



DESIGN PUBLIC HEARING

SEPTEMBER 27, 2018

AT

**WEST BROOKFIELD TOWN HALL
LOWER LEVEL CONFERENCE MEETING ROOM**

WEST BROOKFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS

Thursday at 6:00 PM

FOR THE PROPOSED

**FOSTER HILL ROAD over COYS BROOK
BRIDGE REPLACEMENT**

Project No. 608633

Bridge No. W-19-009

Bridge Project Management

IN THE TOWN OF WEST BROOKFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS

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

**JONATHAN L. 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
Project File No. 608633

A Design Public Hearing will be held by MassDOT to discuss the proposed **Foster Hill Road Over Coys Brook Bridge Replacement Project in West Brookfield MA.**

WHERE: **Town Hall Lower Level Conference Meeting Room**
 2 East Main Street
 West Brookfield, MA 01585

WHEN: **Thursday, September 27, 2018 @ 6:00 PM**

PURPOSE: The purpose of this hearing is to provide the public with the opportunity to become fully acquainted with the proposed replacement of the Foster Hill Road Bridge over Coys Brook in the Town of West Brookfield, MA. All views and comments made at the hearing will be reviewed and considered to the maximum extent possible.

PROPOSAL: The proposed project consists of replacing the existing 20 foot single span bridge structure with a new 40 foot single span bridge structure. The new bridge structure will accommodate a 24 foot wide roadway and is to be constructed in the same approximate footprint as the existing bridge. The roadway approaches on each side of the bridge will be reconstructed. The work will also include safety improvements such as new guardrail throughout and an improved roadway profile. During construction, the roadway will be closed to vehicular traffic with a three and a half mile detour. A temporary pedestrian bridge will be constructed to allow pedestrians to utilize the roadway during construction.

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

Written views received by MassDOT subsequent to the date of this notice and up to five (5) days prior to the date of the hearing shall be displayed for public inspection and copying at the time and date listed above. Plans will be on display one-half hour before the hearing begins, with an engineer in attendance to answer questions regarding this project. A project handout will be made available on the MassDOT website listed below.

Written statements and other exhibits in place of, or in addition to, oral statements made at the Public Hearing regarding the proposed undertaking are to be submitted to Patricia A. Leavenworth, P.E., Chief Engineer, MassDOT, 10 Park Plaza, Boston, MA 02116, Attention: Bridge Project Management, Project File No. 608633. Such submissions will also be accepted at the hearing. Mailed statements and exhibits intended for inclusion in the public hearing transcript must be postmarked within ten (10) business days of this Public Hearing. Project inquiries may be emailed to dot.feedback.highway@state.ma.us

This location is accessible to people with disabilities. MassDOT provides reasonable accommodations and/or language assistance free of charge upon request (including but not limited to interpreters in American Sign Language and languages other than English, open or closed captioning for videos, assistive listening devices and alternate material formats, such as audio tapes, Braille and large print), as available. For accommodation or language assistance, please contact MassDOT's Chief Diversity and Civil Rights Officer by phone (857-368-8580), fax (857-368-0602), TTD/TTY (857-368-0603) 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 (10) business days before the meeting.

In case of inclement weather, hearing cancellation announcements will be posted on the internet at <http://www.massdot.state.ma.us/Highway/>

JONATHAN L. 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 ISSUES

A secure right of way is necessary for this project. Temporary construction easements may be required. Your municipality is responsible for acquiring all necessary rights in private or public lands. If your property is affected, your rights are fully protected under law.

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.

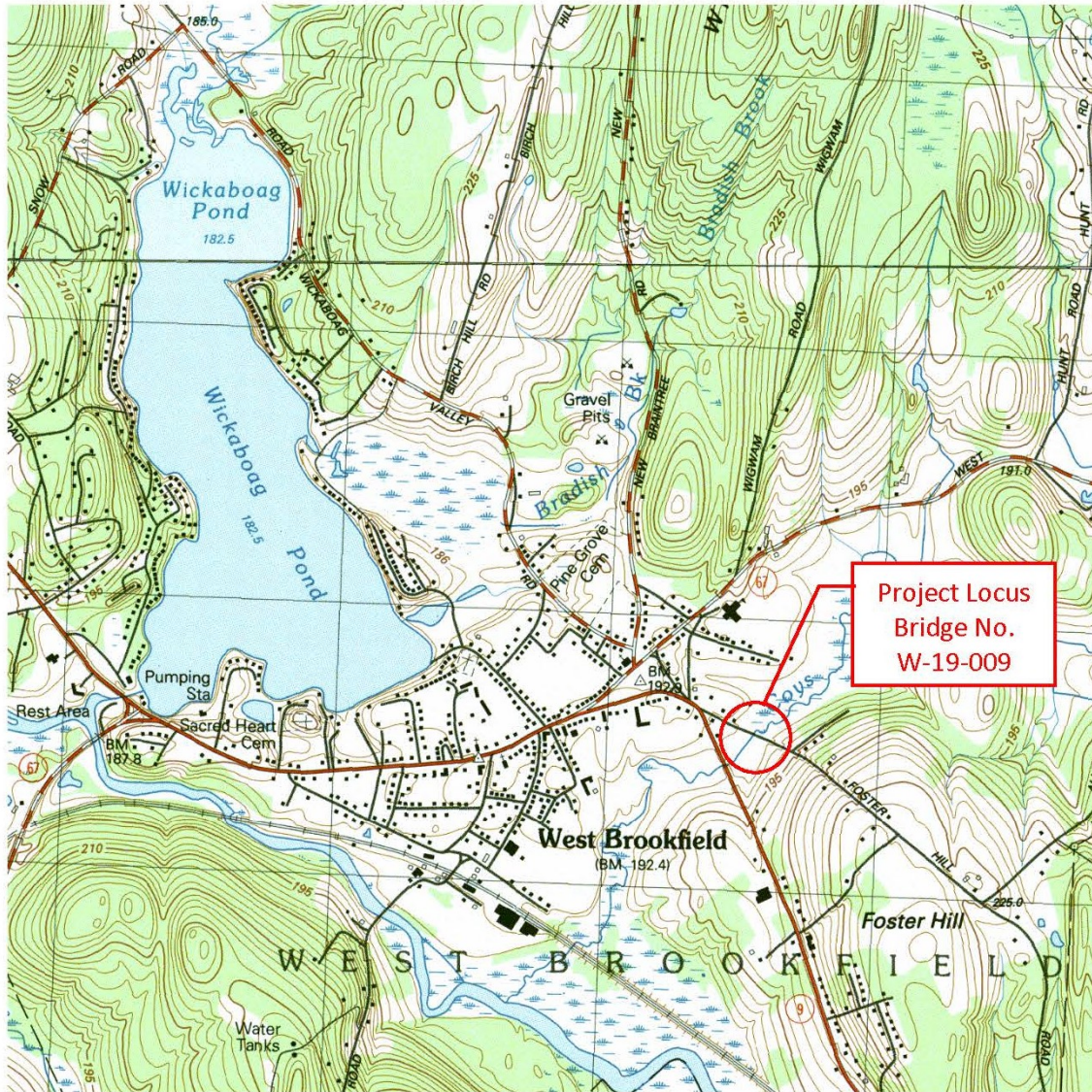
4. WHAT IS A FAIR PRICE FOR THE ACQUIRED PARCELS?

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.

WEST BROOKFIELD – Foster Hill Road over Coys Brook



PROJECT LOCATION MAP

Project Description

Foster Hill Road over Coys Brook Bridge Replacement, West Brookfield, MA

Project Purpose and Limits of Work

The purpose of the project is to replace the existing bridge structure due to its deteriorated condition and limited load carrying capacity. In addition to replacing the bridge, the existing approach roadways to the bridge will be reconstructed and slightly widened. The limits of new pavement will be 170 feet west of the bridge and 160 feet east of the bridge. The resulting total project length is approximately 400 feet along Foster Hill Road.

Scope of Proposed Work

The primary work on this project will be the replacement of the existing bridge structure. The existing bridge is a 20 foot long single span wood beam structure with stone abutments located at the edge of Coys Brook. The new bridge is to be built in the same approximate footprint as the existing bridge and will be 40 feet in span, creating bank under the bridge on both sides. The new bridge will consist of precast concrete beams and deck. The foundations will be comprised of pile supported integral abutments.

The proposed bridge will be slightly wider than the existing bridge. The new bridge will have a 24 foot wide roadway compared to the existing 21 foot wide roadway. The structure will have bridge railing on each side. The 24 foot roadway will accommodate shared use of the roadway for vehicles, pedestrians and bicycles.

The work on the roadway approaches to the bridge will include reconstructing and widening the existing roadway to transition to the proposed bridge. The vertical profile will be raised slightly over the bridge to improve the alignment. Lastly, there will also be other improvements such as new guardrail.

Traffic Management

Foster Hill Road will be closed to vehicular traffic during construction of the new bridge. A three and a half mile detour will be required. A temporary pedestrian bridge will be constructed south of the existing bridge to allow pedestrians to utilize the roadway during construction.

Utilities

There are existing overhead wires along the north side of Foster Hill Road. The existing overhead wires will be temporarily relocated further north of the bridge to allow safe offsets to the bridge during construction for cranes and heavy equipment. The overhead wires will then be relocated back to their approximate existing location. The existing 6" water line located in the roadway and under the existing bridge will be replaced with a new water line parallel to and north of the proposed bridge.

Right of Way

The project will require that some work be performed outside the existing right of way on town-owned property. It is currently anticipated that permanent easements and temporary construction easements will be required. The Town of West Brookfield will be responsible for securing all needed rights of way.

Environmental Permits

All required environmental permits will be obtained prior to advertising the project for construction bids. It is anticipated that there will be some minor temporary impacts to Coys Brook and adjacent wetland areas during the bridge reconstruction work. This project is exempt from the Massachusetts Environmental Protection Agency (MEPA), the Wetlands Protection Act and Chapter 91 requirements. However, the project will need a Water Quality Certificate (WQC) from the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) and an Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) Section 404 Permit.

Healthy Transportation Policy

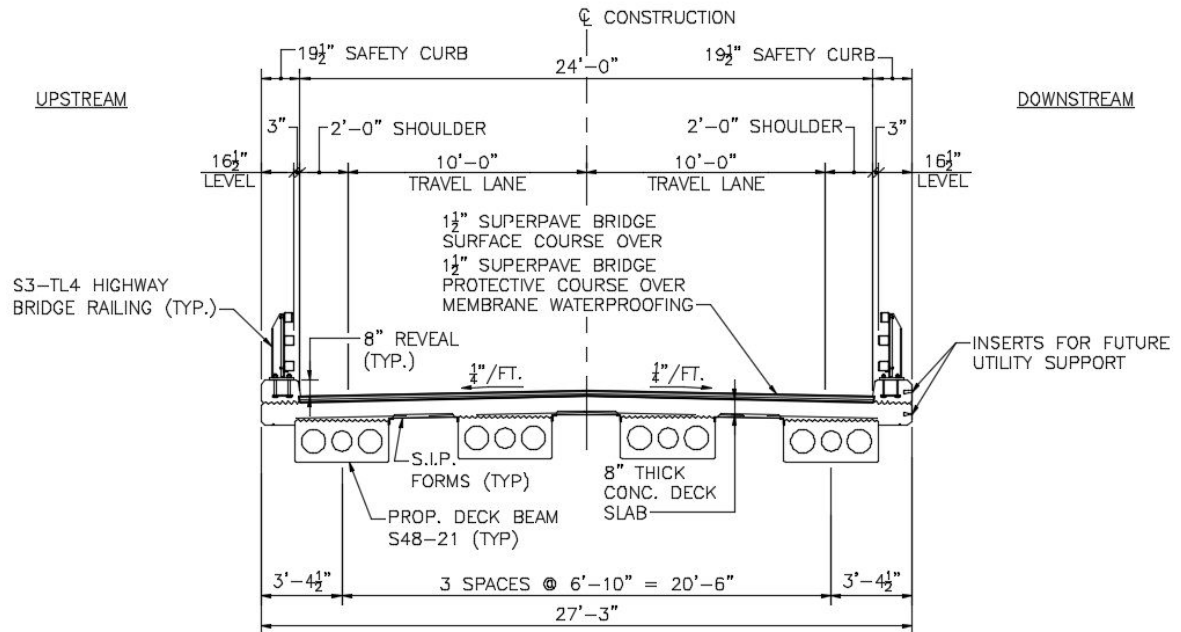
MassDOT's Healthy Transportation Policy requires that all projects are designed to ensure that all customers have access to safe and comfortable healthy transportation options such as walking, bicycling and transit. The proposed design is constructing the new bridge slightly wider in order to safely provide shared usage of the roadway for pedestrians and bicyclists. In addition, the project has considered the need to maintain access for pedestrians with the incorporation of a temporary bridge for use during construction.

Project Status and Schedule

The project plans on display this evening are at the 25%/preliminary design stage. Comments from this Public Hearing will be incorporated into the final design plans to the maximum extent possible. It is anticipated that the final design plans will be completed and the project advertised for construction bids in the Fall of 2019 with construction estimated to begin in the Spring of 2020.

Project Cost

The preliminary/25% estimate of the construction cost is \$1,600,000.



PROPOSED BRIDGE CROSS SECTION



EXISTING BRIDGE ELEVATION VIEW

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: Public Hearing
Foster Hill Road over Coys Brook Bridge Replacement
WEST BROOKFIELD, MA
Project File No. 608633
Bridge Project Management

