



**PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING  
SEPTEMBER 10, 2019**

**AT**

**HOLYOKE SENIOR CENTER**

**HOLYOKE, MASSACHUSETTS**

**6:30 PM**

**FOR THE PROPOSED**

**RECONSTRUCTION OF I-91 (EXIT 17) at ROUTE 141  
MassDOT Project No. 606156  
Roadway Project Management Section**

**IN THE CITY OF HOLYOKE, 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 INFORMATIONAL MEETING**  
**Project File No. 606156**

A Design Public Informational Meeting will be held by MassDOT to discuss the proposed Reconstruction of I-91 Exit 17 at Route 141 in Holyoke, MA.

WHERE: Holyoke Senior Center  
291 Pine Street  
Holyoke, MA 01040

WHEN: Tuesday, September 10, 2019 @ 6:30 PM

PURPOSE: The purpose of this meeting is to provide the public with the opportunity to become fully acquainted with the proposed Reconstruction of I-91 Exit 17 at Route 141 project. All views and comments made at the meeting will be reviewed and considered to the maximum extent possible.

PROPOSAL: The proposed project consists of the reconstruction of the interchange of I-91 and Route 141 in order to improve safety and traffic flow as well as improved access at the intersection of Route 141 with Lindor Heights.

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 meeting.

Written views received by MassDOT subsequent to the date of this notice and up to five (5) days prior to the date of the meeting 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 meeting 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 Informational Meeting 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. 606156. Such submissions will also be accepted at the meeting. Mailed statements and exhibits intended for inclusion in the public meeting transcript must be postmarked within ten (10) business days of this Public Informational Meeting. 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, meeting cancellation announcements will be posted on the internet at <http://www.massdot.state.ma.us/Highway/>

JONATHAN L. 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?

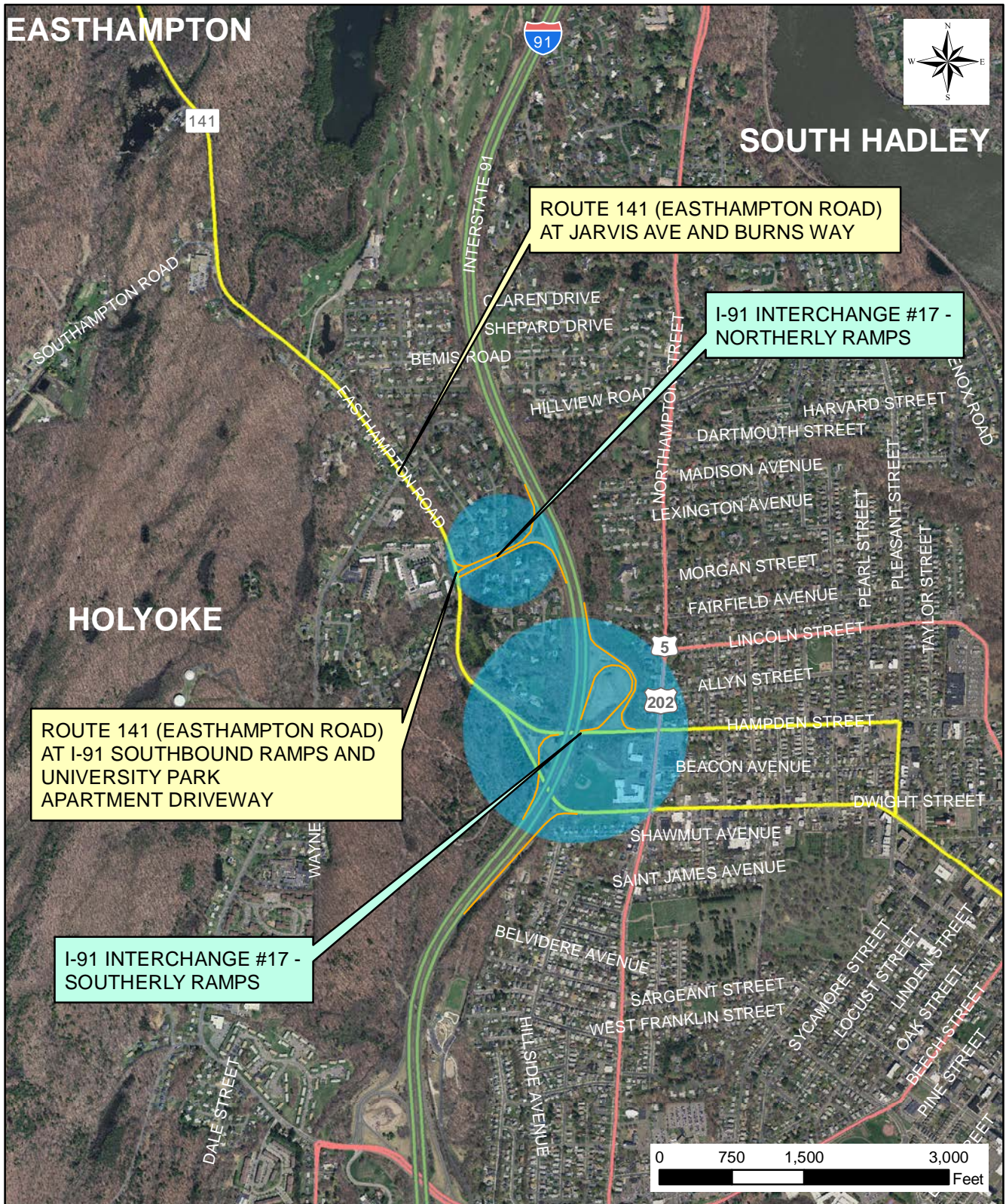
No. If, after the figure established as market value has been offered to the owner, the owner feels he or she is not being offered a fair price, he or she has the right, within three years, to appeal to the courts. Pending a court decision, he or she can be paid on a "pro-tanto" basis (or "for the time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



**Figure 1: Locus Map**

Holyoke, MA

Reconstruction of I-91 Interchange 17 & Route 141

MassDOT Project #606156

## **PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS**

### **Project Purpose**

The Massachusetts Department of Transportation – Highway Division (MassDOT) is proposing to make improvements to Route 141 (Easthampton Road) at the Interstate 91 (I-91) Exit 17. The project limits extend approximately 4,000 feet and include the on and off-ramps to/from Interstate 91 (I-91) – Interchange #17 at Route 141; the intersection of Route 141 at Old Jarvis Avenue; the intersection of Route 141 at Lindor Heights; and the intersection of Route 141 at University Park Apartments. The project aims to provide safety and traffic improvements to Route 141 at the on-off ramps from I-91 at Exit 17 and to provide improvements at the Lindor Heights Intersection. Figure 1 shows the Locus Map.

### **Proposed Improvements**

The proposed project consists of removing the existing signalized intersection at Route 141 and I-91 on and off-ramps at Exit 17 and constructing a two-lane roundabout, retaining the existing access and egress from I-91. Route 141 and I-91 on and off-ramps will be reconstructed to have two lanes in each direction at the approaches and departures from the roundabout. The University Apartments driveways will be consolidated into a single two-way driveway that will enter the roundabout.

The roundabout will be constructed with a grass central island and cement concrete aprons to channelize standard vehicles while providing the necessary width to allow heavy vehicles to navigate the roundabout. The intersection approaches will be constructed to provide splitter islands, shoulders, bicycle accommodations and sidewalks. New ADA compliant crosswalks will be provided at the approaches. The proposed roundabout will reduce vehicle delays and queuing at the intersection. The roundabout is being proposed such that it maintains the existing traffic patterns, facilitates all turning movements at the intersection, and allows the University Apartments driveway to be aligned to the roundabout.

The project also proposes to widen a section of Route 141 at Lindor Heights to allow for the construction of a refuge median and a dedicated left turn lane for traffic entering Lindor Heights. These modifications will improve safety for entering/exiting vehicles such that they will only need to cross one lane of traffic at a time. The project will also improve the entering acceleration lane for I-91 southbound on-ramp by extending the lane to provide an adequate distance for vehicles to match highway speeds.

### **Right of Way Impacts**

The proposed improvements may require permanent acquisitions or easements by MassDOT for the construction. Temporary construction easements may also be required to reconstruct the roadway and accommodate intersection and roadway grading. MassDOT's policy regarding land acquisitions will be discussed at this meeting.

### **Maintenance of Traffic During Construction**

It is the intent of the project that all streets remain open to through traffic. However, some lane reductions may be required to facilitate the construction process. Driveway access for abutting properties shall be maintained at all times during construction.

### **Project Status – Project Schedule**

The project has been programmed in the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program for Federal Fiscal Year 2023. The Plans on display this evening are at the 25% Design Stage (Preliminary Design Stage). Comments from this evening will be reviewed and considered to the maximum extent possible.



THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS  
MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
HIGHWAY DIVISION

FEDERAL AID PROJECT

Holyoke, MA  
Reconstruction of I-91 (Exit 17) at Route 141  
Project File No. 606156

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.

**PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT LEGIBLY.**

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

RE: Public Information Meeting  
Reconstruction of I-91 (Exit 17) at Route 141  
HOLYOKE  
Project File No. 606156  
Roadway Project Management Section

