



VIRTUAL DESIGN PUBLIC HEARING

October 9, 2024 at 6:00PM

FOR THE PROPOSED

**Bridge Rehabilitation, W-26-002 (26D), Stony Brook Road over the Stony Brook
Project No. 608861**

IN THE TOWN OF WESTFORD, MASSACHUSETTS

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

**JONATHAN GULLIVER
HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATOR**

**CARRIE E. LAVALLEE, P.E.
CHIEF ENGINEER**

**THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION – HIGHWAY DIVISION
NOTICE OF A VIRTUAL DESIGN PUBLIC HEARING
Project File No. 608861**

A Live Virtual Design Public Hearing will be hosted on the MassDOT website below to present the design for the proposed Stony Brook Road over the Stony Brook, W-26-002, Bridge Rehabilitation project in Westford, MA.

WHEN: 6:00 PM, Wednesday, October 9, 2024

PURPOSE: The purpose of this hearing is to provide the public with the opportunity to become fully acquainted with the proposed Stony Brook Road over the Stony Brook, W-26-002, Bridge Rehabilitation project. All views and comments submitted in response to the hearing will be reviewed and considered to the maximum extent possible.

PROPOSAL: The proposed project consists of bridge rehabilitation of the existing bridge, W-26-002. The proposed improvements include a concrete relieving slab atop the existing stone masonry arches to prolong the life span of the existing bridge and isolated structural repairs beneath the bridge. In addition, new traffic barriers will be installed over the bridge and along the approaches to the bridge that meet current safety standards. Proposed barriers will be finished with a stone form liner that will allow them to blend seamlessly with the existing stone façade of the bridge. The roadway approach improvements include, but are not limited to, modified rockfill slope stabilization, minor drainage improvements, traffic barrier installation, and wetland replication areas.

A secure right-of-way is necessary for this project. Acquisitions in fee and permanent or temporary easements may be required. The Town of Westford is responsible for acquiring all needed rights in private or public lands. MassDOT's policy concerning land acquisitions will be presented at the hearing.

Project inquiries, written statements and other exhibits regarding the proposed undertaking may be submitted to Carrie E. Lavallee, P.E., Chief Engineer, via e-mail to MassDOTProjectManagement@dot.state.ma.us or via US Mail to Suite 7550, 10 Park Plaza, Boston, MA 02116, Attention: Project Management, Project File No. 608861. Statements and exhibits intended for inclusion in the public hearing transcript must be emailed or postmarked no later than ten (10) business days (14 calendar days) after the hearing is hosted.

This hearing is accessible to people with disabilities. MassDOT provides reasonable accommodations and/or language assistance free of charge upon request (e.g interpreters in American Sign Language and languages other than English, live captioning, videos, assistive listening devices and alternate material formats), as available. For accommodation or language assistance, please contact MassDOT's Chief Diversity and Civil Rights Officer by phone (857-368-8580), TTD/TTY at (857) 266-0603, fax (857) 368-0602 or by email (MassDOT.CivilRights@dot.state.ma.us). Requests should be made as soon as possible and prior to the hearing, and for more difficult to arrange services including sign-language, CART or language translation or interpretation, requests should be made at least ten business days before the hearing.

This hearing will be hosted, or a cancellation announcement posted, on the internet at <https://www.mass.gov/orgs/highway-division/events>.

JONATHAN GULLIVER
HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATOR

CARRIE E. LAVALLEE, 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,

Carrie E. Lavallee, P.E.
Acting 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 CONCERNS

The Town of Westford is responsible for securing the Right of Way for this project. If your property, or a portion of it, must be acquired by the Town 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. REASON FOR PROJECT

The completion of this project will serve local needs. The proposed bridge rehabilitation 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 Town of Westford have already contacted or will contact you. They will explain the process and procedures used in acquiring any necessary rights required for the proposed project.

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.

LOCUS MAP



Figure 1

Project Location Map
Stony Brook Road



TEC, Inc.
146 Dascomb Road
Andover, MA 01810

WESTFORD – Bridge No. W-26-002 (26D) (608861)

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Project Location and Existing Bridge Conditions:

Stony Brook Road within the project limits is a one and two lane local road under the Town of Westford's jurisdiction. Stony Brook Road ranges from 18 to 24 feet wide on its approach to the bridge. The bridge is only 15' wide and there are "One Lane Bridge" signs posted along the roadway approaches, no pavement markings are present along Stony Brook Road. No pedestrian or bicycle accommodations are present along Stony Brook Road. Stone walls and trees flank the existing edges of the roadway. Stony Brook Road is designated as a scenic road in the Town of Westford. The posted speed limit along Stony Brook Road is 25 mph. The land use along Stony Brook Road is primarily residential and open space.

Bridge No. W-26-006, constructed in 1880, carries Stony Brook Road over the Stony Brook. It requires rehabilitation to address structural deficiencies and ensure vehicular safety due to its age. The existing arch structure is generally in fair condition with minor deficiencies throughout. The bridge has noncompliant, substandard parapets that pose a safety hazard. Additionally, there are no handrails on the bridge or guardrails on either side of the bridge approach. The proposed repairs shall improve the load carrying capacity and long term durability of the bridge. The most recent routine inspection report from February 2022 rated the superstructure as "5" (fair condition) and the substructure as "6" (satisfactory condition).

Project Purpose:

This project aims to preserve the historic aesthetic of the existing bridge, prolong the service life of the bridge, while improving overall safety for motor vehicles traversing the area.

Proposed Project:

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts working in conjunction with the Town of Westford proposes to rehabilitate, prolong the service life, and improve the structural capacity of the bridge carrying Stony Brook Road over the Stony Brook (W-26-002 (26D)). The project proposes a relieving slab to distribute applied loads and decrease the continuous wearing of the existing stone arches from vehicular traffic. Additionally, the project proposes a compliant safety barrier over that bridge that will be faced with a form liner, blending into the existing stone arches and preserving the historic aesthetic of the existing bridge. Other components of the project include, but are not limited to, traffic safety features along the bridge approaches, minor stormwater improvements, modified rockfill slope stabilization, wetland replication areas, full depth pavement reconstruction, and MUTCD compliant pavement markings and signs.

Maintenance of Traffic During Construction:

The Contractor will coordinate with MassDOT and Town Officials regarding work hours and traffic circulation. All temporary traffic control measures will be approved by the State prior to implementation.

During a short window during construction, the bridge will be completely closed to all vehicle, pedestrian, and bicycle traffic. Two detour routes are available: one to the east via Lowell Road, Brookside Road, Moore Road, Plain Road, and Polley Road; and one to the west via Lowell Road, Burbeck Way, Plain Road, and Polley Road. Stony Brook Road, to the south of the bridge will remain open for local traffic only. The total detour route is approximately 2.4 miles long.

Project Schedule:

The design reviewed at this meeting is at the 25% stage of completion. Comments made at this design hearing will be incorporated to the maximum extent feasible in the 75% design currently anticipated for early 2025. The 100% and final designs would then be completed in the spring of 2025, and the date for public bidding advertisement is scheduled for Federal Fiscal Year 2026. Construction is anticipated to start in spring of 2026.

Project Cost:

The estimated total construction cost for this project is approximately \$2.0 million. Funding for the construction will be through the Federal Highway Administration (80%) (FHWA) and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts (20%).

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

How long will construction last?

It is expected that construction will take approximately one construction season. The bridge is not expected to be closed for more than 3 months.

What time of day will construction take place?

Work will take place Monday through Friday. Typical work hours are expected to be 7:00 am to 3:00 pm. If night and weekend work become necessary during bridge construction, it will require approval by the Town and MassDOT.

How will construction impact my business or residence?

Access to most residences and businesses will be maintained during construction. The Town has begun discussions with certain residents regarding temporary relocation, if you have not yet been approached by the Town, then you should assume will not be impacted.

Will trees be impacted by the project?

Yes, due to the slope stabilization along the bridge approaches, and clearing for improved sight lines, some trees will need to be removed along the roadway.

THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
HIGHWAY DIVISION

FEDERAL AID PROJECT

Westford, MA
Stony Brook Road – Bridge No. W-26-002 (26D)
Project File No. 608861

This sheet is provided for your comments. Your input is solicited and appreciated. You may e-mail comments directly to MassDOTProjectManagement@dot.state.ma.us or you may mail this sheet with any additional comments to:

Carrie E. Lavalley, P.E., Chief Engineer
MassDOT – Highway Division
10 Park Plaza, Boston, MA 02116-3973
Attn: Project Management

Statements and exhibits intended for inclusion in the public hearing transcript must be emailed or postmarked no later than ten (10) business days after the hearing.

PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT LEGIBLY.

Name: _____ Title: _____

Organization: _____

Address: _____

Please Fold and Tape



Please Place
Appropriate
Postage Here

Carrie E. Lavallee, P.E.
Chief Engineer
MassDOT – Highway Division
10 Park Plaza
Boston, MA 02116-3973

RE: Virtual Public Hearing
Stony Brook Road – Bridge No. W-26-002 (26D)
WESTFORD
Project File No. 608861
Attn: Project Management

