

**THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION – HIGHWAY DIVISION
NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING
Project File No. 608424**

A Public Hearing will be held by MassDOT to discuss the proposed Templeton-Reconstruction of Royalston Road (Route 68) project in Templeton, MA.

WHERE: Templeton Town Hall, Conference Room
160 Patriots Road
East Templeton, MA 01438

WHEN: Wednesday, December 12, 2018 @ 7:00 PM

PURPOSE: The purpose of this hearing is to provide the public with the opportunity to become fully acquainted with the proposed Templeton-Reconstruction of Royalston Road (Route 68) 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 improvements for the accommodation of bicycle, passenger car and heavy vehicle use. The existing roadway width will be widened from approximately 24 feet to a new 28 feet. Proposed drainage improvements consist of replacing damaged culvert crossings and construction of drainage swales where needed. The improvement work on the side street approaches is limited to matching the improvements made to Royalston Road. The proposed project minimizes impacts to abutters and wetlands, and results in a project that is viable. Widening to provide a 4 foot shoulder will be a significant safety enhancement where there are currently no shoulders. This combined with low traffic volumes will make a safe and comfortable cycling facility.

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. 608424. 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
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.

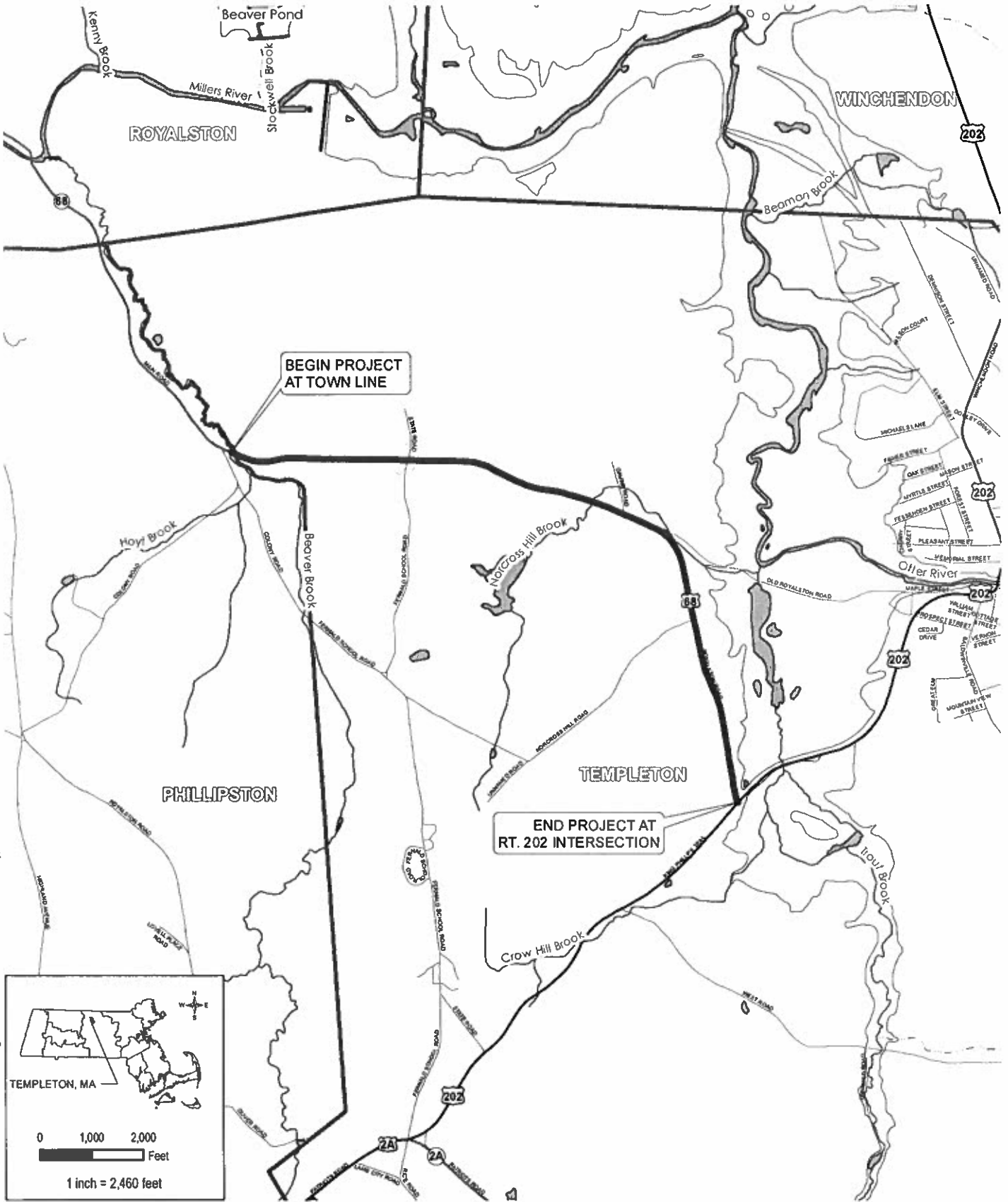
4. WHAT IS A FAIR PRICE FOR THE ACQUIRED PARCELS?

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.

File Path: K:\P20150430\A20\Figure 1 Location.mxd Plotted: Tuesday, November 06, 2018



FUSS & O'NEILL

1550 MAIN STREET - SUITE 400
SPRINGFIELD, MA 01103
413.452.0445
www.fando.com

FIGURE 1: SITE LOCATION MAP

MassDOT Proj. # 608424 - RECONSTRUCTION OF ROYALSTON ROAD - TEMPLETON, MA
NOVEMBER 6, 2018

PROJECT OVERVIEW

Royalston Road (Route 68) serves as a primary commuter link between the towns of Royalston, Templeton, and access to points south and east via Route 202/2. Royalston Road serves a high percentage of truck traffic (9%+). The goal of this project is to provide in-place pavement reclamation and full-depth box widening of approximately 13,900 L.F (2.65 Miles) of Royalston Road (Rt. 68) to restore safe vehicle travel for commuters and trucks on this vital town connector.

Also included will be improvements to stormwater management where shoulder washout and erosion are causing pavement failure. The proposed alternative will include revised grass swales and in some locations, a closed drainage system to properly handle stormwater run-off. Included in the project is replacing one large culvert crossing where Norcross Hill Brook crosses Royalston Road near the four corners section and another larger culvert that serves bordering wetland resource areas.

Minor widening is proposed to provide adequate lane and shoulder widths. 10-foot travel lanes with 4-foot shoulders in each direction are proposed for a total of 28 feet of paved width. The 4-foot shoulders, combined with low traffic volumes on Royalston Road, will provide a safe cycling facility. The widening of the road will require some slope/embankment stabilization. Gabion retaining walls and other modified rock/geotextiles are proposed at a number of locations along Royalston Road. Guardrail is proposed at areas that have inadequate clear zone widths and at all existing locations. Outdated traffic signs and associated pavement markings are proposed to be replaced along with new signs and markings installed where needed.

The proposed improvements are summarized as follows:

- In-Place Pavement Reclamation with full-depth widening
- Addition of 4-foot shoulders
- Addition of a closed drainage system and grass swales at problematic locations
- Replacement of the Norcross Hill Brook culvert and another large culvert
- Replacement of all roadway cross culverts and installation of concrete headwalls
- Replace existing guardrails
- New pavement markings and signage
- Minor improvements to vertical roadway geometry
- Improvements to roadway cross-slope
- Clearing of roadside vegetation and stabilization of slopes
- Utility pole relocations and associated tree trimming

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 OF ROYALSTON ROAD (ROUTE 68)
TOWN OF TEMPLETON, MA
Project File No. 608424
Roadway Project Management Section

