



DESIGN PUBLIC HEARING

AUGUST 17, 2017

AT

WARE TOWN HALL MEETING ROOM

126 MAIN STREET

WARE, MASSACHUSETTS

7:00 PM

FOR THE PROPOSED

**INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS @ MAIN STREET, WEST STREET, NORTH
STREET, SOUTH STREET & CHURCH STREET**

Project No. 607987

Roadway Project Management Section

IN THE TOWN OF WARE, MASSACHUSETTS

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

**JONATHAN L. GULLIVER
ACTING 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. 607987

A Design Public Hearing will be held by MassDOT to discuss the proposed intersection improvements project in Ware, MA.

WHERE: **Town Hall Meeting Room**
 Town of Ware
 126 Main Street
 Ware, MA 01082

WHEN: **Thursday, 8/17/2017 @ 7:00 PM**

PURPOSE: The purpose of this hearing is to provide the public with the opportunity to become fully acquainted with the proposed intersection 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 intersection improvements, sidewalk reconstruction, pavement rehabilitation, and new signing and pavement markings. New traffic signal equipment is proposed. Bicycle accommodation consisting of a minimum 5' wide bicycle lane are proposed on Main Street from West Street to Church/South Street.

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. **607987**. 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/>

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.

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.

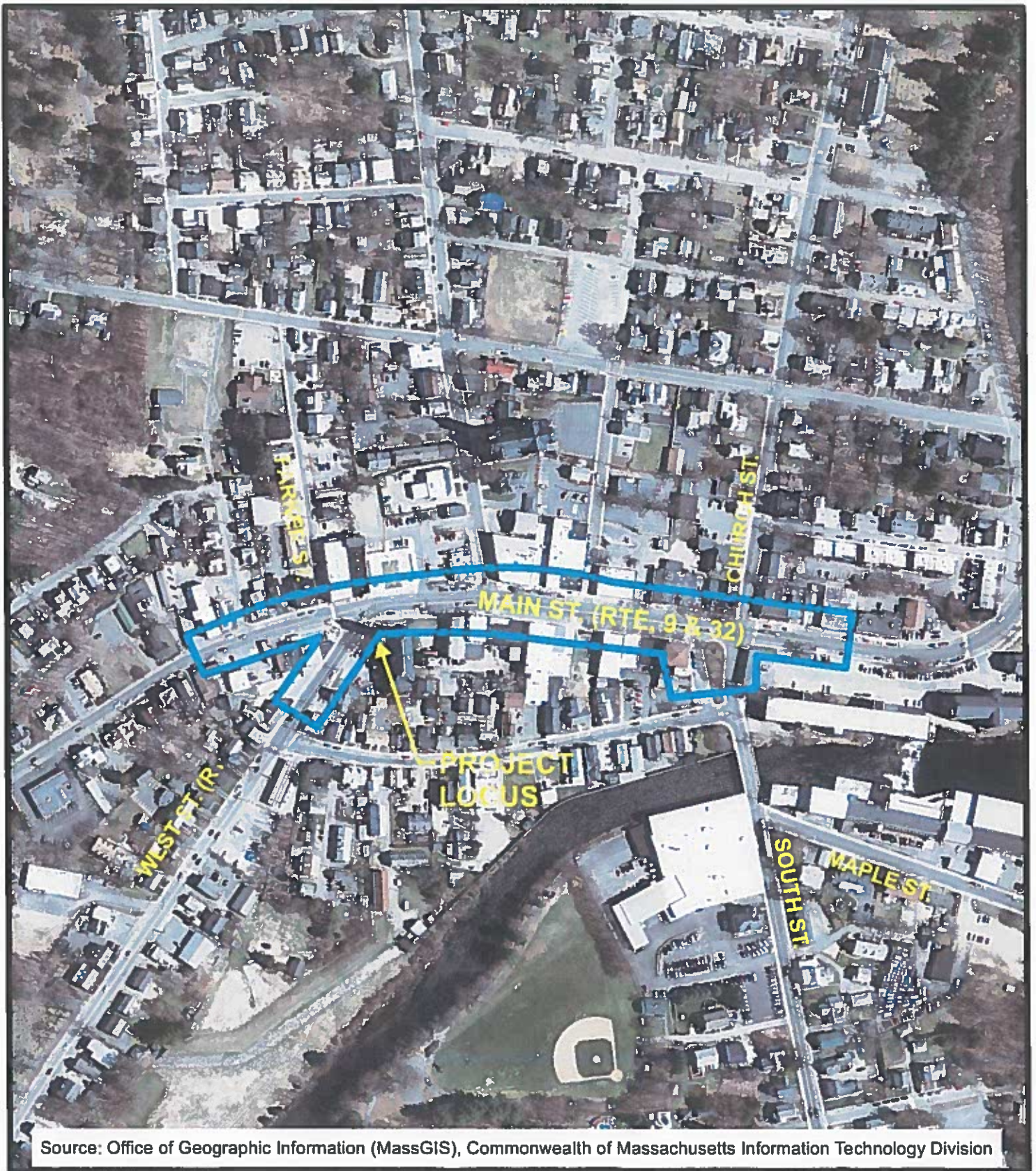
A Right of Entry is a document that is signed by the owner. It allows the Contractor to perform certain types of work on the owner's land. The work is usually minor in nature and frequently consists of loaming/seeding behind sidewalks, new driveway apron work, grading/sloping, and wetland protection,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



TOWN OF WARE, MA

**MAIN STREET
INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS
PROJECT ID:607987**

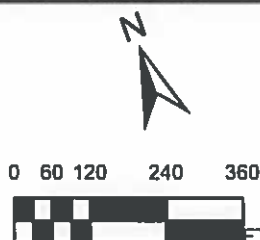


Figure 1. Locus Map



PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Town of Ware and Massachusetts Department of Transportation – Highway Division (MassDOT) propose to make improvements to Main Street (Route 9) from West Street to Church Street/ South Street. Funding for the construction of the project is being planned through the Massachusetts Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) administered through the Massachusetts Department of Transportation – Highway Division (MassDOT).

Project Area

The proposed improvements extend approximately 0.23 miles along Main Street (Route 9 and Route 32) from the intersection with West Street to the intersection with South Street and Church Street. The proposed project will also extend down West Street approximately 220 feet and South Street approximately 75 feet.

Proposed Improvements

It is proposed to signalize the Main Street at West Street intersection and coordinate it with existing signals at the intersection of Main Street and North Street and at the intersection of Main Street at South Street and Church Street. The existing signal equipment will be updated.

A mill and overlay is proposed on the existing pavement to repair pavement deficiencies and provide a clean surface for restriping of lanes. The existing pavement is in fair condition with minor cracking. Full depth construction is proposed between in the North Street and West Street intersections to comply with the proposed pavement design.

Existing sidewalks will be improved upon by adding ADA/AAB compliant wheel chair ramps at all intersections within the project. The sidewalks are proposed to be reconstructed within the project limits. New pedestrian signals that meet current MassDOT and MUTCD standards will be added to each crossing of signalized intersections. Relocating an existing mid-block crosswalk to the proposed signalized intersection at West Street is planned.

There are no clear bicycle accommodations currently along Main Street. One proposed improvement includes providing minimum five foot wide bicycle lanes on each side of Main Street. This would involve modifications to the existing lane assignments for vehicles in order to re-distribute space for bicycles, while maintaining on-street parking. New signage for bicycles is proposed. Bicycle detection will be provided at each of the traffic signals within the project limits.

Traffic Management

All roadways in the project area will remain open to traffic throughout construction. At least one lane of traffic will be maintained on Main Street during normal construction hours and two lanes open during non-working hours. Occasional short traffic disruptions may occur but every effort will be made to minimize inconvenience to the public.

THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
HIGHWAY DIVISION

FEDERAL AID PROJECT

Ware, MA
WARE- INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS @ MAIN STREET, WEST STREET, NORTH
STREET, SOUTH STREET & CHURCH STREET
Project File No. 607987

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.

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
INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS @ MAIN STREET, WEST STREET, NORTH
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