



VIRTUAL DESIGN PUBLIC HEARING

Thursday May 13th, 2021

FOR THE PROPOSED

Charlton-Oxford Route 20 Roadway Reconstruction Project

Project No. 602659

Bridge Nos. C-06-023 & O-06-002

Major Projects/ Design-Build

IN THE TOWNS OF CHARLTON AND OXFORD, 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 HEARING MEETING
Project File No. 602659

A Live Virtual Design Public Hearing meeting link will be published on the MassDOT website below to present the design for the proposed Route 20 Roadway Reconstruction project in **Charlton-Oxford, MA**.

WHEN: Thursday, May 13, 2021 @ 6:00 PM

PURPOSE: The purpose of this hearing is to provide the public with the opportunity to become fully acquainted with the proposed Charlton-Oxford Route 20 Roadway Reconstruction project. All views and comments submitted in response to the hearing will be reviewed and considered to the maximum extent possible.

PROPOSAL: The proposed project consists of improvements to Route 20 roadway safety conditions in Charlton and Oxford through proposed modifications to roadway geometry, roadway widening, installation of a median barrier and enhanced traffic operations at intersections. Design will include considerations for bicycle and pedestrian accommodations, signage, pavement markings, guardrail, retaining walls and storm drainage. Bridges carrying Route 20 over the Little River in Charlton and the French River in Oxford will be replaced.

A secure right-of-way is necessary for this project. Acquisitions in fee and permanent or temporary easements may be required. The **Commonwealth of Massachusetts** is responsible for acquiring all needed rights in private or public lands. MassDOT's policy concerning land acquisitions will be presented in the hearing.

Project inquiries, written statements and other exhibits regarding the proposed undertaking may be submitted to Patricia A. Leavenworth, P.E., Chief Engineer, via e-mail to dot.feedback.highway@state.ma.us or via US Mail to Suite 6340, 10 Park Plaza, Boston, MA 02116, Attention: Major Projects, Design-Build Project File No. 602659. 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 is posted to the MassDOT website listed below.

This hearing 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 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 hearing.

This Live Virtual Design Public Hearing or a cancellation announcement will be posted on the internet at www.mass.gov/massdot-highway-design-public-hearings.

JONATHAN GULLIVER
HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATOR

PATRICIA A. LEAVENWORTH, 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 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,
Patricia A Leavenworth, 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?

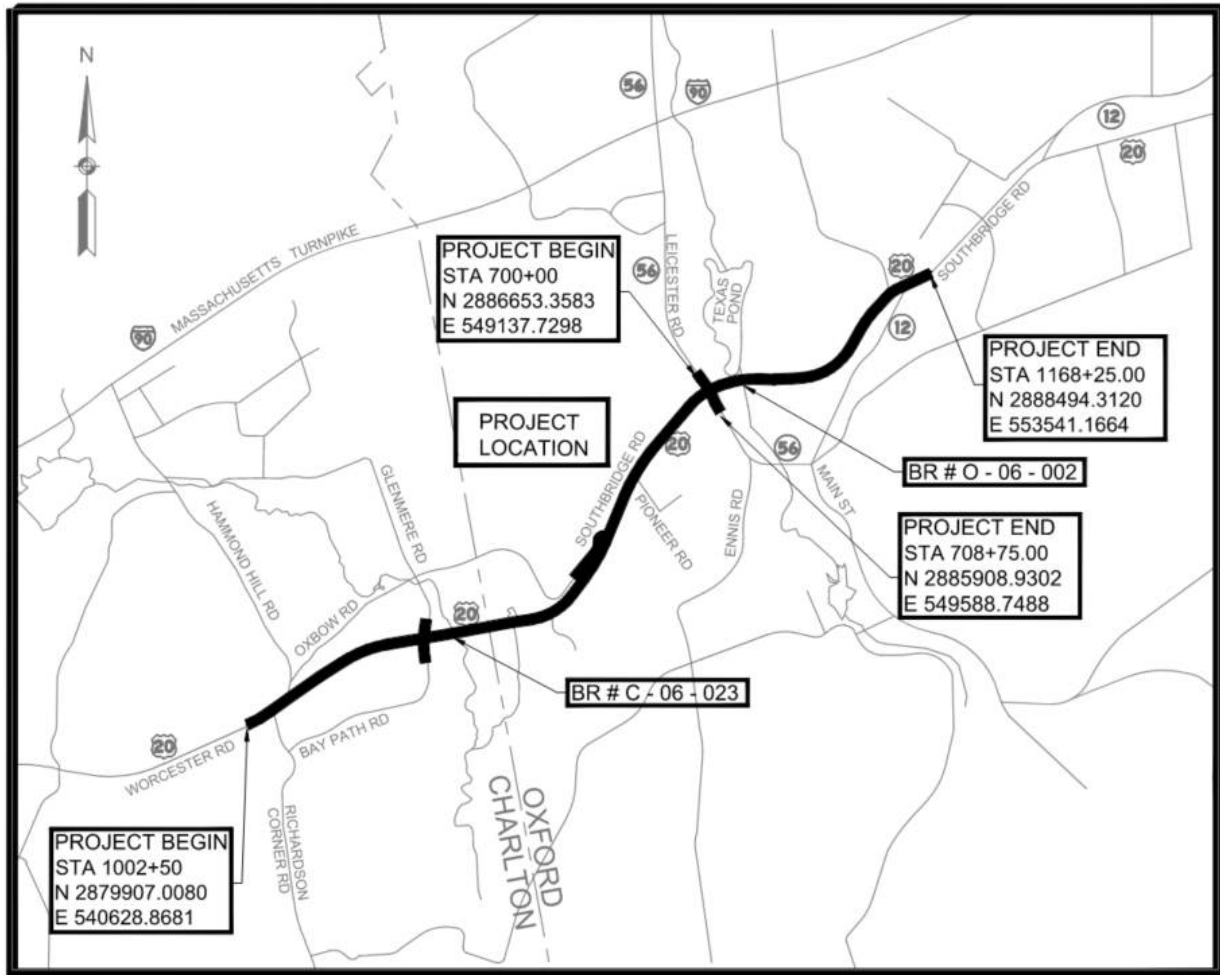
The owner will have the opportunity to buy back his or her house, provided he or she has a location to which it can be moved, and the proper permits for its removal. If the owner does not wish to repurchase, the house will be advertised for bids. The highest bidder, who must also have a location and 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.

LOCUS MAP

Charlton-Oxford Route 20 Roadway Reconstruction Project Project No. 602659 Bridge Nos. C-06-023 & O-06-002



Charlton-Oxford Route 20 Reconstruction Project (#602659)

Project Fact Sheet



Project Purpose and Need

The purpose of the project is to improve safety, geometry and traffic operations in the project corridor.

Existing Conditions

- Route 20 between Richardson Corner Road in Charlton and Route 12 in Oxford is currently an undivided four lane arterial carrying approximately 26,000 vehicles per day.
- The existing horizontal and vertical alignment does not meet current design standards.
- Safety improvement measures implemented at the curve near Oxbow Road/ Oak Drive include minor roadway widening, stanchions, median guardrail, and signage.
- The intersection of Route 20 and Route 56 has a high crash rate.
- The number and severity of crashes along the project corridor is significant due to the traffic speed and nature of accidents (head on and fix object collisions).

Proposed Project Improvements

The Project includes the following main construction elements;

- Improvements include roadway resurfacing and widening to accommodate two 11-foot wide lanes with two-foot median shoulders and four-foot outside shoulders in each direction of travel.
- Median barrier separating opposing directions of travel is proposed from Richardson's Corner to Route 56. Raised median separating opposing directions of travel is proposed from Route 56 to Route 12.
- Median breaks with left-turn lanes will be provided at the following signalized intersections which will allow u-turns from both directions: Richardson Corner Road, Oxbow Road, Route 56, Route 12/20
- Left turns onto Route 20 and U-turns will be restricted by a median at each of the following locations where current conditions do not warrant a signalized intersection: Bay Path and Glenmere Road Pioneer Drive, Thayer Pond Village (Emergency vehicle access only)
- Provide emergency 'pull-off' areas to provide shoulder width for emergency responders, traffic enforcement, vehicle breakdowns, and roadway maintenance crews.
- Project to include a Shared Use Path (SUP) for bicycles and pedestrians on the Westbound side of Route 20 from Route 12 to Oxbow Road and a pedestrian sidewalk on the Eastbound side of Route 20 from Route 56 to Route 12.
- Bridges over the Little River in Charlton and the French River in Oxford will each be replaced.
- Additional proposed improvements include signage, pavement markings, guardrail, retaining walls, storm drainage and stormwater management infrastructure.

Anticipated Project Milestones

- Fall 2021 – Environmental Permitting
- Spring 2022 – Right-of-Way Procurement
- Spring 2022 – Advertisement/ Request for Proposals (RFP)
- Summer 2022 – Contract Awarded to Design-Build Proposer
- Winter 2025 - Roadway and Bridges Full Beneficial Use (FBU)

THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
HIGHWAY DIVISION

FEDERAL AID PROJECT

Charlton-Oxford, MA
Route 20 Roadway Reconstruction Project
Project File No. 602659

This sheet is provided for your comments. Your input is solicited and appreciated. You may e-mail comments directly to MassDOTRte20Reconstruction@dot.state.ma.us or you may mail this sheet with any additional comments to:

Patricia A. Leavenworth, 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 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

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

RE: Virtual Public Hearing
CHARLTON-OXFORD
Route 20 Roadway Reconstruction Project
Project File No. 602659
Attn: Major Projects/ Design-Build

