



VIRTUAL PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING

JUNE 26, 2025

FOR THE PROPOSED

NEW BEDFORD I-195/ROUTE 18 INTERCHANGE REHABILITATION PROJECT

Project No. 606527

Bridge No. N-06-020, N-06-021, N-06-022, F-01-008, I-195 (EB & WW)

Major Projects

IN THE CITY of NEW BEDFORD, 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: New Bedford- Bridge Replacement, N-06-020, I-195 (EB & WW), Ramp C & F over ST 18, County Street, State Street, Mass Coastal Railroad, Purchase Street, Weld Street, includes Improvements to N-06-021, N-06-022, F-01-008 Design Build Project
Project File No. 606527-127763**

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

WHEN: 6:00 pm, Thursday, June 26, 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 replacing the structurally deficient 15-span viaduct carrying I-195 over County Street, State Street, Purchase Street, Mass Coastal Railroad, and Route 18 Northbound and Southbound. Additionally, the multi-span structures carrying Ramps C and F will be replaced. These structures will be replaced with longer-span structures creating a more open space under the viaduct and providing improved views from the north looking south. Additionally, the bridge parapets on the structures carrying I-195 over North Front Street, Belleville Avenue, and the Acushnet River will be replaced with new parapets conforming to current design criteria. The existing retaining wall along Cedar Grove Street that supports embankment I-195 between Ramp A and County Street will be replaced with a new, taller retaining wall to support the widened and re-aligned I-195. A noise barrier wall will be constructed along the north side of I-195 between Mount Pleasant Street and Purchase Street with a portion of the noise barrier being ground mounted and portions being mounted on structure. A new retaining wall will also be constructed between Ramp C and Coggeshall Street to provide room for a new multi-use path. The proposed Project will provide bridge and roadway safety improvements and MassDOT will use staged construction to maintain existing two travel lanes of I-195 in each direction during construction.

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 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 meeting to explain the proposed improvements, listen to your comments and answer any questions you may have. At the conclusion of the meeting, MassDOT will review all 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 Lavalley, 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 about 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 duty constituted by 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 regarding 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.

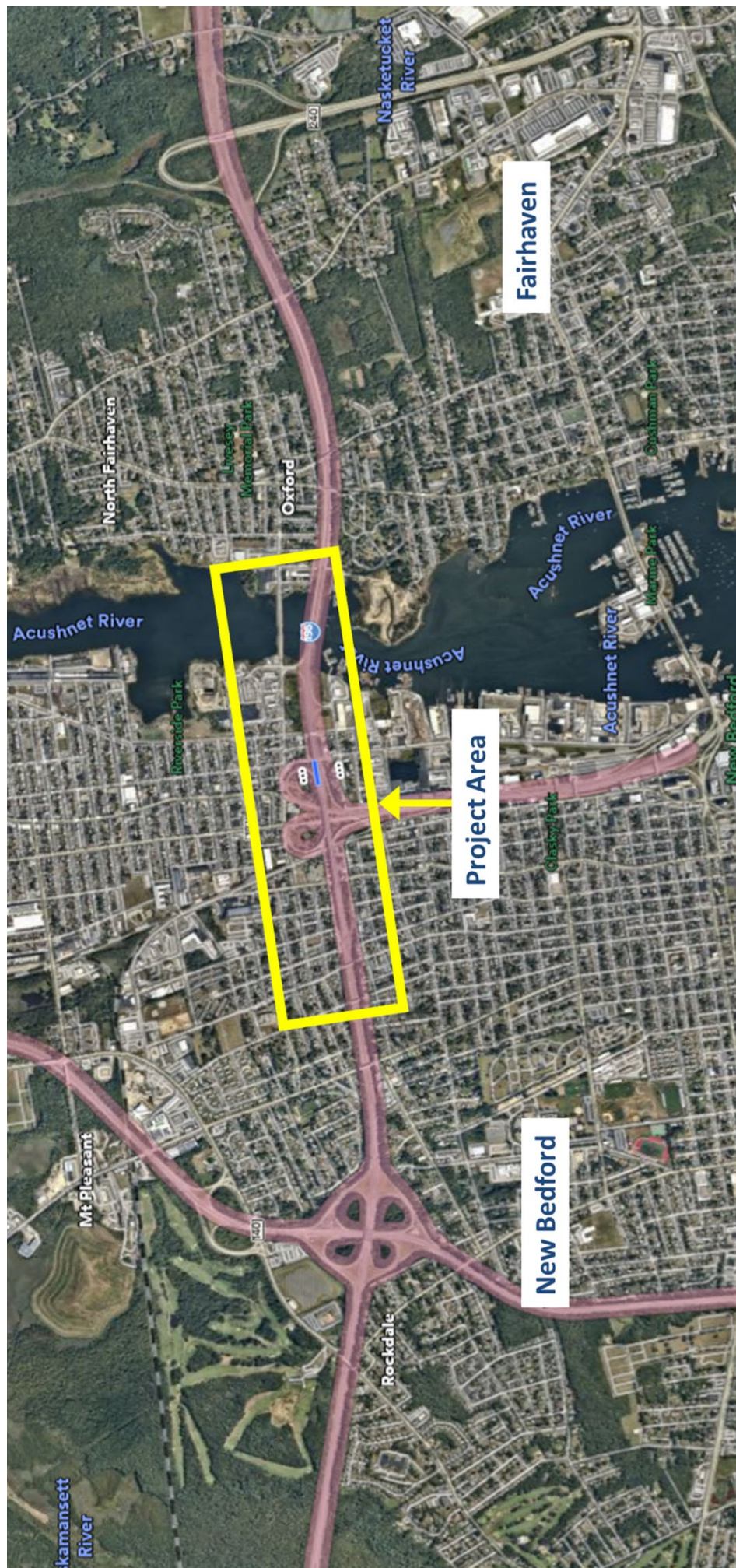


Figure 1. Locus Map

ABOUT THE NEW BEDFORD I-195/ROUTE 18 INTERCHANGE REHABILITATION PROJECT

PROJECT LOCATION

The I-195/Route 18 Interchange is in New Bedford, MA. I-195 connects New Bedford to Providence, Rhode Island and The Cape of Massachusetts. Route 18 travels beneath I-195 and connects downtown New Bedford to areas north of the city. The project is in a heavily urban area, abutting an elementary school, residences, city and state drainage systems, parking lots, and a skate park.

PROJECT PURPOSE

The New Bedford I-195/Route 18 Interchange Rehabilitation Project will address the poor conditions along the interchange, improve safety, and benefit the community. The project will replace bridges and medians, widen ramps, construct a noise barrier, upgrade residential roadways and sidewalks, improve accessibility, and include improvements to a landscaped park.

EXISTING CONDITIONS

The New Bedford I-195/Route 18 Interchange was constructed in 1965 and functions poorly due to short or non-existent acceleration and deceleration lanes, poor drainage, and limited space below the viaduct. Sections of the project site experience flooding, crashes are frequent due to limited weaving areas and narrow lanes, and there is poor visibility due to the nature of the viaduct. The current structures are safe, but obsolete as the overall interchange needs to be updated.

PROPOSED PROJECT

The project scope for the highway includes replacing three bridges at the I-195 / Route 18 interchange, widening and reconstructing I-195 from Mt. Pleasant Street to N. Front Street to improve safety entering and existing I-195, replacing the outside barrier and median on three bridges, and constructing a retaining wall with a noise barrier along Cedar Grove Street. The scope for local roadways includes resurfacing and / or reconstructing Cedar Grove, Purchase, County, Penniman, Kenyon, and State Street, and replacing sidewalks, pedestrian curb ramps, and driveways on those streets within the project area to meet ADA standards. It also includes stormwater infiltration basins and the separation of the city and state outfall to Acushnet River, along with relocations of city drainage and utilities. A landscaped park within the interchange and underneath the bridge that features a shared use path, parking lot, and skate park will be constructed to provide new multi-modal connections and open space / recreation areas.

MEETING PURPOSE

The purpose of this meeting is to provide the public with the opportunity to become fully acquainted with the proposed project. All residents, abutters, local business owners, and interested commuters are invited to attend. After a presentation by the project team, attendees will have the opportunity to ask questions and offer comments. All views and comments submitted in response to the meeting will be reviewed and considered to the maximum extent possible.

TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT

Construction is scheduled to begin Summer 2025 and conclude Spring 2030. During construction, four travel lanes (two in each direction) will be maintained on I-195. To accomplish this, median crossovers will be constructed east of and west of the bridge to allow westbound traffic to use the eastbound barrel and subsequently allow eastbound traffic to use the westbound barrel. Ramps will be closed for extended periods and alternative routes will be available in the project area to guide travelers and no routes will be designated for I-195 through local roads. Detours will be signed and flaggers utilized as needed. Work hours will be 7:00am-3:00pm with extended shifts and nightwork as needed.

COMMON QUESTIONS

WHAT IS BEING DONE TO MITIGATE CONSTRUCTION EFFECTS?

MassDOT will coordinate with emergency services, the community, and abutters throughout the project to keep stakeholders informed.

Major operations will be conducted within confined work zones with noise monitoring systems. Water sprays will be used for dust suppression and temporary drainage systems will be put in place. The project will adhere to a lead paint abatement plan.

The presence of construction vehicles on local streets will be minimized and any impacted roads will be resurfaced. No permanent impacts to city streets or intersections are anticipated.

HOW LONG IS CONSTRUCTION GOING TO LAST?

This project is scheduled to take place in five phases from summer of 2025 to spring of 2030.

WILL THERE BE PROPERTY TAKING?

This project will not require any permanent right-of-way on private property.

HOW MANY LANES OF TRAVEL WILL BE AVAILABLE?

Two lanes of travel will be maintained in each direction on I-195 for the duration of construction.

THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
HIGHWAY DIVISION

FEDERAL AID PROJECT

New Bedford, MA
New Bedford I-195/Route 18 Interchange Rehabilitation Project
Project File No. 606527

This sheet is provided for your comments. Your input is solicited and appreciated. You may e-mail comments directly to DOTHighwayDesign@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: Major Projects

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.

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 Information Meeting
NEW BEDFORD I-195/ROUTE 18 INTERCHANGE REHABILITATION PROJECT
NEW BEDFORD, MA
Project File No. 606527
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