



DESIGN PUBLIC HEARING

MARCH 21, 2018

AT

**EAST BRIDGEWATER TOWN HALL
FIRST FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM
175 CENTRAL STREET
EAST BRIDGEWATER, MASSACHUSETTS**

7:00 PM

FOR THE PROPOSED

**Reconstruction of Bedford Street (Route 18)
Project No. 607941
In the town of East Bridgewater
Roadway Division**

IN THE TOWN OF EAST BRIDGEWATER, 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 MEETING**

Project File No. 607941

A Design Public Hearing will be held by MassDOT to discuss the proposed resurfacing and sidewalk construction on Bedford Street (Route 18), from Route 106 (Whitman Street) to Central Street project in East Bridgewater, MA.

**WHERE: East Bridgewater Town Hall
First Floor Conference Room
175 Central Street
East Bridgewater, MA 02333**

WHEN: Wednesday, March 21st, 2018 @ 7:00 PM

PURPOSE: The purpose of this hearing is to provide the public with the opportunity to become fully acquainted with the proposed resurfacing and sidewalk construction on Bedford Street (Route 18) project. All views and comments made at the hearing will be reviewed and considered to the maximum extent possible.

PROPOSAL: The proposed project consists of minor widening of the existing roadway to provide shoulders sufficient to accommodate bicycles. Continuous sidewalks will be provided along both sides of Route 18 between Whitman Street and Central Street. Drainage upgrades and intersection improvements at Route 106 intersection will be included in the project.

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 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 Meeting regarding the proposed undertaking are to be submitted to Patricia A. Leavenworth, P.E., Chief Engineer, MassDOT, 10 Park Plaza, Boston, MA 02116, Attention: Roadway Project Management, Project File No. 607941. 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 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.

TO SAFEGUARD THE PROPERTY OWNER

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?

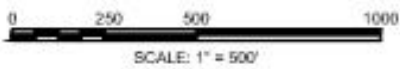
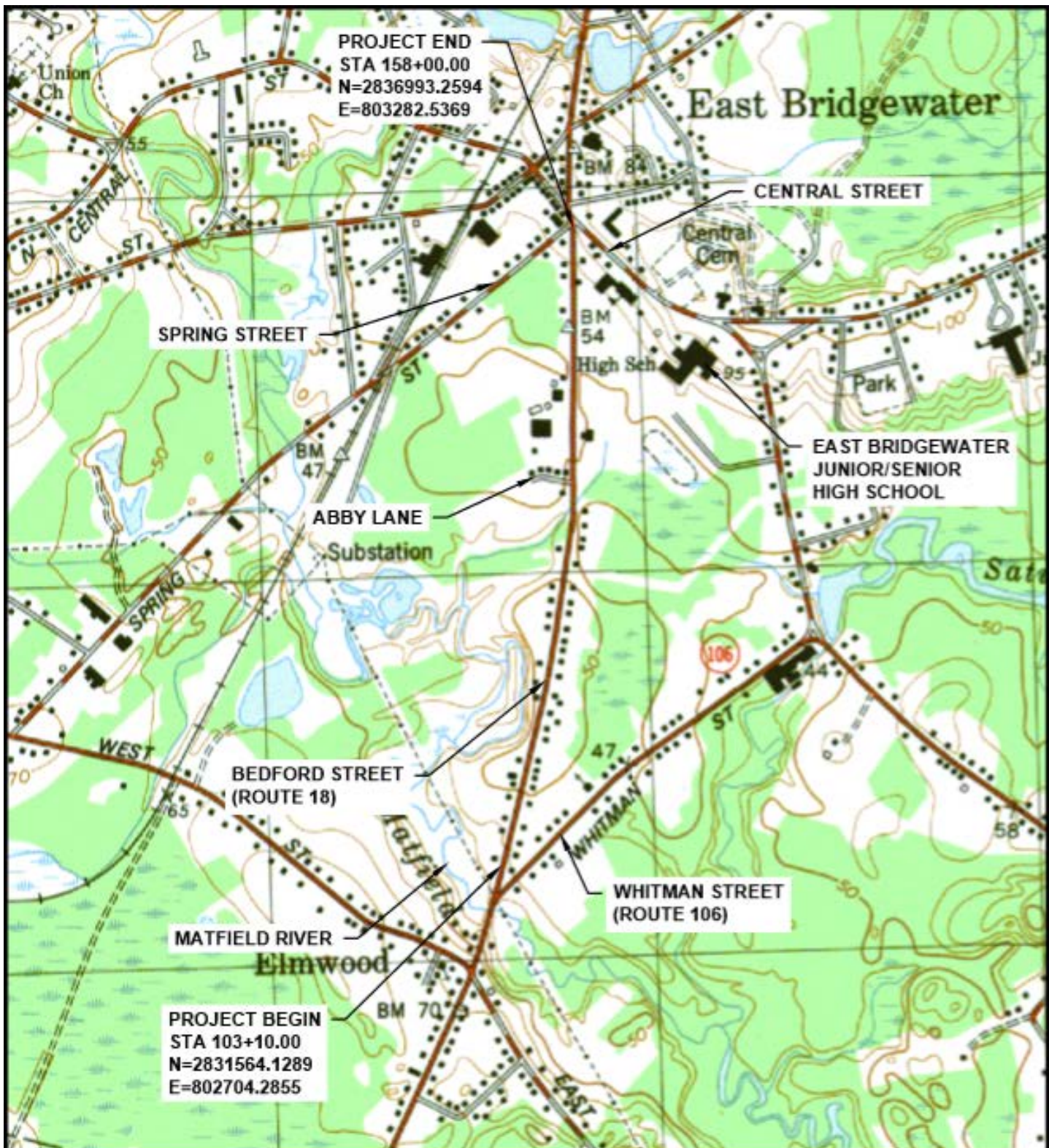
No. If, after the figure established as market value has been offered to the owner, the owner feels he or she is not being offered a fair price, he or she has the right, within three years, to appeal to the courts. Pending a court decision, he or she can be paid on a "pro-tanto" basis (or "for the time 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 PLAN

BEDFORD STREET (ROUTE 18)
 EAST BRIDGEWATER, MA



**East Bridgewater, Massachusetts
Reconstruction of Bedford Street (Route 18)
Project Description**

Purpose and Need: The purpose of the proposed project is to reconstruct the deteriorated roadway and to provide continuous sidewalk and bicycle connectivity from the beginning to the end of the project. This will enable pedestrians to safely walk the road, particularly students who attend East Bridgewater Jr/Sr High School as well as bicyclists who bicycle along the corridor. This will also enhance travel for motorists when utilizing Route 18, which connects East Bridgewater to the Towns of Bridgewater, Whitman and Abington while also providing a connection to Interstate Route 495. This project would be served well by shared transportation improvements for the local school, residential and commercial base of Route 18. Furthermore, the project will provide water quality improvements at points of discharge to the Matfield River, an impaired waterbody.

Location and Limits: The proposed project begins at the intersection of Route 18 and Whitman Street. The project then heads north and ends at the intersection of Route 18 and Central Street. The total project length is 5814 feet or 1.10 miles.

Existing Conditions: Route 18 is on the National Highway System and is a designated truck route. The average daily traffic is approximately 15,900 vehicles per day, of which 4.7% is comprised of trucks. Two lanes together carry two-way traffic in a Northerly and Southerly direction. Route 18 is an Urban Principal Arterial and has a design speed of 45 miles per hour.

The existing roadway is made of bituminous concrete (hot mix asphalt). The two lane, two way traffic roadway varies in width from approximately 32 feet to 38 feet. Overhead electrical and communication lines span the entire length of roadway on either side. There is an abandoned underground water main on the Western side of the roadway throughout the whole project and the water main being currently used is on the Eastern side of the roadway. Roadway storm water is captured by catch basins located within the project limits. The water is directed to several outfall locations located along the existing roadway and ultimately discharges to the Matfield River located west of the Route 18 Roadway.

Proposed Improvements: The reconstruction of the existing roadway will occupy a footprint similar to the existing roadway, with minor widening. For the majority of the project, the roadway will accommodate two 11 foot vehicular travel lanes, two 5 foot wide shoulders to allow for bicycle traffic, granite curb and two 5 foot 6 inch wide concrete sidewalks for pedestrian traffic, one on each side of the roadway. Storm water runoff will be diverted to several proposed drainage systems along the project corridor with improvements to be implemented to enhance water quality prior to discharge into the Matfield River. The proposed drainage system will include Best Management Practices (BMPs) to meet the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection Storm water Standards to the maximum extent applicable.

Right of Way: The proposed roadway improvements will require Right of Way (ROW) acquisitions in the form of temporary easements and permanent construction easements. MassDOT will be responsible for acquiring all necessary rights on affected property.

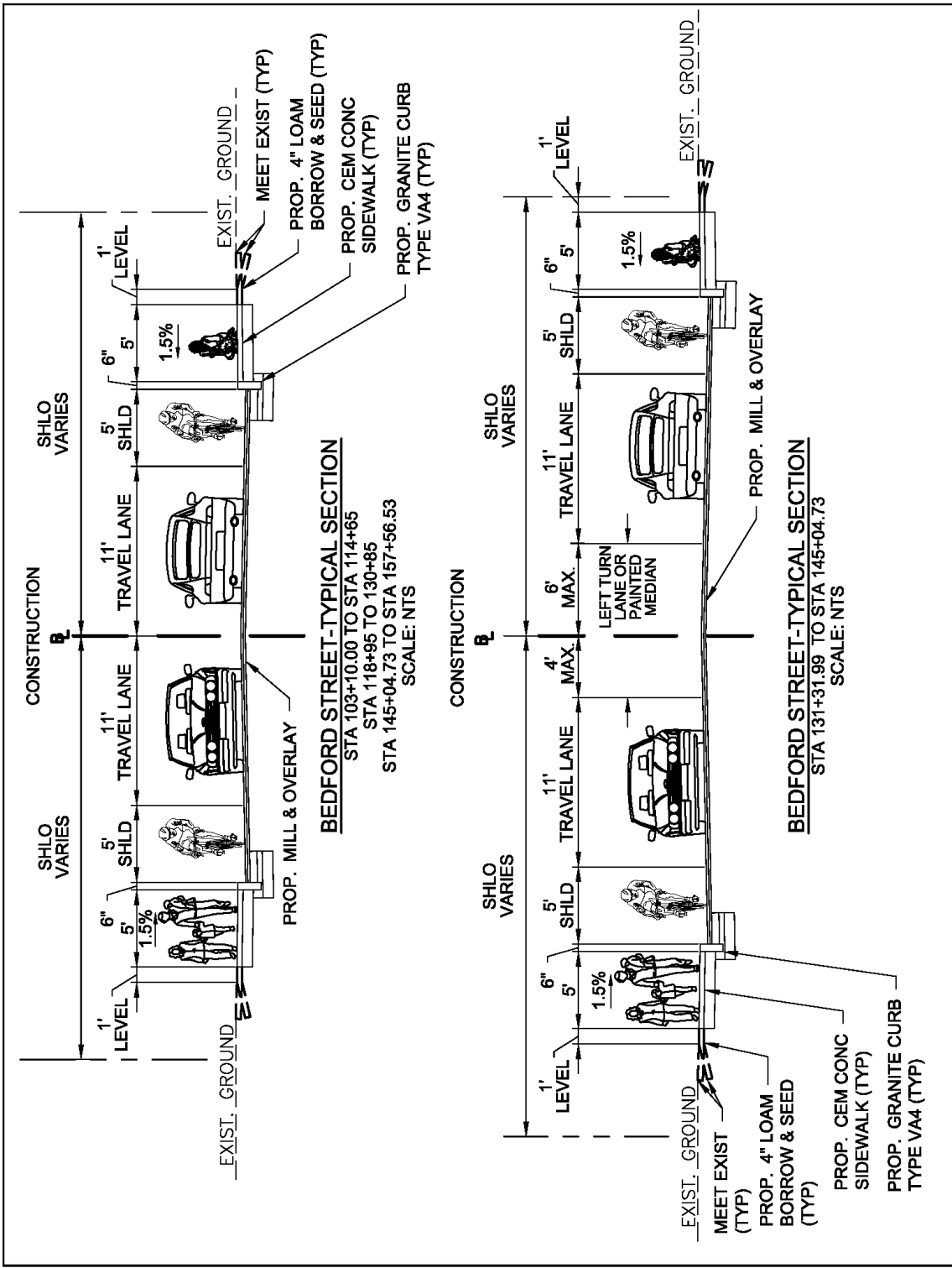
Traffic Management: Construction techniques will be accelerated to the maximum extent possible in order to minimize construction time and impacts to traffic. Route 18 will be open to traffic during construction with two lanes open during peak hours. During roadway construction, traffic will utilize one lane of alternating traffic with police and/or flagger control.

Project Schedule: The design plans displayed at this meeting are at the 25% stage completion. Comments made at this design hearing will be incorporated to the maximum extent feasible in the final design. Construction is expected to begin in 2020.

Project Cost: The construction cost is estimated to be approximately \$6.9 million and will be funded by Federal and State funds.

Environmental Permitting Status: Although this project qualifies as a functional equivalent of existing infrastructure, filing with the local Conservation Commissions will be required because of the number of proposed drainage systems. Although some work will be adjacent to existing wetlands to replace the existing cross culverts and installation of headwalls, it is anticipated that no wetlands will be permanently filled.

The Contractor will be required to prepare Storm water Pollution Prevention Plan and adhere to the plan to control storm water and prevent the movement of sediment from the construction site. The Contractor will file a Notice of Intent including this plan with the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency for a National Pollution Discharge Elimination Systems (NPDES) Construction Management General Permit 72 hours prior to the start of construction.



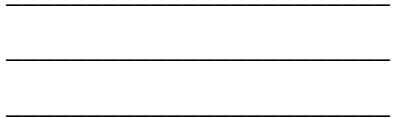
BEDFORD STREET-TYPICAL SECTION

STA 103+10.00 TO STA 114+65
 STA 118+95 TO 130+85
 STA 145+04.73 TO STA 157+56.53
 SCALE: NTS

BEDFORD STREET-TYPICAL SECTION

STA 131+31.99 TO STA 145+04.73
 SCALE: NTS

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

RE: Public Hearing
Roadway Rehabilitation of Route 18
EAST BRIDGEWATER
Project File No. 607941
Roadway Project Management

