



**VIRTUAL PUBLIC MEETING**

**February 4, 2021**

**FOR THE PROPOSED**

**ROUTE 18 CORRIDOR STUDY  
ELM STREET TO COGGESHALL STREET**

**Project Management**

**IN THE CITY OF NEW BEDFORD, MASSACHUSETTS**

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

**JONATHAN GULLIVER  
HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATOR**

**PATRICIA A. LEAVENWORTH, P.E.  
CHIEF ENGINEER**

**THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS  
MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION – HIGHWAY DIVISION  
NOTICE OF A PUBLIC MEETING**

A Virtual Public Meeting will be facilitated by MassDOT to introduce and initiate the Route 18 Corridor Study from Elm Street to Coggeshall Street in New Bedford, MA.

WHEN: Thursday, February 4, 2021

PURPOSE: To introduce the public to the Route 18 Corridor Study project and process. All views and comments submitted in response to the hearing will be reviewed and considered to the maximum extent possible.

CORRIDOR STUDY DESCRIPTION: This is a planning project. The purpose of this project is to prepare a study that will identify and evaluate design concepts to improve pedestrian, bicycle, and transit mobility along Route 18 from Elm Street to Coggeshall Street in New Bedford. The goals of the study are;

- To develop concepts to improve access between Purchase Street and Route 18
- To improve connections across Route 18 and along Route 18
- To facilitate economic development along the corridor
- To provide access between Route 18 and the new South Coast Rail Station.

Written statements and other exhibits regarding the proposed undertaking are to be submitted to Patricia A. Leavenworth, P.E., Chief Engineer, MassDOT, 10 Park Plaza, Boston, MA 02116, Attention: Project Management, Highway Design. Mailed statements and exhibits intended for inclusion in the public meeting transcript must be postmarked no later than ten (10) business days after the meeting is posted to the MassDOT website listed below. Project inquiries may be emailed to [RT18Study@dot.state.ma.us](mailto:RT18Study@dot.state.ma.us).

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 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 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 Virtual Public Meeting or a cancellation announcement will be posted on the internet at <https://www.mass.gov/new-bedford-route-18-corridor-study>.

JONATHAN GULLIVER  
HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATOR

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# **WHAT IS A PUBLIC MEETING?**

## **WHY A PUBLIC 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 to 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 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 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 in regard to the information 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.

## **PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

**Project Location** – Route 18 between Elm Street and Coggeshall Street in New Bedford, MA

**Project Background** – Route 18 between Coggeshall Street and Cove Street was constructed as a limited access highway in the 1960's and 1970's. It was the connection between the end of I-195 and Route 6 at the time.

In the 1990's, the idea of converting Route 18 to a boulevard was initiated as a three-phase project. Phase 1 from Elm to Walnut Streets was completed in 2012. Phase 2 from Walnut to Cove Streets was completed in 2019. Elm Street to Coggeshall Street is Phase 3.

**Purpose and Scope** – This is a planning project. The purpose of this project is to prepare a study that will identify and evaluate concepts to improve pedestrian, bicycle, and transit mobility along Route 18 from Elm Street to Coggeshall Street in New Bedford.

The goals of the study are;

- To develop concepts to improve access between Purchase Street and Route 18
- To improve connections across Route 18 and along Route 18
- To facilitate economic development along the corridor
- To provide access between Route 18 and the new South Coast Rail Station.

**Process and Schedule** – The study will take place in four stages.

Stage 1, Winter 2021: Identify the issues and define the problem. We are in the first stage. Results from a public survey will be considered to identify the issues and define challenges with the corridor. Please take a few minutes to complete and submit the survey along with any other comments you may have.

Stage 2, Spring 2021: Develop an initial set of design concepts for the improvements to be presented to the public for input at a meeting in Spring 2021.

Stage 3, Summer 2021: Refine design concepts based on input from the public, the City, and review by engineers. Refined design concepts will be presented to the public for input at a meeting in Summer 2021.

Stage 4, Fall 2021: Share final set of design concepts and a draft study in Fall 2021 with a final Study published by the end of 2021.

The final set of design concepts will be advanced to final design and construction as funding becomes available.

## ROUTE 18 CORRIDOR STUDY SURVEY

### Elm Street to Coggeshall Street in New Bedford

MassDOT is conducting a study to evaluate ideas to redefine Route 18 from Elm Street to Coggeshall Street in New Bedford. In the late 1990s, MassDOT and the City of New Bedford initiated the concept of redefining Route 18 or John F. Kennedy Memorial Highway starting at Cove Street as a three-phase project. The first phase, from Walnut Street to Elm Street, was completed in 2012. The second phase, from Cove Street to Walnut Street, was completed in 2019. The section from Elm Street to Coggeshall Street is the third phase.

The goals of the study are:

- To develop concepts to improve access between Purchase Street and Route 18
- To improve connections across Route 18 and along Route 18
- To facilitate economic development along the corridor
- To provide access between Route 18 and the new South Coast Rail Station.

We want to hear from you! What are your thoughts and goals for the corridor?

1. What is your relationship to the Route 18 corridor? (Check all that apply)

- ☐ I live in the neighborhood surrounding Route 18
- ☐ I work in the neighborhood, commercial areas, or industrial areas surrounding Route 18
- ☐ I commute through Route 18
- ☐ I drive to school, hospital, library, or recreational area along Route 18
- ☐ I own or operate a business or commercial property on the Route 18 Corridor
- ☐ I use Route 18 for business, service, or commercial purposes such as deliveries or movement of freight
- ☐ Other (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_.

2. How do you typically travel on Route 18? (Check all that apply)

- ☐ Drive alone in an automobile
- ☐ Drive others or travel as a passenger in an automobile
- ☐ Walk
- ☐ Bicycle
- ☐ Ride on the bus
- ☐ Truck or Commercial Vehicle
- ☐ Other (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_.

Current transportation concerns about the corridor:

3. Please indicate any safety concerns you encounter while on Route 18. (Check all that apply)
- ☐ Speed of vehicles
  - ☐ High Volume of Traffic
  - ☐ Other (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_.
4. Please indicate any congestion and access issues you encounter while on Route 18. (Check all that apply)
- ☐ High volumes of traffic
  - ☐ Congestion and long delays at traffic signals/signalized intersections
  - ☐ Ability to access adjacent streets from Route 18 (Purchase St., Acushnet Ave., MacArthur Dr., Route 6, Herman Melville Blvd., North Front St., Etc.), businesses, the waterfront, etc.

Vision for future possibilities

5. If this section of Route 18 was open to pedestrian and bicycle traffic, please indicate any pedestrian and bicycle concerns you might have. (Check all that apply)
- ☐ Availability of sidewalks
  - ☐ Lack of accommodation for bicycles (bike lanes, multiuse path, or useable shoulders)
  - ☐ High volumes of traffic
  - ☐ High speed of vehicles
  - ☐ Difficulty crossing Route 18 (location or absence of crosswalks)
  - ☐ Gaps in sidewalk network
  - ☐ Poor street lighting
  - ☐ Unwelcoming streetscape/landscape
  - ☐ Other (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_.
6. Think about the needs of the broader neighborhood and city. Which of the following priorities are most important for Phase 3 improvements to Route 18? (Select top 3)
- ☐ Bike and pedestrian safety: making it safer for people to walk and bike in the corridor, including ability to safely cross Route 18
  - ☐ Vehicle access to businesses, industrial areas, and/or the waterfront
  - ☐ Vehicle access to the new South Coast Rail Station
  - ☐ Bike and pedestrian access to businesses, industrial areas, and/or the waterfront
  - ☐ Bike and pedestrian access to the new South Coast Rail Station
  - ☐ Making the corridor more beautiful. Improving the landscape.
  - ☐ Other (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_.

7. Route 18 or JFK Memorial Highway was improved south of Elm Street in Phases 1 and 2. When thinking about that section, what works well? (Check all that apply)

Yes    No

- |                          |                          |   |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | The sidewalks are in good condition and allow me to walk safely   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | There are safe ways for me to cross JFK Boulevard.  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | I can safely bike along that section  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | I can safely wait for a car or bus along that section   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | It is easy for me to navigate by motor vehicle. I can access side streets, businesses, and other destinations I might want to reach |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | The streetscape is beautiful and inviting   |

8. What changes would you like to see to the Route 18 corridor? (Open ended)

When completed, save this file and email it to  
Rt18Study@dot.state.ma.us





Please Fold and Tape



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Please Place  
Appropriate  
Postage Here

Patricia A. Leavenworth, P.E.  
Chief Engineer  
MassDOT – Highway Division  
10 Park Plaza  
Boston, MA 02116-3973

RE: Virtual Public Meeting  
Route 18 Corridor Study  
**New Bedford, MA**  
Project Management

