



**PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING**

**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 5, 2025 @ 6:00 PM**

**FOR THE PROPOSED**

**Pedestrian and Bicycle Improvements**

**Pleasant Street**

**Project No. 610535**

**Project Management**

**IN THE CITY OF WORCESTER, 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 Description: Worcester – Pedestrian and Bicycle Improvements, Pleasant Street  
Project File No. 610535**

A Public Informational Meeting will be held by MassDOT to discuss the proposed project in **Worcester, MA**.

WHERE: West Tatnuck School  
300 Mower Street  
Worcester, MA 01605

WHEN: **Wednesday, March 5, 2025 @ 6:00 PM**

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 made at the meeting will be reviewed and considered to the maximum extent possible.

PROPOSAL: The proposed project consists of the reconstruction of existing sidewalks and construction of new sidewalks, installation of ADA curb ramps, incorporating new pedestrian crossings and adding bicycle facilities across Pleasant Street.

The concept proposes 5-foot minimum bike lanes in each direction of travel with a buffer in between the bike lane and 12-foot travel lanes. The pavement will be resurfaced, with ADA curb ramps installed while the bus stop locations will remain and be coordinated with the Worcester Regional Transit Authority (WRTA). This project has been provided in accordance with applicable design guides.

This location is accessible to people with disabilities. MassDOT provides reasonable accommodations and/or language assistance free of charge upon request (including but not limited to interpreters in American Sign Language and languages other than English, open or closed captioning for videos, assistive listening devices and alternate material formats, such as audio tapes, Braille and large print), as available. For accommodation or language assistance, please contact MassDOT's Chief Diversity and Civil Rights Officer by phone (857-368-8580), fax (857-368-0602), TTD/TTY (857-368-0603) or by email ([MassDOT.CivilRights@dot.state.ma.us](mailto:MassDOT.CivilRights@dot.state.ma.us)). Requests should be made as soon as possible 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 (10) business days before the meeting.

In the event 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  
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**

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?**

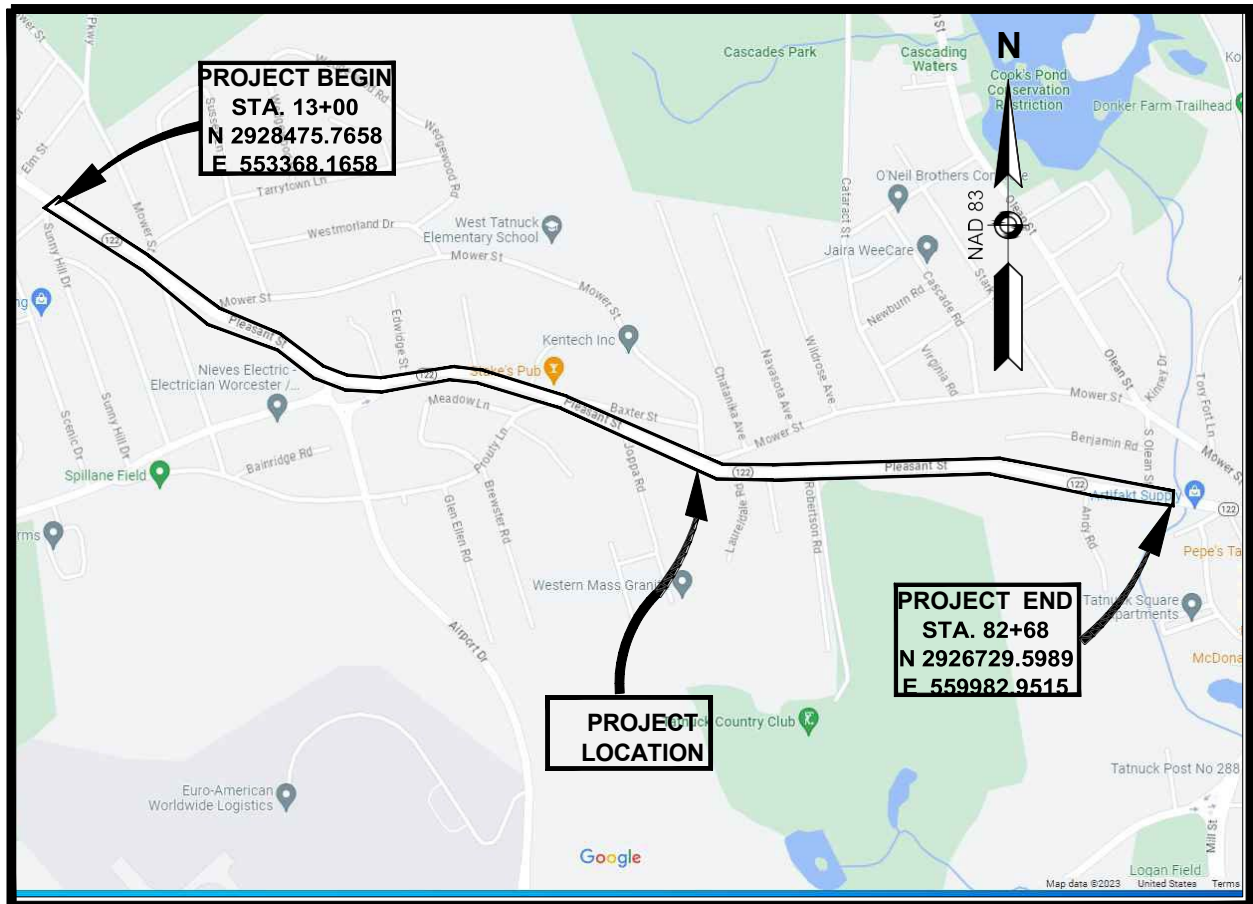
No. If, after the figure established as market value has been offered to the owner, the owner feels he or she is not being offered a fair price, he or she has the right, within three years, to appeal to the courts. Pending a court decision, he or she can be paid on a "pro-tanto" basis (or "for the time 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.



# **Intersection Improvements on Pleasant Street in Worcester, MA**

## **PROJECT LOCATION**

The project begins from Sunny Hill Drive to the east of South Olean Street in Worcester, MA. The proposed project consists of the improvements of bicycle and pedestrian accommodation on Pleasant Street in Worcester, MA. The project is approximately 1.32 miles (7000 ft) long. The attached Locus Map indicates the project limits.

## **PROJECT PURPOSE**

The purpose of this project is to increase bicycle and pedestrian safety while improving the operation of the roadway for all modes of transportation. The project will provide continuous bike lanes in each direction with a 5ft minimum buffer, 11 Foot travel lanes, a new surface for the roadway and ADA compliant ramps.

## **PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS**

The proposed improvements include:

- The reconstruction of existing sidewalks
- The construction of new sidewalks
- Pedestrian Crossings - Crosswalks
- ADA compliance (American with Disabilities Act)
- Construction of bicycle lane with 5 FT Buffer (in each direction)
- Adding a buffer between the bicycle lane and the travel lane.
- 11-foot travel lanes
- Roadway Resurfacing
- Bus Stops - Retaining existing bus stops
- Coordinating bus stop locations with the Regional Transit Authority (WRTA).

## **TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT**

During typical construction operations, all roadways in the project area will remain open to residents and other traffic. Occasional short traffic disruptions and travel lane/shoulder closures may occur, but every effort will be made to minimize inconvenience to the travelling public and abutting residents and businesses. Pedestrian and vehicular access to abutting properties will be maintained throughout construction.

### RIGHT OF WAY IMPACTS

Temporary construction easements will be required for grading impacts to lawns, driveways, and walkways and to restore impacts to adjacent properties. Acquisition in fee of private property for alteration of the roadway layout may be required. MassDOT's policy concerning land acquisition will be discussed at this meeting.

### PROJECT COST

The current estimate of the total construction cost of this project is approximately \$6 million.

### PROJECT SCHEDULE

The design plans presented this evening are at the pre-25% design stage. 25% design submissions are expected in Spring of 2025. Design is currently anticipated to be completed in Spring of 2026 however, this is subject to change.

THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS  
MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
HIGHWAY DIVISION

FEDERAL AID PROJECT

Worcester, MA  
Pedestrian and Bicycle Improvements on Pleasant Street  
Project File No. 610535

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

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

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

RE: Public Information Meeting  
PEDESTRIAN AND BICYCLE IMPROVEMENTS ON PLEASANT STREET  
**WORCESTER**  
Project File No. 610535  
Attn: Project Management

