



VIRTUAL PUBLIC INFORMATIONAL MEETING

September 13, 2022

FOR THE PROPOSED

**Harwich Elementary School Safe Routes To School Project
Project No. 610670
Project Management**

IN THE TOWN OF HARWICH, 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. 610670**

A Live Virtual Public Informational Meeting will be hosted on the MassDOT website below to present the design for the proposed Harwich Elementary Safe Routes To School project in **Harwich, MA**.

WHEN: 7:00-8:00pm, Tuesday, September 13, 2022

PURPOSE: The purpose of this meeting is to provide the public with the opportunity to become fully acquainted with the proposed Harwich Elementary Safe Routes To School project. All views and comments submitted in response to the meeting will be reviewed and considered to the maximum extent possible.

PROPOSAL: This public meeting is the gauge the public's input and support for one of the two alternatives that follow:

Constructing **five (5)-foot-wide sidewalks** (1) along the west side of Sisson Road between School House Drive and Main Street, (2) along the south side of Main Street between South Street and Sisson Road, and (3) along the east side of South Street between School House Drive and Main Street.

OR

Constructing **eight (8)-foot-wide shared-use paths for pedestrian and bicyclist use** (1) along the west side of Sisson Road between School House Drive and Main Street, (2) along the south side of Main Street between South Street and Sisson Road, and (3) along the east side of South Street between School House Drive and Main Street.

All curb ramps will be upgraded to be MAAB/ADA-compliant. Enhanced crosswalks with rectangular rapid flashing beacons will be installed where appropriate. The goal is to increase the proportion of students walking and biking to and from school by improving the safety and usability of the existing facilities. The proposed accommodations will also serve as a connection to the Cape Cod Rail Trail via Island Pond Road.

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 Live Virtual Public Informational Meeting 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. 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,

Patricia A Leavenworth, P. E.
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 meetings 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 meetings 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 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.



Project No. 20154.02

Date: September 2022



PARE CORPORATION
ENGINEERS - SCIENTISTS - PLANNERS
8 BLACKSTONE VALLEY PLACE
LINCOLN, RI 02865
401-334-4100

Figure 1 Locus Map

Harwich Elementary School SRTS
Harwich, Massachusetts

Safe Routes to School Infrastructure Program

Harwich Elementary School Infrastructure Improvements

(South Street / Main Street / Sisson Road)

Harwich, MA

PROJECT LOCATION

The project limits generally include approximately 1,000' along South Street from School House Drive to Main Street, approximately 2,100' along Main Street from South Street to Sisson Road and approximately 1,900' along Sisson Road from Main Street to School House Drive. The improvements along all three roadways are typically proposed along the side adjacent to the school. Improvements are also proposed at the intersection of Main Street with Island Pond Road to enable access to and from the Old Colony Rail Trail.

PROJECT PURPOSE

The Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) has identified Harwich Elementary School in Harwich, Massachusetts for inclusion in their Safe Routes to School Program. Harwich Elementary School is located at 263 South Street. The scope of work under the Safe Routes to School Program generally includes improving and expanding the existing pedestrian and bicycle facilities to ensure safe access to the school. The project team will consider reallocation of the roadway right-of-way (ROW) to accommodate all users specified in the Healthy Transportation Policy Directive, P-13-0001, issued by MassDOT.

PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS

The project includes pedestrian and bicycle accommodation/safety improvements along segments of the two identified roadways. The proposed improvements are as follows:

- **South Street** includes construction of a shoulder-buffered sidewalk or shared-use-path. Under existing conditions, the sidewalk network on the east side of South Street does not meet ADA compliance for usable width and curb ramps. A 5-foot HMA sidewalk or 8-foot HMA shared-use-path is proposed in this area to replace the existing sidewalk network.
- **Main Street** includes the construction of a grass-buffered sidewalk or shared-use-path. Under existing conditions, the sidewalk network on the south side of Main Street does not meet ADA compliance for usable width and curb ramps. A 5-foot HMA sidewalk or 8-foot HMA shared-use-path is proposed in this area. The project will pass Island Pond Road, which provides direct access to the Old Colony Rail Trail that parallels Main Street to the north. A high visibility crosswalk is proposed to allow students to access the rail trail.
- **Sisson Road** includes the construction of a shoulder-buffered sidewalk or a widened sidewalk. Under existing conditions, the sidewalk network on the west side of Sisson Road does not meet ADA compliance for usable width and curb ramps, and does not extend to School House Drive. A 5-foot to 6-foot HMA sidewalk is proposed in this area to replace and extend the existing sidewalk network.

- **Project Wide** small areas of mill and overlay are required to remove existing crosswalk markings that are not compliant with MassDOT and MUTCD standards; new/reconstructed curb ramps are included, as needed, to meet ADAAG requirements; a Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacon (RRFB) will be considered at the intersections of Main Street with Island Pond Road and Sisson Road with Parallel Street to facilitate pedestrian and bicyclist crossings; and signing will be updated along all three roadways to meet current standards.

TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT

The proposed improvements will have limited roadway modifications. Curblane changes will include upgrading wheelchair ramps as necessary to ADAAG compliance, installing granite curb along the east side of South Street and the west side of Sisson Road, and installing new bituminous berm or granite curb along the south side of Main Street. The primary improvements, including the sidewalk or path construction, abut the road edge or are separated by a narrow grass buffer. Given these construction conditions, traffic management will require alternating one-way traffic.

RIGHT OF WAY IMPACTS

Based on the initial design alternatives, there are minor impacts anticipated for the project. The terrain within the limits of work will require some extent of regrading adjacent to the proposed sidewalk/path. Impacts to private properties are required to provide temporary easements in these areas of regrading. To construct a grass-buffered sidewalk along the south side of Main Street would require short stretches of wall construction by way of a permanent easement. These temporary and permanent ROW impacts will be secured by the Town of Harwich.

PROJECT COST

The current estimate of the total construction cost of this project is approximately \$1,000,000 using a combination of Federal and State funding sources. The Town of Harwich is responsible for all costs associated with the acquisition of temporary and permanent easements.

PROJECT SCHEDULE

The design plans presented this evening are at the pre-25% design stage. Design, permitting and right- of-way acquisition are scheduled to be completed by Fall 2023. Construction is anticipated to begin in Spring 2024.

THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
HIGHWAY DIVISION

FEDERAL AID PROJECT

Harwich, MA
Harwich Elementary School (Safe Routes To School)
Project File No. 610670

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

PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT LEGIBLY.

Name: _____ Title: _____

Organization: _____

Address: _____

Please Fold and Tape



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 Informational Meeting
Harwich Elementary School (Safe Routes To School)
TOWN OF HARWICH
Project File No. 610670
Attn: Project Management

