



VIRTUAL PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING

May 12, 2021

FOR THE PROPOSED

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

Highway Design

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 initial design alternatives for the Route 18 Corridor Study from Elm Street to Coggeshall Street in New Bedford, MA.

WHEN: Wednesday, May 12, 2021, 7:00 p.m.

WHERE: <https://www.mass.gov/new-bedford-route-18-corridor-study>

PURPOSE: To update the public on 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 access for all users of the corridor, including pedestrians, bicycles, transit, and motorists 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 MassDOTrt18study@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). 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

PATRICIA A. LEAVENWORTH, P.E.
CHIEF ENGINEER

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.

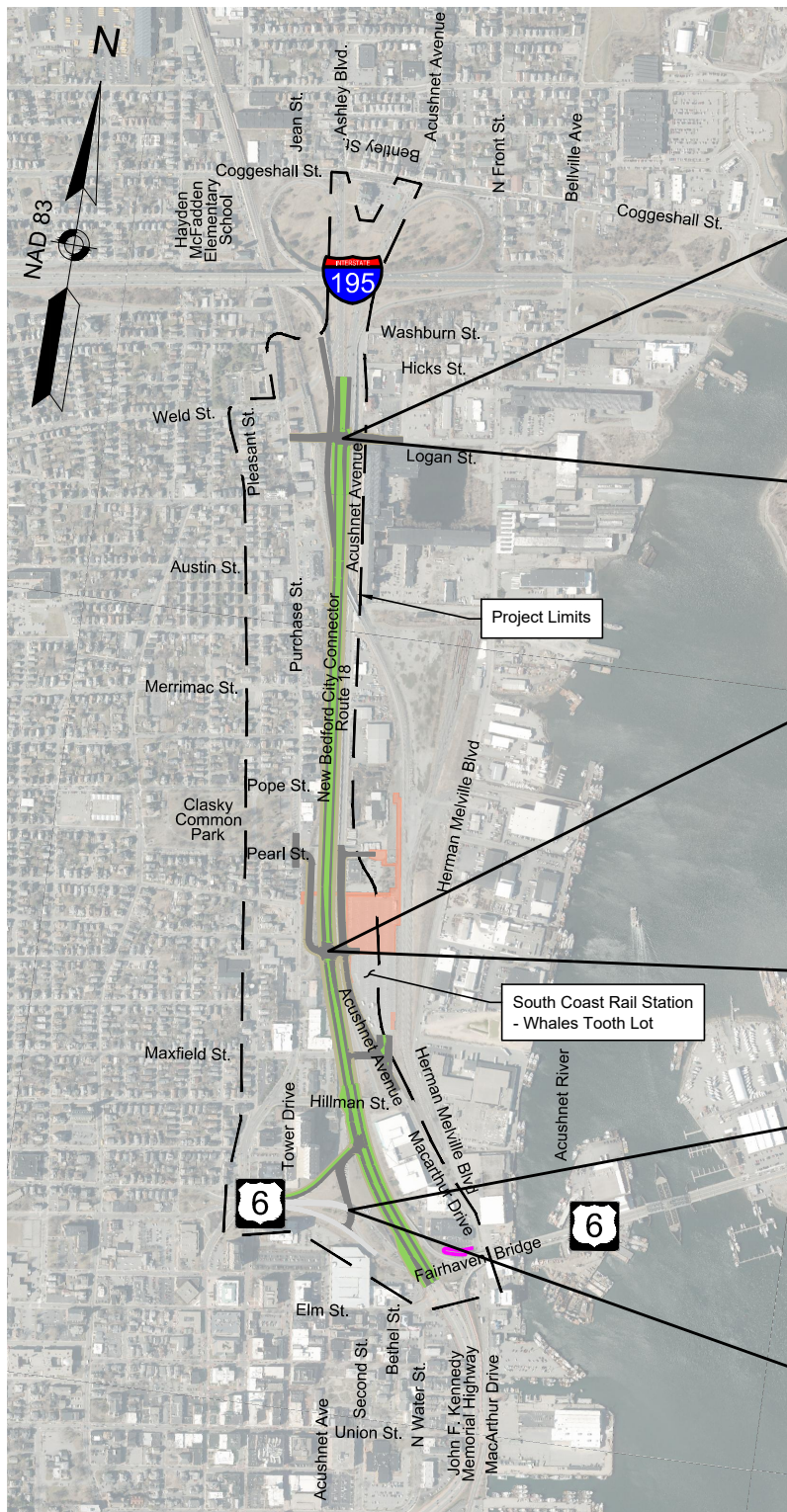
WHY NOT A VOTE ON HIGHWAY PLANS?

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.



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MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
HIGHWAY DIVISION
10 PARK PLAZA BOSTON, MASS

ROUTE 18 CORRIDOR STUDY
ELM STREET TO COGGESHALL STREET
NEW BEDFORD, MA
MAY 2021

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. The public meeting for this stage occurred on February 4, 2021. Feedback has been incorporated into the design concepts.

Stage 2, Spring 2021: Develop an initial set of design concepts for the improvements to the corridor. We are in this stage. The public meeting and presentation on the initial design alternatives will be presented to the public for input at a meeting on May 12, 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.

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

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