



DESIGN PUBLIC HEARING

JULY 20, 2016

AT

AUDITORIUM OF THE WAR MEMORIAL

HOLYOKE, MASSACHUSETTS

7:00 PM

FOR THE PROPOSED

**RESURFACING & RELATED WORK ON HERITAGE STREET, FRONT STREET &
DWIGHT STREET; MAPLE STREET TO 1ST LEVEL CANAL**

ROADWAY PROJECT MANAGEMENT SECTION

IN THE CITY OF HOLYOKE, MASSACHUSETTS

**COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
HIGHWAY DIVISION**

**THOMAS J. TINLIN
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. 607256

A Design Public Hearing will be held by MassDOT to discuss the proposed Resurfacing & Related Work on Heritage Street, Front Street & Dwight Street (from Maple Street to 1st Level Canal) project in Holyoke, MA.

WHERE: Auditorium of the War Memorial
310 Appleton Street
Holyoke MA

WHEN: Wednesday, July 20, 2016 @ 7:00 PM

PURPOSE: The purpose of this hearing is to provide the public with the opportunity to become fully acquainted with the proposed Heritage Street, Front Street & Dwight Street Resurfacing project. All views and comments made at the hearing will be reviewed and considered to the maximum extent possible.

PROPOSAL: The purpose of the project is to improve traffic flow and pedestrian and bicycle accommodations. The improvements include crosswalks and curb extensions (to reduce pedestrian crossing distances) at intersections; new pavement markings to provide shared-use lanes (for vehicles and bicycles) and to provide traffic calming measures; chicanes (on Front Street) to help reduce vehicular speeds; and new sidewalk along the easterly side of Front Street. Heritage Street will change to a one-way traffic flow; the street will be narrowed and its sidewalks will widen.

A secure right-of-way is necessary for this project. Acquisitions in fee and permanent or temporary easements may be required. The city of Holyoke 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 Section, Project File No. 607256. 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/>

THOMAS J. TINLIN
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

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.

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LEGEND

 PROPOSED LIMITS OF RECONSTRUCTION

HDR
 HDR, INC.
 695 ATLANTIC AVE 2 FL
 BOSTON, MA 02111
 (617) 357-7700

<u>PLAN TITLE</u> LOCUS MAP
<u>PROJECT</u> HERITAGE, FRONT & DWIGHT STREETS RECONSTRUCTION PROJECT

DRAWN BY : TNU
CHECKED BY :
SCALE : 1 IN. = 500 FT.
DATE : JUNE 16, 2016

PROJECT : MASSDOT #607256
SHEET # :
FIGURE 1

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Project Location

The project consists of approximately 950 linear feet along each of:

- Heritage Street, from Appleton Street and to Dwight Street;
- Dwight Street, from just west of the bridge (over the First Level Canal) to Maple Street;
- Front Street, from Dwight Street to Lyman Street.

Project Purpose

The primary purpose of the project is to improve traffic operation/flow as well as (traffic) safety for vehicles, bicyclists and pedestrians along the above-referenced corridors. Key features include:

- Improved traffic control and safety for pedestrians, bicyclists and motor vehicle occupants.
- Increase operational efficiency.
- Preserve and upgrade the public street infrastructure.
- Enhance the aesthetics within project limits.
- Improve safety for all users through traffic calming measures, pavement markings and signage.
- Maintain existing on-street parking within the Dwight, Heritage and Front Street corridors.

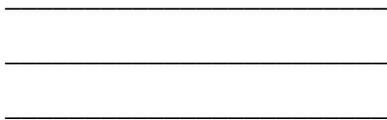
Proposed Improvements

The surface work will include: pavement mill & overlay as well as full-depth reclamation/reconstruction, and sidewalks reconstruction and new pedestrian ramps [in compliance with Architectural Access Board/Americans with Disabilities Act (AAB/ADA)]. The drainage system will be upgraded in order to separate storm-water from the existing (combined drain-sewer) lines within the project limits; thus diverting it away from discharge into the city's sewer system.

Heritage Street (between Appleton and Dwight Streets) will be converted from two-way to one-way traffic flow only. The existing sidewalk will be widened adjacent to Heritage State Park to improve pedestrian access.

Other improvements consist of new signage and pavement marking; streetscape design elements including "Green" infrastructure, planters and benches; and street lighting.

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
Heritage Street, Front Street & Dwight Street Resurfacing & Related Work Project
HOLYOKE
Project File No. 607256
Roadway Project Management Section

