



VIRTUAL DESIGN PUBLIC HEARING

December 15, 2020

FOR THE PROPOSED

**Bridge Rehabilitation – Beaver Brook Road over Beaver Brook
W-26-014
Project No. 608830
Major Projects**

IN THE TOWN OF WESTFORD, 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 MEETING
Project File No. 608830

A Virtual Design Public Hearing will be published on the MassDOT website below to present the design for the proposed improvements project associated with the **Bridge Rehabilitation - Beaver Brook Road over the Beaver Brook in Westford**.

WHEN: Tuesday, December 15, 2020

PURPOSE: The purpose of this hearing is to provide the public with the opportunity to become fully acquainted with the proposed culvert replacement 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 a full replacement of the existing culvert structure with a bridge structure. The bridge structure will consist of precast concrete spread footing abutments and precast concrete deck beams. The existing gas line that sits between the roadway surface and the top of the existing culvert structure will be relocated to the upstream side of the bridge. A 5'-6" concrete sidewalk will be added to the west side of the bridge. The boat ramp at the southwest corner of the bridge will be replaced.

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 presented in the hearing.

Written statements and other exhibits 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. **608830**. Mailed statements and exhibits intended for inclusion in the public hearing transcript must be postmarked no later than ten (10) business days after the hearing is posted to the MassDOT website listed below. Project inquiries may be emailed to dot.feedback.highway@state.ma.us

This hearing is accessible to people with disabilities. MassDOT provides reasonable accommodations and/or language assistance free of charge upon request (e.g interpreters in American Sign Language and languages other than English, live captioning, videos, assistive listening devices and alternate material formats), as available. For accommodation or language assistance, please contact MassDOT's Chief Diversity and Civil Rights Officer by phone (857-368-8580), TTD/TTY at (857) 266-0603, fax (857) 368-0602 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 hearing.

This Virtual Design Public Hearing or a cancellation announcement will be posted on the internet at www.mass.gov/massdot-highway-design-public-hearings.

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 CONCERNS

Your Municipality is responsible for securing the right of way for this project. If your property, or a portion of it, must be acquired by the Municipality 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. 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" = 200'

Bridge Rehabilitation - Beaver Brook Road over Beaver Brook Westford, MA



Figure 1

Locus Map



TEC, Inc.
146 Dascomb Road
Andover, MA 01810

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Bridge Rehabilitation – Beaver Brook Road over Beaver Brook (W-26-014) Westford, MA

PROJECT LOCATION

The project includes a complete replacement of the culvert structure that carries Beaver Brook road over the Beaver Brook. This project will also add a concrete sidewalk to the west side of the roadway over the Beaver Brook. The attached Locus Map outlines the project location.

PROJECT PURPOSE

The Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) and the Town of Westford are proposing a complete replacement of the structurally deficient culvert structures that carry Beaver Brook Road over the Beaver Brook. These two corrugated metal pipe structures will be replaced with a single bridge structure. The proposed bridge structure consists of precast concrete spread footing abutments and precast concrete deck beams. The proposed structure will have a raised concrete sidewalk on one side and 10-foot traffic lanes.

PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS

The project includes the following improvements:

- Replacement of a structurally deficient crossing with a new bridge structure with a 75-year design life.
- Provide cantilever brackets for the existing gas line, in addition to space for a future water line.
- Full depth pavement reconstruction at both ends leading up to the bridge.
- Existing gravel boat ramp will be improved with pavement and concrete planks at the conclusion of construction.
- Resurfacing the roadway, resetting curb lines and modifying drainage infrastructure within the project limits;

TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT

During construction operations, Beaver Brook will be closed to all through traffic. The type of existing structure in place does not lend itself to phased construction. Every effort will be employed to reduce the closure period. The design calls for precast concrete elements, due to speed of installation of these elements.

RIGHT OF WAY IMPACTS

Temporary construction easements will be required for minor grading impacts to lawns, driveways, and walkways and to restore impacts to adjacent properties. Small permanent easements will also be required for utility poles and associated overhead wires in addition to slope easements. The Town of Westford will be responsible for securing all necessary easements. MassDOT's policy concerning land acquisition will be discussed at this hearing.

PROJECT COST

The current estimate of the total construction cost of this project is approximately \$1,600,000.

PROJECT SCHEDULE

The design plans presented this evening are at the 25% design stage. Design, permitting and right of way acquisition will be completed by the end of 2021. Construction is anticipated to begin in the Fall of 2022 and finish in the Fall of 2023. It is important to note that the road will **not** be closed for the entire construction duration.

THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
HIGHWAY DIVISION

FEDERAL AID PROJECT

Westford, MA
Bridge Rehabilitation – Beaver Brook Road over Beaver Brook (W-26-014)
Project No. 608830

This sheet is provided for your comments. Your input is solicited and appreciated. Please mail this sheet with any additional comments to:

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

Attn: Major Projects

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

PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT LEGIBLY.

Name: _____ Title: _____

Organization: _____

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: Virtual Public Hearing
Bridge Rehabilitation – Beaver Brook Road over Beaver Brook (W-26-014)
Westford
Project File No. 608830
Insert section: Project Management

