



DESIGN PUBLIC HEARING

July 9th, 2019

AT

MONSON TOWN HALL, BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING ROOM

MONSON, MASSACHUSETTS

6:30 PM

FOR THE PROPOSED

**ROUTE 20 (BOSTON ROAD E. / PARK STREET) OVER QUABOAG RIVER, BRIDGE
REPLACEMENT PROJECT**

Project No. 607688

Bridge Nos M-27-022=P-01-033

Bridge Project Management Section

IN THE TOWN OF MONSON-PALMER, 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**

Project File No. 607688

A Design Public Hearing will be held by MassDOT to discuss the proposed Bridge Replacement of Bridge No. M-27-022=P-01-033 carrying Boston Road East / Park Street (US 20) over Quaboag River in Monson-Palmer, MA.

**WHERE: Monson Town Hall, Board of Selectmen Meeting Room
110 Main Street
Monson, MA 01057**

WHEN: Tuesday July 9th, 2019 @ 6:30 P.M.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this hearing is to provide the public with the opportunity to become fully acquainted with the proposed Bridge Replacement of Bridge No. M-27-022=P-01-033 carrying Boston Road East (US 20) over Quaboag River. All views and comments made at the hearing will be reviewed and considered to the maximum extent possible.

PROPOSAL: The proposed project consists of the replacement of the existing bridge consisting of a two-span concrete deck and steel stringer superstructure, and concrete abutments and center pier. The proposed structure includes a single span bridge consisting of steel girders supporting a concrete deck with an asphalt wearing surface. The proposed structure will be supported by concrete abutments at either end of the span. To help prevent scouring of the substructure, the span has been increased to 125'-0", without a center pier, and the location of the bridge has been shifted to the west to better accommodate the Quaboag River's natural course. The bridge will carry two 12'-0" travel lanes, two 8'-0" shoulders to accommodate bicyclists, and two 5'-0" sidewalks to accommodate pedestrians. To maintain vehicular and pedestrian traffic at all times, construction will be completed in phases.

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 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, Highway Division** Project File No.607688. Such submissions will also be accepted at the hearing. Mailed statements and exhibits intended for inclusion in the public hearing transcript must be postmarked no later than ten (10) business days after 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.



SITE LOCATION MAP

SCALE: 1"=2,000'



8 BLACKSTONE VALLEY PLACE
LINCOLN, RI 02865
(401) 334-4100

10 LINCOLN ROAD, SUITE 210
FOXBORO, MA 02035
(508) 543-1755

PARE PROJECT No.14199.15

FEBRUARY 2018

FIGURE 1

US 20 (BRIMFIELD RD) OVER QUABOAG RIVER
MONSON-PALMER, MA
BRIDGE No. M-27-022=P-01-033 REPLACEMENT



Monson/Palmer, Massachusetts
Route 20 (Park Street/Boston Road East) over Quaboag River
Bridge M-27-022=P-01-033 Replacement

The proposed improvements will be displayed for public viewing this evening and will be discussed in detail in order to provide as much information as possible to the residents of Monson and Palmer. All opinions will help assist the Commonwealth during the next design phase. Your participation and comments are greatly welcomed and appreciated.

Purpose of the Project

The proposed project consists of the removal of the existing bridge and construction of a new bridge, improvements to the river channel in the immediate vicinity of the bridge, and related improvements to the roadway approaching the bridge.

Project Location and Limits

The proposed project on Route 20 (Park Street in Palmer and Boston Road East in Monson) begins approximately 350 feet west of the existing bridge over Quaboag River and ends approximately 375 east of the existing bridge.

Features of the Project

The proposed project consists of replacing the deficient Route 20 Bridge that crosses over Quaboag River. The existing two-span steel beam with concrete deck bridge will be removed in its entirety and replaced with a new single span steel beam with concrete deck structure. The new structure will be supported on new concrete foundations without the need for a center pier in the river. The proposed roadway matches the existing with a total paved width of 40 feet consisting of one 12-foot lane plus an 8-foot shoulder in each direction. New 5'-6" concrete sidewalks will be constructed on both sides of the bridge. The profile of the existing road will be raised, and the cross section of the roadway embankment will be widened to accommodate the new sidewalk along the south side. The proposed roadway will be able to accommodate both pedestrian and bicycle traffic in both directions.

Land Acquisition (Right of Way Impacts)

Temporary easements are proposed for this project involving privately owned land in the four corners of the bridge. The easements are required to accommodate bridge and embankment construction. MassDOT will be working with the property owners for these temporary easements.

Maintenance of Traffic During Construction

The bridge will be open to pedestrian and vehicular traffic during construction. To accommodate the travelling public, the bridge will be constructed in phases. No temporary detours are anticipated for this project.

Environmental and Historical Impacts

The project will require temporary disturbance, excavation, and filling of material along the banks and within the Quaboag River for the demolition of the existing foundations, the construction of new foundations, and realigning of the waterway in the location of the new bridge. A Section 401 Water Quality Certificate is anticipated along with a Section 404 general permit. The Towns of Monson and Palmer have been contacted for their input.

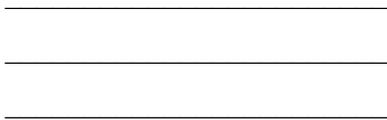
Project Status and Schedule

Plans are at the 25% Highway Design and Bridge Sketch Plan stage. The project is expected to be advertised in September 2020 and completed within approximately 30 months.

Project Cost

The current total construction cost estimate of the project is approximately \$10 million.

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
BOSTON ROAD EAST / PARK STREET (US 20) OVER QUABOAG RIVER BRIDGE
REPLACEMENT
MONSON - PALMER
Project File No. 607688
Bridge Project Management Section

