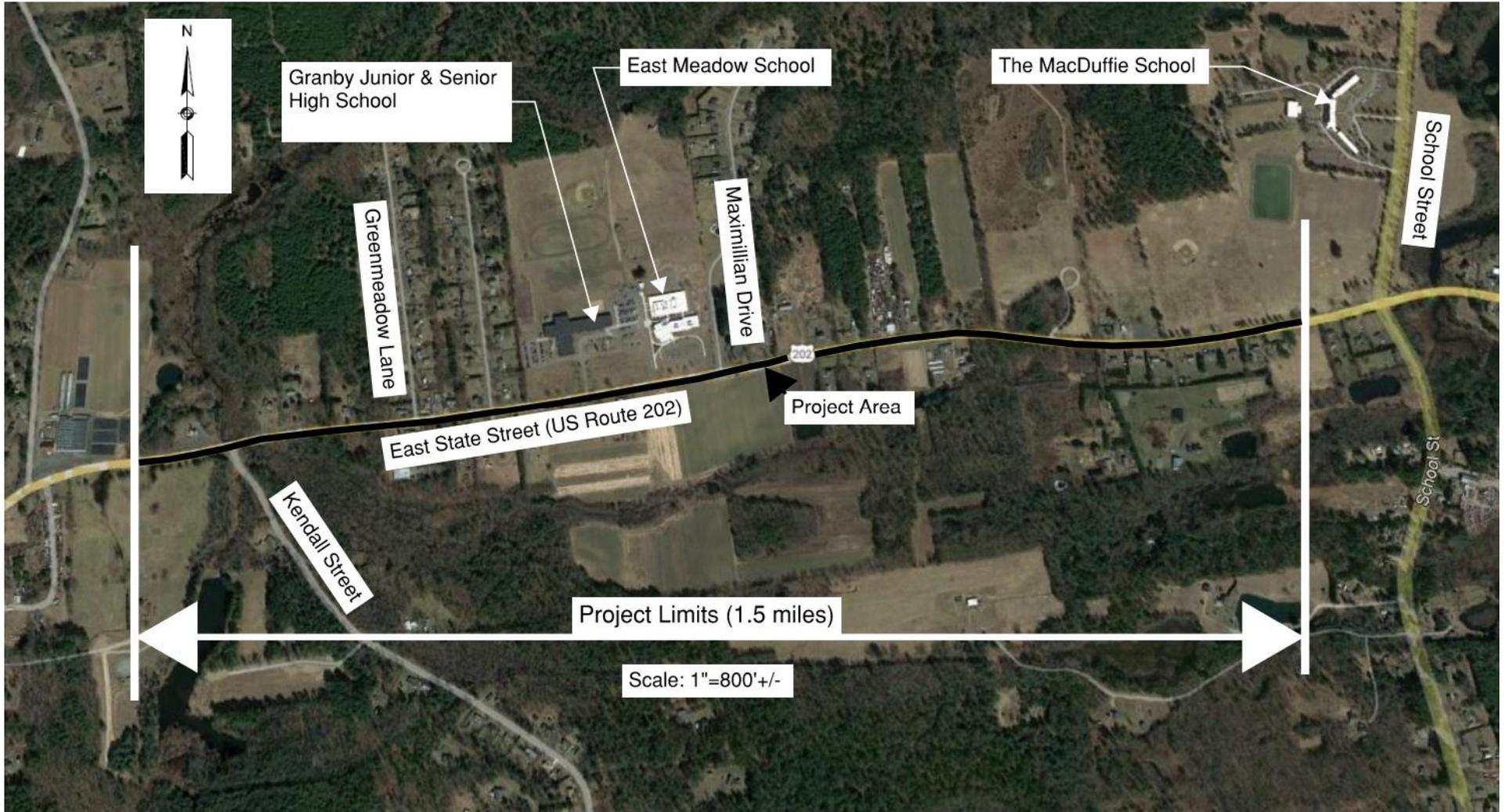
4. WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO MY HOUSE?

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.

Project Area



The project limits start on East State Street (US Route 202) in Granby approximately 375 feet west of the intersection with Kendall Street and continues east 7,837 feet, ending approximately 500 feet west of the intersection with School Street for a total length of about 1.5 miles.

PROJECT NEED

The Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) is proposing to reconstruct the US Highway Route 202 in Granby, MA (The Project). The Project is needed because of lack of a sidewalk network and lack of bicycle facilities which negatively impact pedestrian and bicycle connectivity.

There is no sidewalk on either side of Route 202 except intermittent sidewalks on the north side of the roadway at Deerbrook Drive and Maximillian Drive at the school driveway. There is no sidewalk along Route 202 at the two schools. Currently there is no bicycle accommodation on Route 202.

PROJECT PURPOSE

The purpose of the Project is to improve safety, operations and connectivity for all users, consistent with MassDOT's Healthy Transportation Directive. Specifically, the Project will;

- Enhance safety and connectivity by adding to or closing gaps in the sidewalk network and improve bicycle accommodations by providing a shared use path.
- Improve pavement conditions and rideability of Route 202.
- Improve and update existing utility infrastructure throughout the project corridor as required with the addition of the Shared Use Path.

The project consists of improving the roadway condition of US Route 202 by milling and resurfacing while retaining the existing horizontal and vertical roadway geometry. The proposed cross section will consist of two (2) 11-foot travel lanes, two (2) 2-foot shoulders and one (1) 10-foot shared use path following the latest design standards and in accordance with the Healthy Transportation Policy to increase pedestrian and bicycle trips. There is a length of the shared use path that crosses a wetland and will consist of a 14-foot-wide wooden boardwalk constructed on piles to minimize impact to the wetland.

Where construction will impact the existing drainage system, alterations, and upgrades, including new structures, pipes, pipe extensions or trunk lines, will be evaluated and designed as needed. Most of the utility poles within the project area will be relocated and/or upgraded.

PROJECT GOALS

In addition to the stated purpose of the project, the project will achieve the following goals. These are preliminary goals and will be developed further with input from multiple state agencies, town officials and the general public.

- Improve access management to/from the state highway from businesses and local residences.
- Avoid adverse impacts to historic structures or sites.
- Avoid, minimize and mitigate environmental impacts.
- Avoid, minimize and mitigate State Right-of-Way impacts.
- Avoid, minimize and mitigate roadway widening at the Muddy Brook.
- Improve pedestrian and bicycle mobility with continuous, uninterrupted sidewalks and bike lanes.
- Implement best design practices to manage and reduce vehicle speed.
- Maintain sensitivity and awareness to abutter needs throughout the project, as well as keep the public involved and informed throughout the design and construction process.

PROJECT COST

The preliminary construction cost of this project at this design stage is approximately \$3.9 Million.

PROJECT SCHEDULE

The design plans presented this evening represent a 25% design. The project has been programmed in the Statewide Transportation Improvement Plan for Federal Fiscal Year 2027. Construction is anticipated to be approximately 18 months beginning in the Fall of 2027.

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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
Resurfacing and Related Work on Route 202 From Kendall Street to School Street

GRANBY
Project File No. 608466
Attn: Project Management

