



VIRTUAL DESIGN PUBLIC HEARING

JUNE 21, 2023

FOR THE PROPOSED

**Corridor Improvements on Route 6 at Swifts Beach Road
Project No. 610647**

IN THE TOWN OF WAREHAM, MASSACHUSETTS

**COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
HIGHWAY DIVISION**

**JONATHAN GULLIVER
HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATOR**

**CARRIE E. LAVALLEE, P.E.
CHIEF ENGINEER**



Design Public Hearing for MassDOT Project No. 610647 in Wareham, MA

What is happening?

A Live Virtual Design Public Hearing will be hosted on the MassDOT website below to present the design for the proposed Corridor Improvements on Route 6 at Swifts Beach Road project in Wareham, MA. 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.

How will this affect you?

The intent of this project is to improve bicycle and pedestrian accommodation along this section of the Route 6 corridor, as well as to improve safety and operational efficiency of the intersection with Swifts Beach Road via a new signal and left turn only lane. Travel lanes will be reduced from four to two (one in each direction), with 5-foot shoulders. The northeasterly sidewalk will be reconstructed, and a new 10-foot shared use path will be added along the southeasterly side of the roadway. Required right-of-way acquisitions and other construction impacts will be explained at the meeting.

When

Wednesday, June 21, 2023
6:00 PM

Attend

www.mass.gov/orgs/highway-division/events



To ensure its meetings are accessible, MassDOT reasonably provides: translation, interpretation, modifications, accommodations, alternative formats, and auxiliary aids and services. To request such services, please contact MassDOT's Chief Diversity and Civil Rights Officer at 857-368-8580 or MassDOT.CivilRights@dot.state.ma.us. For adequate time to process such request, please make them as early as possible, ideally 10-15 days prior to the event.

Project inquiries may also be emailed to MassDOTProjectManagement@dot.state.ma.us. Please submit any written statements regarding the proposed undertaking to: **Carrie A. Lavalley, P.E., Chief Engineer, MassDOT, 10 Park Plaza, Boston, MA 02116, Attention: PROJECT MANAGEMENT, PROJECT FILE NO. 610647**



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.
Acting 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.

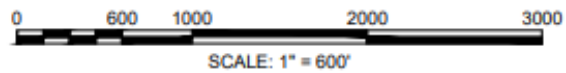
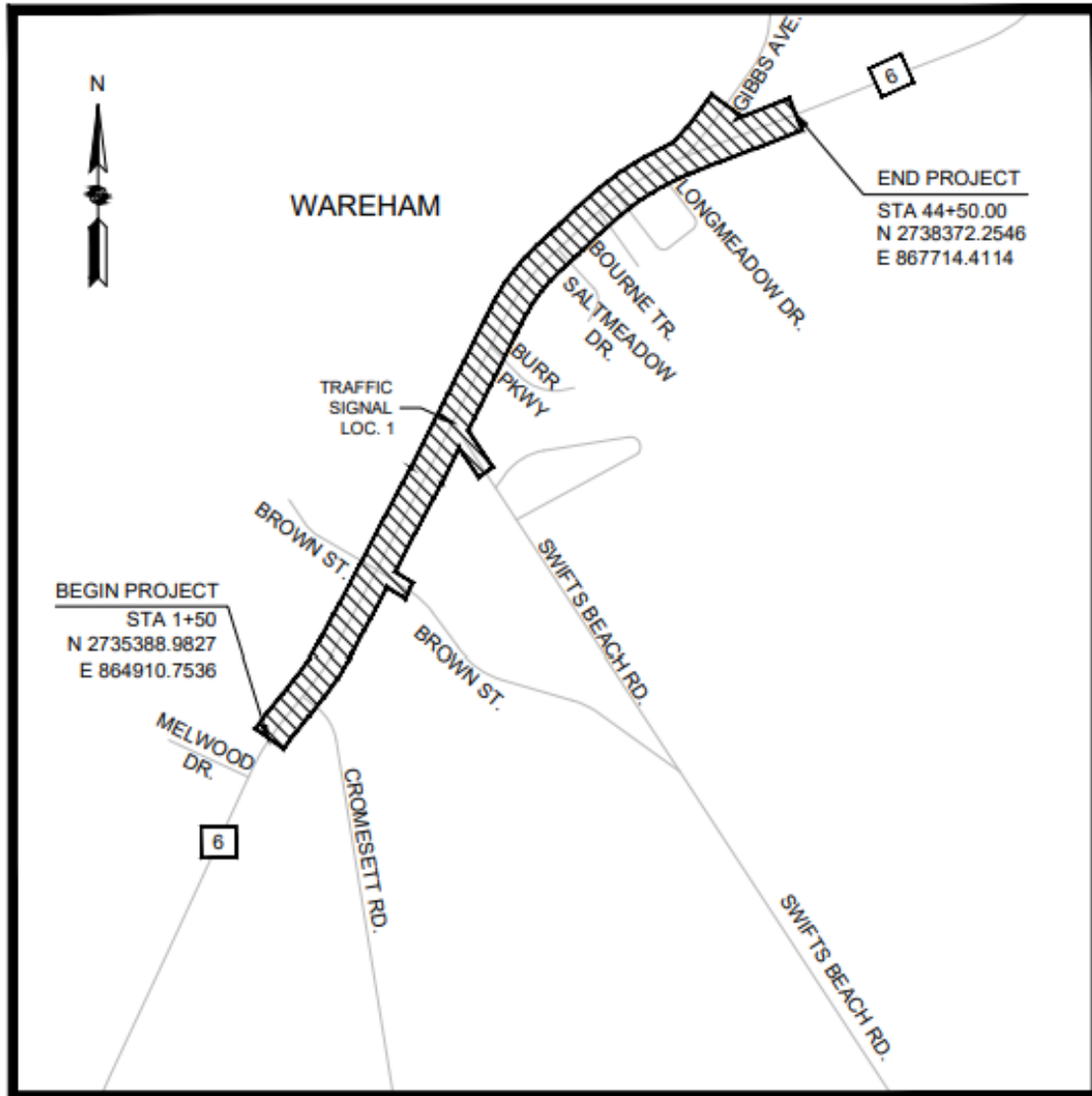
4. WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO MY HOUSE?

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.

LOCUS MAP



LENGTH OF PROJECT = 4,300 FEET = 0.814 MILES

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The project location has been identified by the Town of Wareham as experiencing increased frequency of vehicular and pedestrian crashes. The Route 6 Corridor Study performed by the SRPEDD also identified the need for improved pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure along the corridor. Project limits extend in a northeasterly direction from approximately 600 feet northeast of the intersection of Marion Road (Route 6) at Cromesett Road to the intersection of Marion Road (Route 6) at Viking Drive. This is the first in a pair of adjoining projects along the Route 6 corridor in Wareham, with the next adjacent phase being immediately to the south and extending to the Weweantic River.

The scope of the project includes:

Intersection and Roadway Geometry Improvements: The proposed roadway section will reduce the number of travel lanes from four (4) to two (2), one in each direction. Proposed lane widths will be 11 feet, with 5-foot shoulders, a 5.5-foot sidewalk on the northwesterly side of the roadway, and a 4-foot to 5-foot grassed buffer adjacent to a 10-foot shared use path on the southeasterly side. A left turn pocket lane will be provided along westbound Marion Road (Route 6) approaching Swifts Beach Road. Opposing this new turn pocket will be a hatched median to keep proper westbound lane alignment. The roadway will transition to match the existing four-lane cross section beyond the southwesterly project limit, with the intent that a future adjoining project will eventually extend the proposed two-lane configuration farther south to the Weweantic River.

Traffic Signal Improvements: A new traffic signal will be installed at Marion Road (Route 6) and Swifts Beach Road, and the existing traffic signal at Marion Road (Route 6) and the Wareham Plaza driveway will be reconstructed in accordance with the latest MassDOT standards. These improvements will include installing far-side mast arms and signal posts with overhead traffic signal head indications, and enhanced pedestrian signal equipment including countdown pedestrian signals with APS push buttons. Optical detectors will be installed on all approaches to provide emergency vehicle pre-emption, and video detection will replace in-roadway loops on all approaches to detect queued vehicles.

Pedestrian and Bicycle Accommodations: The sidewalk on the northeasterly side of Marion Road (Route 6) will be reconstructed with a uniform 5.5-foot width, while a new 10-foot shared use path with 4-foot to 5-foot grassed buffer will be constructed on the southeasterly side. ADA compliant curb ramps will be provided throughout the project corridor. Exclusive pedestrian phasing and crosswalks on all legs will be provided for the new signal at Marion Road (Route 6) and Swifts Beach Road, and will be maintained for the existing signal at Marion Road (Route 6) and the Wareham Plaza driveway. The existing mid-block crosswalk just northeast of Swifts Beach Road will be eliminated and replaced by the signalized crossings at Swifts Beach Road. At the project limits, pedestrian and bicycle crossings will be added just southwest of Brown Street and northeast of Viking Drive, to transition from the shared use path termini to the existing shared lane condition beyond the project. The crossing at the easterly project limit will include a rectangular rapid flashing beacon (RRFB).

THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
HIGHWAY DIVISION

FEDERAL AID PROJECT

Wareham, MA
Corridor Improvements on Route 6 at Swifts Beach Road
Project File No. 610647

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

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 Hearing
Corridor Improvements on Route 6 at Swifts Beach Road
WAREHAM
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