



DESIGN PUBLIC HEARING

SEPTEMBER 30, 2015

AT

VETERANS MEMORIAL TOWN HALL

PEMBROKE, MASSACHUSETTS

7:00 PM

FOR THE PROPOSED

**INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS AND RELATED WORK AT WASHINGTON
STREET (ROUTE 53) AND PLEASANT STREET
607337**

Roadway Project Management

IN THE TOWN OF PEMBROKE, MASSACHUSETTS

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

**THOMAS 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. 607337

A Design Public Hearing will be held by MassDOT to discuss the proposed INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS AND RELATED WORK AT WASHINGTON STREET (ROUTE 53) AND PLEASANT STREET project in **Pembroke, MA**.

**WHERE: Veterans Memorial Town Hall
100 Center Street
Pembroke, MA 02359**

WHEN: Wednesday, September 30, 2015 @ 7PM

PURPOSE: The purpose of this hearing is to provide the public with the opportunity to become fully acquainted with the proposed INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS AND RELATED WORK AT WASHINGTON STREET (ROUTE 53) AND PLEASANT STREET project. All views and comments made at the hearing will be reviewed and considered to the maximum extent possible.

PROPOSAL: This project is intended to address ongoing safety issues and a lack of bicycle and pedestrian accommodation through the installation of traffic signals, left turn lanes, minor widening to provide minimal bike accommodating shoulders and a sidewalk on the East side of Washington Street (Rt. 53).

A secure right-of-way is necessary for this project. Acquisitions in fee and permanent or temporary easements may be required. The Town 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. **607337**. 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 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

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.

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: Public Hearing

INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS AND RELATED WORK AT WASHINGTON
STREET (ROUTE 53) AND PLEASANT STREET

PEMBROKE

Project File No. 607337

Roadway Project Management



Source: Office of Geographic Information (MassGIS), Commonwealth of Massachusetts Information Technology Division

TOWN OF PEMBROKE, MA

WASHINGTON ST-PLEASANT ST
INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS
PROJECT ID:607337

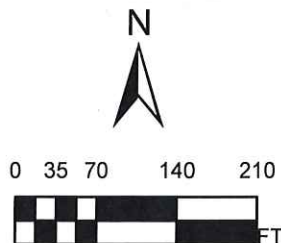


Figure 1. Locus Map

CHIA
design/construction solutions

PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS

The proposed project consists of improvements at the intersection of Washington Street (Route 53) and Pleasant Street including the installation of a traffic control signal and the addition of turning lanes to each of the intersection approaches with the goal of improving traffic flow and safety for all roadway users. The proposed traffic signal will reduce the conflicts between major street and side street traffic flows particularly during peak hours thus increasing safety and reducing delay times at the intersection. The widening to accommodate the additional turning lanes will require the installation of a retaining wall on the eastern side of Washington Street between Pleasant Street and Water Street as well as right-of-way taking south of Pleasant Street.

Following MassDOT's healthy transportation initiative, this project also includes the addition of a usable shoulder to accommodate bicycles and the addition of sidewalks on both sides of Washington Street from the Pleasant Street intersection to the northerly project limits. The sidewalk on the western side will terminate at the condominium complex at 269 Washington Street and the sidewalk on the eastern side will connect to the existing sidewalk just north of the Post Office at the Water Street intersection. Sidewalks will be constructed according to ADA/AAB and MassDOT standards.

Minor improvements will occur at the Water Street at Washington Street intersection. Replacing and resizing the median at the Water Street approach will better control traffic at the intersection by reducing the potential for vehicles cutting across the Water Street approach into the Post Office. The sidewalk in front of the Post Office will be rebuilt and a crosswalk will be added to the intersection to provide a connection with the proposed sidewalk south of the intersection. Also, the intersection geometry will be reshaped to prevent unsafe fast turns onto and from Water Street by reducing turning radii and extending the sidewalk by the Post Office further into the intersection.

Minor storm water drainage modifications are required to locate catch basins at the proposed curb lines and remove standing water from roadway edges. These improvements will also reduce, eliminate or treat direct surface discharge into nearby wetlands through the addition of new deep sump catch basins. Existing structures and pipes will be cleaned or replaced as needed.