



DESIGN PUBLIC HEARING

OCTOBER 29, 2019

AT

**OAK BLUFFS PUBLIC LIBRARY
56R SCHOOL STREET**

OAK BLUFFS, MASSACHUSETTS

6:00 PM

FOR THE PROPOSED

**CONSTRUCTION OF A SHARED USE PATH ALONG BEACH ROAD, FROM THE
LAGOON POND BRIDGE NORTHERLY TO THE EASTVILLE AVENUE/COUNTY
ROAD INTERSECTION**

**Project No. 608142
Roadway Project Management**

IN THE TOWN OF OAK BLUFFS, 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. 608142

A Design Public Hearing will be held by MassDOT to discuss the proposed construction of a Shared Use Path along Beach Road project in Oak Bluffs, MA.

WHERE: Oak Bluffs Public Library
56R School Street
Oak Bluffs, MA 02557

WHEN: **Tuesday, October 29th, 2019 @ 6:00 PM**

PURPOSE: The purpose of this hearing is to provide the public with the opportunity to become fully acquainted with the proposed Construction of a Shared Use Path along Beach Road from Lagoon Pond Bridge to Eastville Ave./County Road 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 construction of a shared use path extending approximately 0.75 miles along Beach Road in Oak Bluffs, Massachusetts. The project limits are from the existing shared use path (SUP) at the MassDOT Lagoon Pond Drawbridge bridge replacement project (MassDOT Project #604029) to the west, along Beach Road onto Eastville Avenue, and to the intersection of Eastville Avenue / County Road where it will connect to an existing shared use path. The proposed improvements will enhance vehicular and pedestrian safety, provide bicycle accommodations, provide compliance with Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) standards, and improve vehicular traffic safety by including “Complete Streets” design principles. Bicycle accommodations consisting of an 8’ – 10’ shared use path have been provided in accordance with applicable design guides.

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: **Roadway Project Management**, Project File No. **608142**. Such submissions will also be accepted at the hearing/meeting. Mailed statements and exhibits intended for inclusion in the public hearing/meeting 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.

Project Location Map



Project Location

The Massachusetts Department of Transportation – Highway Division (MassDOT) and the Town of Oak Bluffs is proposing a shared-use path extending approximately 0.75 miles along Beach Road in Oak Bluffs, Massachusetts. The project limits begin from the existing shared-use path at the MassDOT Lagoon Pond Drawbridge bridge replacement project (MassDOT Project #604029) to the west, along Beach Road onto Eastville Avenue, and to the intersection of Eastville Avenue / County Road where it will connect to an existing shared-use path.

Purpose

The purpose of the project is to improve vehicular and pedestrian safety and capacity, provide compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), as well as improving bicycle accessibility throughout the corridor. Vehicular traffic safety will be improved through the use of “Complete Streets” design principles. The inclusion of pedestrian and bicycle friendly amenities seeks to improve the character of the roadway. The project also entails the construction of accessible ramps at all pedestrian crossings, minor roadway widening, drainage system improvements, and new or improved pavement marking and signage.

Existing Conditions

Beach Road is a two-lane road that is aligned in an overall northeast-southwest direction. This section of roadway falls under MassDOT’s jurisdiction and is considered part of the National Highway System (NHS).

Eastville Avenue is a two-lane road that runs in an east-west direction. The section of roadway between Beach Road and Temahigan Avenue falls under MassDOT’s jurisdiction and is considered part of the NHS. The section of roadway between Temahigan Avenue and Towanticut Avenue is under the jurisdiction of the Town of Oak Bluffs.

The land use along both roadways consists predominantly of residential, recreational, and the Martha’s Vineyard Hospital within the project limits. The roadways serve as a commuter route for local residents to access Tisbury and Downtown Oak Bluffs and the Oak Bluffs Marina. There are no bicycle accommodations or sidewalks present within the project limits.

Proposed Project

The project includes the construction of an 8-foot wide shared-use path separated from the roadway by a 5-foot grass strip along the south side of the Beach Road/Eastville Avenue corridor. Short sections of the roadway along Beach Road and Eastville Avenue will be reconstructed to provide a consistent cross-section in order to minimize environmental impacts and improve safety. ADA/AAB compliant accessible ramps with tactile warning devices at all crosswalks will be constructed. New ladder style crosswalks and MUTCD compliant pedestrian/bicycle crossing warning signs are being provided to improve visibility and connections to the shared-use path. All deficient signage will be replaced with MUTCD-compliant signage as applicable. Driveways and walkways affected by the shared-use path will be reconstructed. The Eastville Avenue and Temahigan Avenue intersection will be realigned to

define right-of-way, provide a more perpendicular “T” intersection, and improve sight lines. ADA/AAB compliant access ramps and a crosswalk across the Eastville Avenue westbound approach will also be provided. The Eastville Avenue and County Road intersection will be reconstructed and realigned to provide a more perpendicular “T” intersection with improved sight lines by providing a single northbound approach to Eastville Avenue. The County Road northbound approach will be reconstructed to provide an exclusive left-turn lane and exclusive right-turn lane. The Eastville Avenue eastbound approach will be reconstructed to provide an exclusive thru lane and an exclusive right-turn lane. A 3-Way STOP control will be installed at the Eastville Avenue/County Road intersection to help balance traffic volumes, improve operations and improve visibility. ADA/AAB compliant access ramps and a crosswalk will be provided across the County Road northbound approach along with MUTCD-complaint warning and bike route signage to provide connection to the existing shared-use path.

Right of Way

Several properties along the project area will require permanent acquisitions by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts for the project construction and utility relocations. Temporary construction easements are also required to facilitate construction including the reconstruction of driveways, construction of retaining walls, and grading accommodations. MassDOT’s policy regarding land acquisition will be discussed at the hearing.

Maintenance of Traffic During Construction

It is expected that in order to construct the proposed project, 10 to 11-foot wide travel lanes will remain open while minor widening and shared-use path work are completed. It is expected that there may also be short periods of time when only one lane of traffic will be open requiring bi-directional traffic flow. As part of this project, vehicular traffic flow will be maintained, and bicycle access will be accommodated within the traffic flow. No vehicular traffic detours have been considered at this time due to the fact that Beach Rd. and Eastville Ave. are critical links to the Town of Tisbury and Downtown Oak Bluffs.

Project Schedule

The plans on display tonight are at the 25% Design Stage. Comments received this evening will be considered to the maximum extent possible while advancing the design. The design and permitting is anticipated to be complete in the spring of 2021 and construction is anticipated to be completed within two construction seasons.

Project Construction Cost

This project was approved by the Massachusetts Department of Transportation for Federal Aid funding. The proposed project is estimated to cost approximately \$2.3 million and is programmed on the 2021 Transportation Improvement Program for the Martha’s Vineyard Commission.

THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
HIGHWAY DIVISION

FEDERAL AID PROJECT

OAK BLUFFS, MA
CONSTRUCTION OF A SHARED USE PATH ALONG BEACH ROAD, FROM THE
LAGOON POND BRIDGE NORTHERLY TO THE EASTVILLE AVENUE/COUNTY ROAD
INTERSECTION
Project File No. 608142

This sheet is provided for your comments. Your input is solicited and appreciated. Please return your sheet, with comments, to a staff member at the meeting, or mail to:

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

The final date for receipt of written statements and exhibits for inclusion into the official hearing transcript will be ten (10) days after the Public Hearing.

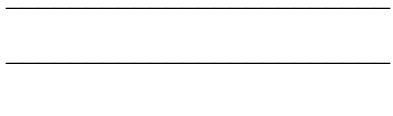
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Organization: _____

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

RE: Public Hearing
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