



**DESIGN PUBLIC HEARING**

**NOVEMBER, 4<sup>TH</sup>, 2015**

**AT**

**NORTHBOROUGH TOWN OFFICES**

**NORTHBOROUGH, MASSACHUSETTS**

**7:00 PM**

**FOR THE PROPOSED**

**RECONSTRUCTION ON ROUTE 9 & ROUTE 20 RAMP IMPROVEMENTS**

**Project No. 607442**

**HIGHWAY DESIGN SECTION**

**IN THE TOWNS OF NORTHBOROUGH & SHREWSBURY, 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. 607442**

A Design Public Hearing will be held by MassDOT to discuss the proposed Reconstruction on Route 9 & Route 20 Ramp Improvements project in Northborough & Shrewsbury, MA.

**WHERE: Board of Selectmen’s Room**  
**Northborough Town Offices**  
**63 Main Street**  
**Northborough, MA 01532**

**WHEN: Wednesday, November 4th @ 7:00PM**

**PURPOSE:** The purpose of this hearing is to provide the public with the opportunity to become fully acquainted with the proposed Reconstruction on Route 9 & Route 20 Ramp Improvements 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 the construction of an acceleration lane onto Route 9 WB from Route 20. Additional work will include safety improvements made to the Route 9 WB to Route 20 WB ramp, full depth reconstruction, resurfacing, as well as updates to signage and drainage elements. Bicycle accommodations consisting of a usable shoulder will be provided adjacent to the proposed acceleration 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 Commonwealth of Massachusetts 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: Highway Design, Project File No. 607442. 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](mailto: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](mailto: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

## **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?**

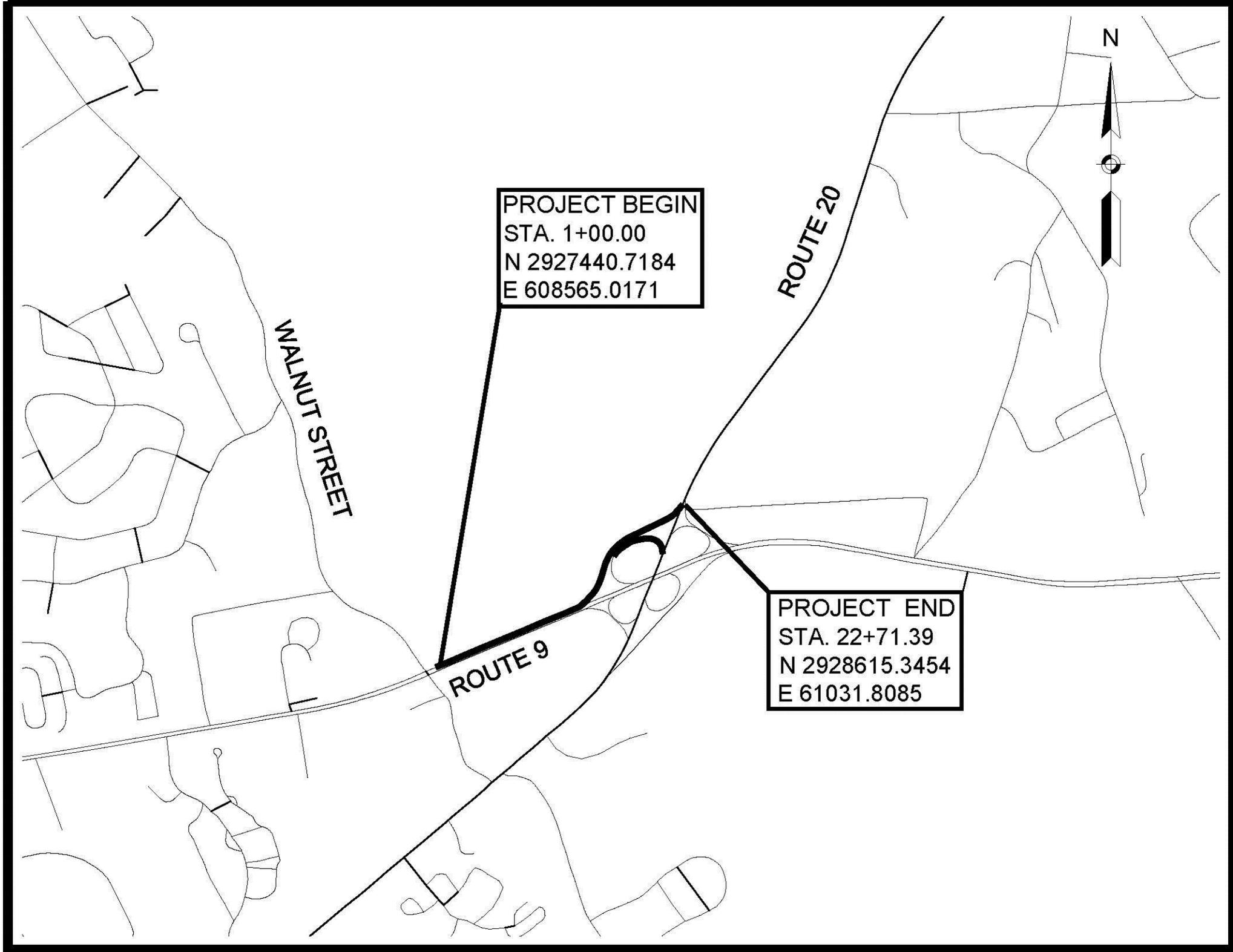
No. If, after the figure established as market value has been offered to the owner, the owner feels he or she is not being offered a fair price, he or she has the right, within three years, to appeal to the courts. Pending a court decision, he or she can be paid on a "pro-tanto" basis (or "for the time 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.



SCALE 1" = 1000'

LENGTH OF PROJECT = 2200.00 FEET = 0.41 MILES

### **Project Need**

This project was initiated by the Massachusetts Department of Transportation Highway Division (MassDOT), in association with the towns of Northborough and Shrewsbury to improve the safety of the Route 20 to Route 9 Westbound(WB) and Route 9 WB to Route 20 WB ramps.

### **Existing Conditions**

Route 9 classified as an Urban Principal Arterial is a divided highway with a cross sections consisting of two 12 foot lanes with 6.5 foot outside and 4 foot inside shoulders in each the eastbound and westbound directions. The posted speed in the westbound direction in the project vicinity is 55mph. Route 20 classified as an Urban Principal Arterial is an undivided roadway that has two 12 foot lanes with shoulders varying from 2 to 4 foot in the eastbound and westbound directions. It has a posted speed in the vicinity of the interchange of 50mph.

The ramp system at this interchange is serviced by a closed drainage system. The roadway washout at the exit of the Route 20 to Route 9 WB ramp as well as sediment buildup along the ramp indicates that the current drainage configuration is insufficient for the existing conditions.

Utilities on the site include overhead wires and utility poles adjacent to the ramps and mainline of Route 9 and an underground gas line that is located within the shoulder on Route 9 in the project area. Wetlands and a stream are present north of the merging area after the terminal of the Route 20 on-ramp to Route 9 WB.

The Route 20 on-ramp to Route 9 WB is a one-lane ramp that begins on Route 20, approximately 650 feet north of the Route 9 bridge over Route 20, and connects to Route 9 WB approximately 700 feet west of the bridge. The ramp provides access to Route 9 WB from both directions on Route 20. Vehicles traveling on Route 20 EB are provided with a dedicated left-turn lane and signal to access the ramp. Vehicles traveling on Route 20 westbound may travel freely onto the ramp. The on-ramp intersects Route 9 westbound at an acute angle and operates under stop sign control. The current regulatory posted and design ramp speed is 20mph.

The Route 9 WB off-ramp to Route 20 WB is a one-lane ramp that begins on Route 9 WB, just west of the Route 9 bridge over Route 20, and connects to Route 20 WB, just north of the bridge. Vehicles traveling on Route 9 westbound may travel freely onto the ramp. The ramp intersects Route 20 at an acute angle and operates under stop sign control. The current regulatory posted speed is 20 mph however the geometry does not meet current standards for

### **Proposed Improvements**

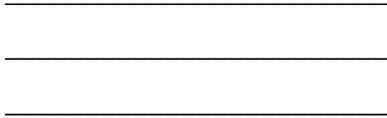
This project consists of the reconstruction of the Route 20 to Route 9 WB Ramp and the Route 9WB to Route 20 WB Ramp in Northborough and Shrewsbury for an approximate total length of 0.4 miles. The Reconstruction of the Route 20 to Route 9 WB Ramp will include the addition of an acceleration lane for approximately 1000ft.

The work to be done primarily consists of full depth roadway reconstruction, roadway widening, the removal and installation of curbing, pavement milling & overlay, and the construction of a geosynthetic reinforced slope. Areas designated for micromilling and resurfacing will be constructed using Quality Assurance Specifications for Hot Mix Asphalt Pavement and Superpave HMA. Wetland Replication is also proposed.

Incidental work on this project shall include: Installing new w-beam guardrail; placing geotextile fabric and pavement milling mulch beneath guardrail; installing new, adjusting, or rebuilding drainage structures; cleaning drainage pipes and structures; clearing and thinning to improve visibility; applying pavement markings and installing reflectorized pavement markers; installing traffic management safety signing, erosion control measures as required; grading and compacting; and other incidental items as necessary.



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/  
RECONSTRUCTION ON ROUTE 9 & ROUTE 20 RAMP IMPROVEMENTS  
**NORTHBOROUGH / SHREWSBURY**  
Project File No. 607442  
Insert section: Highway Design Section

