



DESIGN PUBLIC HEARING

TUESDAY, MARCH 05, 2019

AT

**ACTON TOWN HALL, FAULKNER ROOM (ROOM 204)
472 MAIN STREET**

ACTON, MASSACHUSETTS

7:00 PM

**FOR THE PROPOSED
INTERSECTION AND SIGNAL IMPROVEMENTS AT KELLEY'S CORNER, ROUTE 111
(MASSACHUSETTS AVENUE) AND ROUTE 27(MAIN STREET) PROJECT**

IN THE TOWN OF ACTON, 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. 608229

A Design Public Hearing will be held by MassDOT to discuss the proposed Intersection & Signal Improvements at Kelley's Corner, Route 111 (Massachusetts Avenue) and Route 27(Main Street) project in Acton, MA.

WHERE: Acton Town Hall, Faulkner Room (Room 204)
472 Main Street
Acton, MA 01720

WHEN: Tuesday, March 05, 2019 @ 7:00PM

PURPOSE: The purpose of this hearing is to provide the public with the opportunity to become fully acquainted with the proposed Intersection & Signal Improvements project. All views and comments made at the hearing will be reviewed and considered to the maximum extent possible.

PROPOSAL: Proposed Project consists of traffic signals, roadway rehabilitation, installation of accessible sidewalks and curb ramps, pedestrian crosswalks, bicycle lanes, landscaping, lighting, streetscape elements, widening to address roadway capacity and safety, inclusion of turn lanes to reduce corridor congestion, and access management. New traffic signals are proposed at the intersections of Charter Road and Community Lane with Mass. Avenue. The project will upgrade the existing traffic signals at the intersection of Main Street and Mass. Avenue to optimize signal timings and phasing and provide compliant pedestrian and bicycle crossings. Bicycle accommodations consisting of a 5' bicycle lane 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 town and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts are 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. 608229. 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.

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.

6. 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.

7. 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.

PROJECT LOCATION MAP

Kelley's Corner Infrastructure Improvements Project - Acton, MA
MassDOT Project File No. 608229



Length of Project = 1.160 miles



The Massachusetts Department of Transportation – Highway Division (MassDOT) and the Town of Acton is proposing a project located at the intersection of Main Street (Route 27) and Massachusetts Avenue (Route 111) in the area known as Kelley’s Corner in Acton. The project area includes approximately 0.4 miles on Main Street (Route 27), 0.6 miles on Massachusetts Avenue (Route 111), and Community Lane (formerly “No-name Road”). The purpose of the project is to continue the Town of Acton’s initiative to transform Kelley’s Corner into a safe, accessible, and walkable destination, while addressing corridor congestion and improving the safety of pedestrians, bicyclists, students, and drivers.

Proposed Improvements

The project involves roadway rehabilitation, installation of accessible sidewalks and curb ramps, pedestrian crosswalks, bicycle lanes, landscaping, lighting, streetscape elements, widening to address roadway capacity and safety issues, inclusion of turn lanes to reduce corridor congestion, access management via reduced curb cuts, as well as drainage and utility improvements. Pedestrian and bicycle accommodations will be provided on both sides of all roadways within the project area. Pedestrian improvements consist of the installation of new ADA compliant concrete sidewalks and wheelchair ramps, crosswalks at signalized intersections, and crosswalks accompanied by Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacons (RRFBs) at unsignalized crossing locations. Bicycle accommodations include dedicated bicycle lanes within the roadway shoulder and bike boxes at intersections. The work also includes new traffic signals at three (3) intersections within the project area, including Charter Road at Massachusetts Avenue, Main Street at Massachusetts Avenue, and Community Lane at Massachusetts Avenue.

Existing Conditions

Main Street is a local two-lane roadway which runs in the northeast-southwest direction and has an average daily traffic volume of 19,500 vehicles (2016). Massachusetts Avenue is a two-lane roadway under State/MassDOT jurisdiction which runs in the east-west direction within the project area and has an average daily traffic volume of 13,100 vehicles (2016). Main Street and Massachusetts Avenue intersect with Community Lane to form a triangular commercial area. The high volume of regional traffic as well as the traffic volumes generated by the adjacent land uses cause a significant amount of congestion and delays through Kelley’s Corner. Sidewalks throughout Kelley’s Corner, where provided, vary in size, material, and condition and do not meet accessibility standards. Wide curb cuts and undefined commercial driveways impact the safety of pedestrians, and advanced warning is not provided for pedestrian crossings. Pedestrian traffic signals, push buttons, and signing provided do not meet current design or accessibility standards. Bicycle accommodations are not consistently provided throughout Kelley’s Corner. Insufficient roadway capacity and poor curb cut management contribute to the severe traffic congestion, safety issues and delays currently experienced throughout the project area.

Right of Way

Several properties along the project area will require permanent acquisitions by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts or the Town of Acton 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 the intent of this project that all streets remain open to through traffic. However, some short-term lane reductions may be required to facilitate the construction process. It is anticipated that during non-peak traffic conditions, traffic may consist of alternating one-way traffic under police control if required to construct the project. Notice will be provided in advance to the public. Property owners within the project area will have access to their properties at all times.

Project Status – Project Schedule

This project is programmed in the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program for Federal Fiscal Year 2022 for construction. The plans on display tonight are at the 25% Design Stage (Preliminary Design Stage). Comments received this evening will be reviewed and considered to the maximum extent possible.

Project Construction Cost

The project construction cost will be funded with a combination of moneys from the Federal Highway Administration, Commonwealth of Massachusetts, and is currently estimated at \$14.6 million. Any non-participating items the Town wishes to implement must be funded by the Town.

THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
HIGHWAY DIVISION

FEDERAL AID PROJECT

Acton, MA

Intersection & Signal Improvements at Kelley's Corner, Route 111 (Massachusetts Avenue) and Route
27(Main Street) project
Project File No. 608229

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 Section

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.

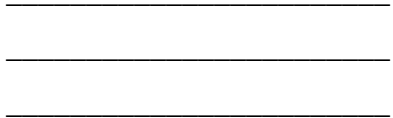
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Organization: _____

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

RE: Design Public Hearing
Intersection & Signal Improvements at Kelley's Corner, Route 111 (Massachusetts Avenue) and
Route 27(Main Street) project
ACTON
Project File No. 608229
Roadway Project Management Section

