



**VIRTUAL PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING**

**AUGUST 28<sup>th</sup>, 2025**

**FOR THE PROPOSED**

**PEDESTRIAN AND BICYCLE IMPROVEMENTS ON EAST MAIN STREET (Rte 2A)**

**Project No. 613310**

**Project Management**

**IN THE TOWN OF ORANGE, 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 Description: Orange – Pedestrian and Bicycle Improvements on East Main Street  
(Route 2A)  
Project File No. 613310**

A Virtual Public Informational Meeting will be hosted on the MassDOT website below to present the design for the proposed project in **Orange, MA**.

**WHEN: 6:30PM, Thursday, August 28<sup>th</sup>, 2025**

**PURPOSE:** The purpose of this meeting is to provide the public with the opportunity to become fully acquainted with the proposed 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 bicycle and pedestrian improvements along Route 2A in Orange from Whitney Street to E Main Street. Through a data driven approach, this segment of 2A was identified as a top 5% bicycle and pedestrian need. Based on the potential for biking and walking layers and bicycle and pedestrian risk it was identified that the roadway would benefit from improved pedestrian facilities as well as the addition of bicycle accommodations. The scope of this project is intended to be limited to:

- Providing bicycle accommodations within the existing curb-to-curb width
- Closing gaps in the sidewalk network
- Realigning the intersection of Route 2A/ East Main Street / New Athol 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](mailto: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?**

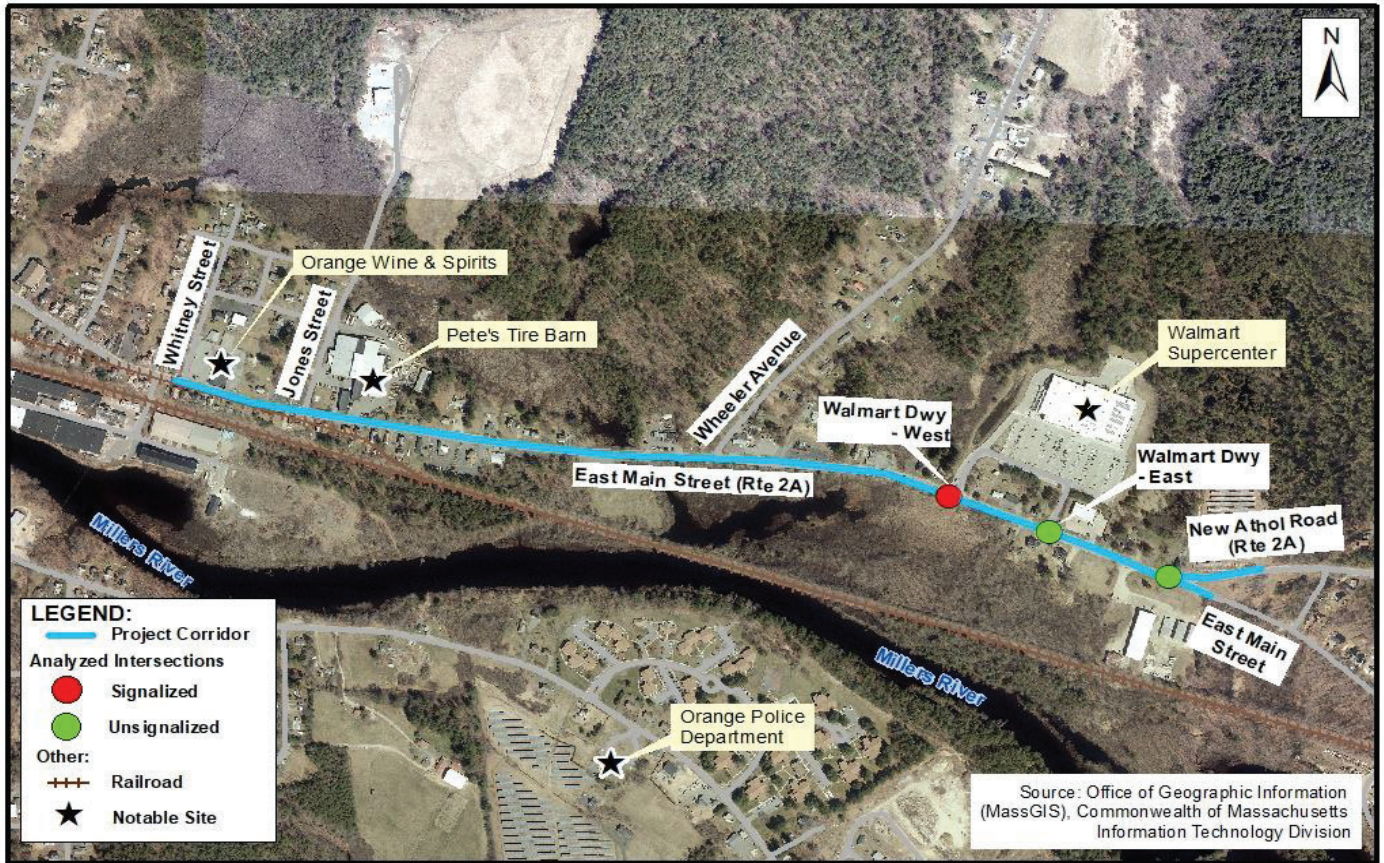
No, if the owner feels that the offer is not fair the owner may petition the courts. This action does not stop or delay the acquisition. The action must occur within 3 years. The owner(s) may be paid pro tanto (for the time being). The pro tanto payment will not prejudice the court's final decision.

MassDOT Design Justification Workbook

Project: 613310

Description: ORANGE-PEDESTRIAN & BICYCLE IMPROVEMENTS ON EAST MAIN STREET (ROUTE 2A)

LOCUS MAP



**TOWN OF ORANGE, MA**  
**PEDESTRIAN AND BICYCLE IMPROVEMENTS**  
**ON EAST MAIN STREET (ROUTE 2A)**  
**MASSDOT PROJECT #613310**

**Figure 1. Locus Map**



## PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The project proposes to improve bicycle and pedestrian accommodations along Route 2A (East Main Street) in Orange, MA from Whitney Street to New Athol Road with minor roadway widening. The 1.0 mile long project includes the addition of buffered bicycle lanes, shared use paths, sidewalk connections and intersection improvements at the intersection of East Main Street and New Athol Road and the two Walmart driveway intersections.

East Main Street (Route 2A) is an east-west route functionally classified as an urban principal arterial and is on the National Highway System (NHS). It is under MassDOT jurisdiction beginning at Whitney Street and continuing east through the Orange/Athol Town Line. The posted speed limit throughout the project corridor on Route 2A is 40 mph. The speed limit decreases to 30 mph west of Whitney Street and increases to 45 mph approximately 0.1 miles east of the study limits. Route 2A continues as New Athol Road where it intersects with East Main Street. East Main Street continues in a southerly direction from the New Athol Road intersection under local jurisdiction with a speed limit of 35 mph. Automatic Traffic Recorder data show an 85th percentile speed of 44 mph in the eastbound direction and 43 mph in the westbound direction. This segment of Route 2A was identified as having a high potential for everyday biking and walkable trips.



THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS  
MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
HIGHWAY DIVISION

FEDERAL AID PROJECT

Orange, MA  
Pedestrian and Bicycle Improvements on East Main Street (Route 2A)  
Project File No. 613310

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. Lavalley, 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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Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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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 Information Meeting  
PEDESTRIAN AND BICYCLE IMPROVEMENTS ON EAST MAIN STREET (Rte 2A)  
**ORANGE**  
Project File No. 613310  
Attn: Project Management