



**DESIGN PUBLIC HEARING**

**OCTOBER 19, 2017**

**AT**

**WESTFORD TOWN HALL  
(2<sup>ND</sup> FLOOR MEETING ROOM)  
55 MAIN STREET  
WESTFORD, MA 01886**

**7:00 PM**

**FOR THE PROPOSED**

**INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS AT GROTON ROAD (ROUTE 40) &  
DUNSTABLE ROAD  
PROJECT NO. 608037  
PROJECT MANAGEMENT**

**IN THE TOWN OF WESTFORD, 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. 608037**

A Design Public Hearing will be held by MassDOT to discuss the construction of the Intersection Improvements @ Groton Road (Route 40) & Dunstable Road project, Westford, MA.

**WHERE: Westford Town Hall (2<sup>nd</sup> floor meeting room)**  
**55 Main Street**  
**Westford, MA 01886**

**WHEN: Thursday, October 19, 2017 at 7:00 PM**

**PURPOSE:** The purpose of this hearing is to provide the public with the opportunity to become fully acquainted with the proposed intersection improvements at Groton Road (Route 40) & Dunstable Road. All views and comments made at the hearing will be reviewed and considered to the maximum extent possible.

**PROPOSAL:** The proposed project includes the installation of fully-actuated traffic signal at the intersection, resurfacing with box widening, bicycle lanes, sidewalks, drainage updates and geometric improvements. The total approximate project length is 3,220 Feet (0.610 Miles).

A secure right-of-way is necessary for this project. Acquisitions in fee and permanent or temporary easements may be required. The Town of Westford 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. 608037. 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](mailto: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](mailto: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.

## **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.



1" = 500'

# Groton Road & Dunstable Road Intersection Improvements Westford, Massachusetts



Project Area



TEC, Inc.  
 65 Glenn Street | 169 Ocean Blvd, Unit 101  
 Lawrence, MA 01843 | Hampton, NH 03842  
 (978) 794.1792 | (603) 601.8154  
 www.TheEngineeringCorp.com

Figure 1

Locus Map

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## **PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

### **PROJECT LOCATION AND PURPOSE**

The Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) and the Town of Westford are proposing pedestrian and vehicular safety improvements along Groton Road (Route 40) and Dunstable Road. The project extends approximately ½-mile along Groton Road, from Crocker Drive to the Long Sought for Pond parking area; and approximately 200 feet along each approach of Dunstable Road. The goal of the project is to improve pedestrian and vehicular safety at the intersection of Groton Road (Route 40) and Dunstable Road.

### **PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS**

This project proposes the installation of a fully actuated traffic signal at the intersection. In addition, there will be a new water main, drainage system modifications, geometric improvements, box widening, full depth pavement reconstruction, new sidewalks, guardrail, landscaping, and other incidental work associated with the above improvements.

### **TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT**

During typical construction operations, all roadways in the project area will remain open to residents during construction. Occasional short traffic disruptions and lane/shoulder closures may occur, but every effort will be made to minimize inconvenience to the travelling public. A short duration detour may be necessary during full depth pavement reconstruction operations; if necessary, it is anticipated that the detour would utilize Nutting Street and Depot Road, and would be set up to impact only one side of the intersection at a time. Pedestrian and vehicular access to abutting properties will be maintained throughout construction.

### **RIGHT OF WAY IMPACTS**

Permanent easements will be required as part of this project for roadway widening, sidewalk construction, utility pole relocations, traffic signal equipment, stormwater treatment areas, and wetland mitigation. Temporary construction easements will also be required. The Town of Westford will be responsible for securing all necessary easements.

### **PROJECT COST**

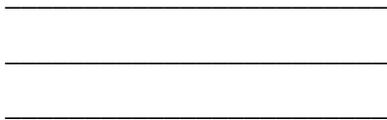
The current estimate of the total construction cost of this project is approximately \$2.7 million.

### **PROJECT SCHEDULE**

This project is currently funded for construction in Fiscal Year 2018. Design, permitting and right of way acquisition must be completed by September 2018, with construction anticipated to begin in the Spring of 2019.



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  
Intersection Improvements at  
Groton Rd (Route 40)/Dunstable Rd  
Westford, Massachusetts  
Project File No. 608037  
Roadway Project Management

