



DESIGN PUBLIC HEARING

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2017

AT

AYER TOWN HALL, GREAT HALL

AYER, MASSACHUSETTS

6:30 PM

FOR THE PROPOSED

**ROUTE 2A (EAST MAIN STREET) RECLAMATION & RELATED WORK,
FROM HARVARD ROAD TO MAIN STREET**

PROJECT NO. 607902

ROADWAY PROJECT MANAGEMENT

IN THE TOWN OF AYER, 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. 607902

A Design Public Hearing will be held by MassDOT to discuss the proposed Route 2A (East Main Street) Reclamation & Related Work, from Harvard Road to Main Street project in Ayer, MA.

WHERE: Ayer Town Hall, Great Hall
One Main Street
Ayer, MA 01432

WHEN: Tuesday, October 17, 2017 @ 6:30 PM

PURPOSE: The purpose of this hearing is to provide the public with the opportunity to become fully acquainted with the proposed Route 2A Reclamation project. All views and comments made at the hearing will be reviewed and considered to the maximum extent possible.

PROPOSAL: The proposed improvements will consist of pavement reclamation and overlaying with hot mix asphalt. The intersection of East Main Street and Main Street will be realigned for improved vehicular and pedestrian safety. Bicycle accommodations consisting of usable 5- to 7-foot wide shoulders, as well as 5- to 6-foot wide, ADA-accessible sidewalks have been provided on both sides of the street in accordance with applicable design guides. Drainage system upgrades/replacement, new signage, and pavement markings will be provided throughout the corridor. Streetscape improvements will also be included in the project to enhance the town street feel of the corridor

A secure right-of-way is necessary for this project. Acquisitions in fee and permanent or temporary easements may be required. The town of Ayer 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, Bridge Project Management, Highway Design, Project File No. 607902. 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
ACTING 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.

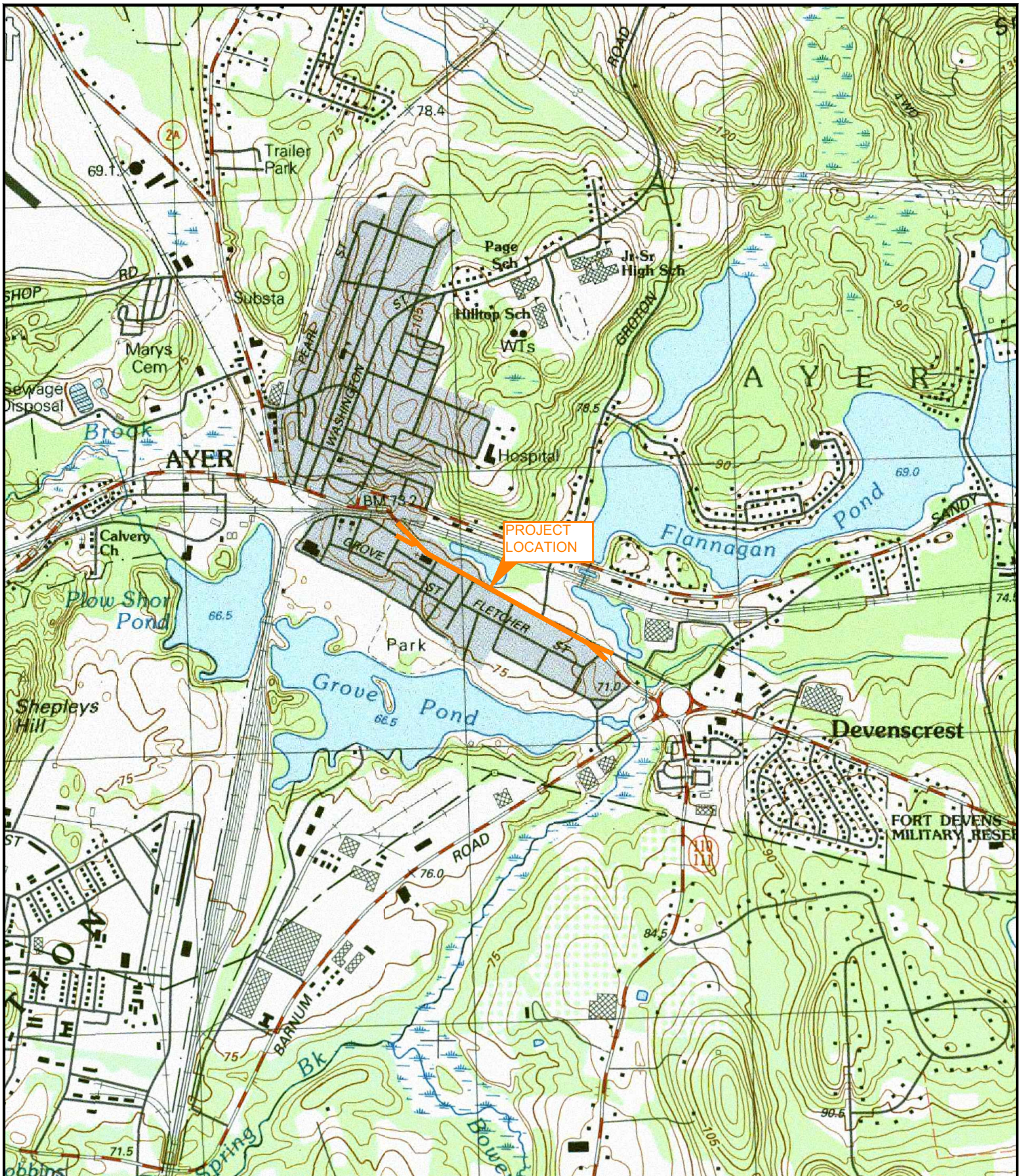
A Right of Entry is a document that is signed by the owner. It allows the Contractor to perform certain types of work on the owner's land. The work is usually minor in nature and frequently consists of loaming/seeding behind sidewalks, new driveway apron work, grading/sloping, and wetland protection, 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.



PREPARED FOR:



TITLE:

Locus Map
 East Main Street (Route 2A)
 Ayer, MA

N



DATE:

10-17-2017

SCALE:

1"=1500'

PREPARED BY:



300 TRADE CENTER, SUITE 5580
 WOBURN, MASSACHUSETTS 01801
 PHONE: 781.933.4800

Figure 1

PROJECT PURPOSE

The purpose of this project is to provide traffic safety and operational improvements along approximately ½-mile segment of the East Main Street corridor in Ayer, Massachusetts. Proposed improvements were developed based on recommendations from a Road Safety Audit (RSA) conducted in the summer of 2016 along the project corridor. These include roadway pavement reconstruction, pedestrian and bicycle improvements, new signs and pavement markings, and streetscape enhancements.

PROJECT LOCATION AND EXISTING CONDITIONS

The project site is located along Route 2A (Main Street/East Main Street) in the Town of Ayer, from the intersection of Main Street/East Main Street to east of the intersection of East Main Street with Harvard Road. Additionally, the project will encompass approximately 200 feet of East Main Street and Harvard Road respectively. The project limits are shown on the Locus Map included as part of this packet.

East Main Street is an east-west bi-directional roadway from (just east of) Linden Court to (west of) East Street. The roadway is approximately 38-feet wide within the project limits, and consists of one travel lane in each direction, generally separated by a double yellow centerline. Parking is permitted on both sides of the roadway. With the exception of the Main Street/East Main Street intersection and the East Main Street/School Street intersection, marked crosswalks are provided across the eastern East Main Street leg of each intersection within the project limits. A mid-block crosswalk is also provided between the intersections of Main Street/East Main Street and East Main Street/School Street, connecting the Ayer District Court with the Ayer Library and courthouse parking.

East Main Street is functionally classified as an Urban Principal Arterial. Functional classification is defined as the process by which streets and highways are grouped into systems according to the character of service they are intended to provide. Urban Principal Arterial indicates that the roadway provides connection to larger urban areas, ports and recreational areas that are not directly served by interstate highways. The observed Average Annual Daily Traffic (AADT) volume along East Main Street is about 16,128 vehicles per day. Land use along East Main Street is mixed commercial and residential. The posted speed limit along East Main Street in the project area is 25 mph from west of the western project limits to the Ayer District Court/Ayer Library mid-block crosswalk; 30 mph between the mid-block crosswalk and the beginning of State Highway; 25 mph eastbound/30 mph westbound between the beginning of State Highway and east of the eastern project limits. Posted speed limits are supported by Special Speed Regulations No. 103-B approved September 23, 1969 (State Highway) and No. 6042 approved May 21, 1980 (Town of Ayer).

SCOPE OF WORK

The scope of work was developed in accordance with the information presented within a Road Safety Audit which was conducted and published in 2016, which identified traffic volumes, current safety issues, crash history and presented potential improvements within the project area.

Improvements will consist of pavement reclamation of East Main Street, sidewalks reconstruction, and resetting vertical granite curbing with 6-inch curb reveal. Sidewalks will be offset from the roadway with a grass strip. New sidewalks and wheelchair ramps within the project limits will be

ADA-compliant. The reconstruction of the drainage system will include deep sump catch basins with hoods for water quality, and reinforced concrete pipe.

The Main Street/East Main Street intersection will be realigned to provide shorter pedestrian crossings distances and improve sight distance for all roadway users. Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacons (RRFB's) will be installed along East Main Street at the mid-block crossing connecting the Ayer District Court with the Ayer Public Library, the East Main Street/Pond Street intersection, and the East Main Street crossing adjacent to Maple Street.

East Main Street will have 11-foot wide travel lanes and 5-foot wide dedicated bike lanes on either side of the roadway through the project corridor. New signage and pavement markings will define travel ways for vehicles and bicyclists throughout the corridor.

MAINTENANCE OF TRAFFIC DURING CONSTRUCTION

The Contractor will coordinate with MassDOT and town officials regarding working hours and traffic circulation.

A majority the proposed improvements can be constructed using alternating lane closures; allowing one direction of travel at a time. Under this configuration, the approaches would be under police control during daytime hours for the duration of the work.

Work outside of the travel way can be constructed using shoulder closures. This work zone configuration would allow for bi-directional travel guided by temporary traffic control measures. Geometric improvements at the intersections will require a combination of an alternating lane closure and corner closure.

Full closure along portions of East Main Street may be required at times. We anticipate, when needed, roadway closures would be limited to the existing roadway pavement reclamation operation. Under this circumstance, a temporary detour would be established with advanced warning signs. Closures would take place during off-peak hours, and will be coordinated such to maintain access to the Nashoba Valley Medical Center.

RIGHT-OF-WAY

The majority of the roadway improvements can be accommodated within the existing Town owned Layout, as the work is planned within the footprint of the existing streets. A permanent easement is required at the northeast corner on the East Main Street/Livingston Street to formalize the encroachment of Livingston Street onto a private property.

Temporary easements may be required along the back of sidewalks for re-grading abutting driveways and walkways, construction of the new sidewalks, installation of tree protection measures, and placement of loam and seed in areas of landscape disturbance.

The Town of Ayer is responsible for all necessary Right-of-Way acquisitions and/or easements.

THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
HIGHWAY DIVISION
FEDERAL AID PROJECT

Ayer, MA
Route 2A (East Main Street) Reclamation & Related Work,
from Harvard Road to Main Street
Project File No. 607902

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

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.

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: Public Hearing
Route 2A (East Main Street) Reclamation & Related Work, from Harvard Rd. to Main St.
Ayer
Project File No. 607902
Roadway Project Management

