

DESIGN PUBLIC HEARING

DECEMBER 9, 2026

AT

Great Hall, Forbes Municipal Building

45 West Main Street

Westborough, MA 01581

6:30PM to 7:30PM

FOR THE PROPOSED

Fisher Street Improvements, Safe Routes to School (SRTS)
Project No. 613367

IN THE TOWN OF WESTBOROUGH, 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 DESIGN PUBLIC HEARING

Westborough – Fisher Street Improvements, Safe Routes To School (SRTS)
Project File No. 613367

A Design Public Hearing will be held to present the design for the proposed project in **Westborough, MA**.

WHERE: Great Hall, Forbes Municipal Building
45 West Main Street
Westborough, MA 01581

WHEN: Wednesday, December 9, 2026, at 6:30PM

PURPOSE: The purpose of this hearing 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 hearing will be reviewed and considered to the maximum extent possible.

PROPOSAL: The proposed project consists of roadway and pedestrian improvements along Fisher Street from Eagle Scout Trail to Church Street. The project will include pavement rehabilitation, installation of new granite curbing, reconstruction of ADA compliant curb ramps, installation of pavement markings, signage, and traffic calming improvements. Pedestrian and bicycle accommodations will consist of an 8-foot-wide shared use path along the south side of Fisher Street, providing improved connectivity to Sarah W. Gibbons Middle School and Armstrong Elementary School.

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. 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. Lavallee, 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. 613367**. 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 held.

MassDOT provides translation, interpretation, and other reasonable accommodations upon request. Requests should be made at least ten (10) business days prior to the event. Please contact MassDOT's Highway Project Accommodations office at MassDOTHighwayProjectAccommodations@dot.state.ma.us for your accommodation needs.

In case 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, 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.

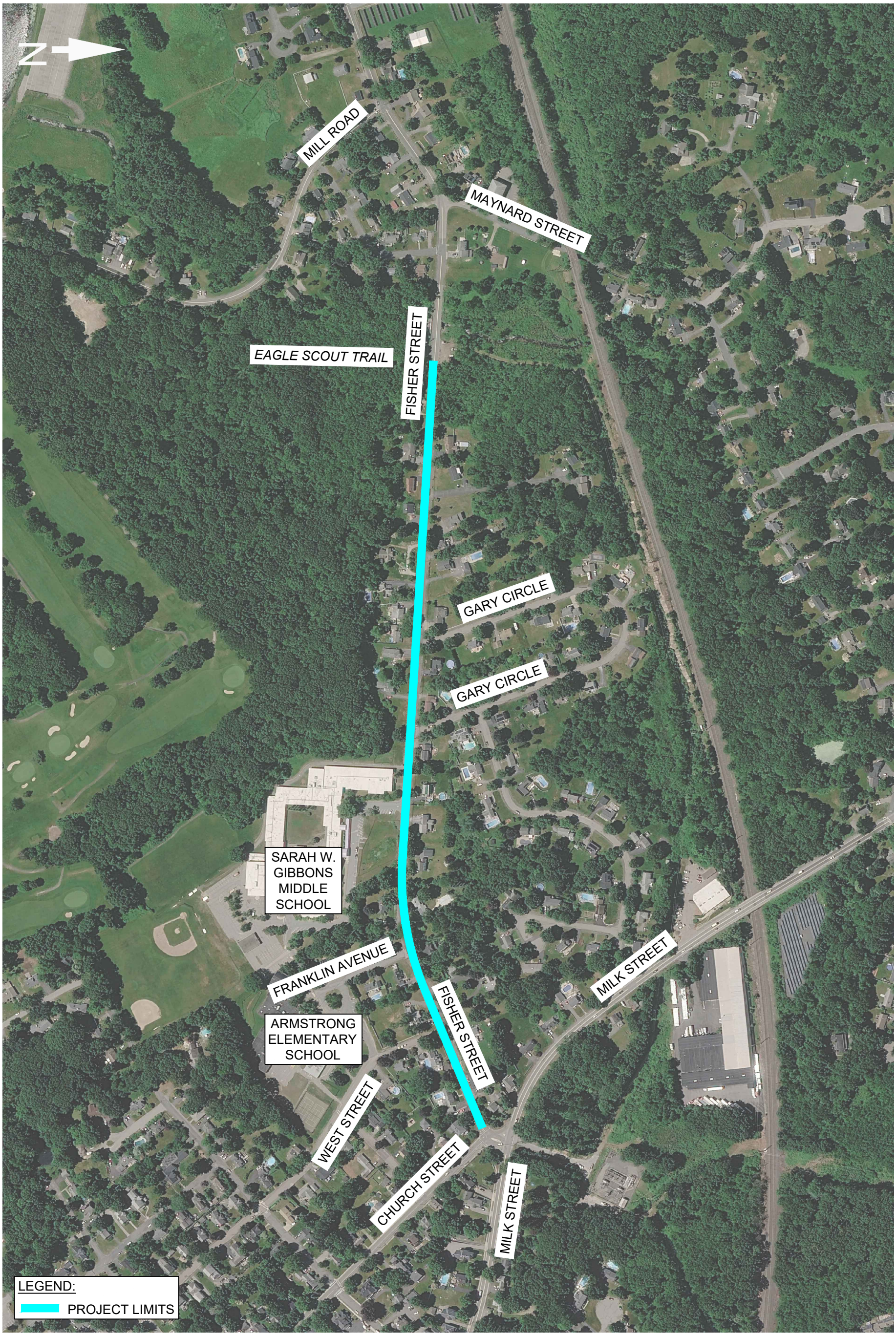
   A Right of Entry is a document that is signed by the owner. It allows the Contractor to perform certain types of work on the owner's land. The work is usually minor in nature and frequently consists of loaming/seeding behind sidewalks, new driveway apron work, grading/sloping, and wetland protection, 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.



613367 WESTBOROUGH - FISHER STREET IMPROVEMENTS (SRTS)
LOCUS MAP

APEX

Project Description

The Massachusetts Department of Transportation, Highway Division (MassDOT), in coordination with the Town of Westborough, is proposing roadway, pedestrian, and bicycle improvements along Fisher Street. The project is being advanced through the Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Program and is intended to improve pedestrian and bicycle connectivity to Gibbons Middle School and Armstrong Elementary School. The project includes roadway rehabilitation and reconstruction, construction of a shared use path, accessibility improvements, and roadway safety improvements.

Proposed Improvements

The proposed improvements will include pavement rehabilitation and reconstruction, installation of new granite curbing, ADA compliant curb ramps, pavement markings, signage, and traffic calming improvements. Pedestrian and bicycle accommodation will consist of an 8-foot-wide shared use path along the south side of Fisher Street. The proposed roadway will generally consist of 10.5-foot travel lanes and 2-foot shoulders. The improvements are intended to provide safer and more comfortable pedestrian and bicycle access to Gibbons Middle School and Armstrong Elementary School while maintaining vehicular access along Fisher Street.

Existing Conditions

Fisher Street currently provides access to Gibbons Middle School, Armstrong Elementary School, surrounding residential neighborhoods, and other local destinations. Existing pedestrian facilities along the corridor are limited and include areas of broken and uneven sidewalk and insufficient curbing. Dedicated bicycle accommodation is not currently provided. The corridor also experiences school related pedestrian, bicycle, and vehicular activity, creating a need for improved multimodal connectivity and safety.

Right of Way Impacts

Temporary construction easements will be required at properties along the project corridor to complete sidewalk and shared use path grading, driveway reconstruction, utility work, tree protection, erosion control, and other construction activities. Utility easements will also be required at several properties to accommodate utility relocations associated with the proposed improvements. MassDOT's policy regarding property rights and easements will be discussed at this hearing.

Maintenance of Traffic During Construction

The intent of the project is to maintain access along Fisher Street during construction. Temporary lane closures and alternating traffic operations will be required during certain construction activities. Access to abutting properties will be maintained throughout construction. Pedestrian access will also be maintained or appropriately detoured as necessary during construction.

Project Status – Project Schedule

The project is being advanced through MassDOT's Safe Routes to School Program and has been programmed for Federal Fiscal Year 2029. The plans presented at this hearing are at the 25% Design stage. Comments received through the public hearing process will be reviewed to the maximum extent possible.

Project Construction Cost

The project construction cost will be funded through the 2029 Transportation Improvement Program for the Central Massachusetts Metropolitan Planning Organization and is currently estimated at approximately $3.7 million.

THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
HIGHWAY DIVISION

FEDERAL AID PROJECT

Westborough, MA
Fisher Street Improvements, Safe Routes to School (SRTS)
Project File No. 613367

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

PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT LEGIBLY.

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

RE: Design Public Hearing
Fisher Street Improvements, Safe Routes to School (SRTS)
TOWN OF WESTBOROUGH
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