



DESIGN PUBLIC HEARING

AUGUST 6, 2014

AT

**BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB
580 MEADOW STREET
CHICOPEE, MA 01013**

7:00 PM

FOR THE PROPOSED

**CONNECTICUT RIVERWALK AND BIKEPATH
Project No. 602911**

IN THE TOWN OF CHICOPEE, MASSACHUSETTS

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

**FRANCIS A. DEPAOLA, P.E.
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.602911

A Design Public Hearing will be held by MassDOT to discuss the proposed Connecticut Riverwalk and Bikeway project in Chicopee MA.

WHERE: Boys and Girls Club
580 Meadow Street
Chicopee MA 01013

WHEN: Wednesday August 6, 2014 @ 7 PM

PURPOSE: The purpose of this hearing is to provide the public with the opportunity to become fully acquainted with the proposed Connecticut Riverwalk and Bikeway project. All views and comments made at the hearing will be reviewed and considered to the maximum extent possible.

PROPOSAL: The Connecticut Riverwalk and Bikeway project in Chicopee includes construction of a new multi-use path, pedestrian bridge and scenic overlooks along the Connecticut River beginning at Medina Street near the existing boat ramp and extending northerly parallel to the river, a distance of approximately 2.56 miles to Ferry Street and Nash Field. The project is part of the Connecticut Riverwalk Initiative, a 20 mile shared use path extending from Holyoke to Agawam.

A secure right-of-way is necessary for this project. Acquisitions in fee and permanent or temporary easements may be required. The City of Chicopee 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.602911. 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/>

FRANCIS A. DEPAOLA, P.E.
HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATOR

PATRICIA A. LEAVENWORTH, P.E.
CHIEF ENGINEER



Deval L. Patrick, Governor
Timothy P. Murray, Lt. Governor
Richard A. Davey, Secretary & CEO
Frank DePaola, Administrator



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,

Frank DePaola
Administrator, Highway Division

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?

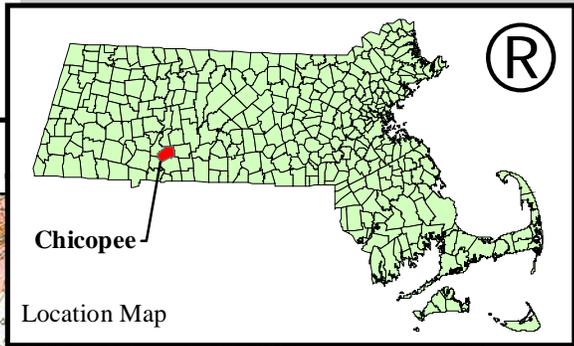
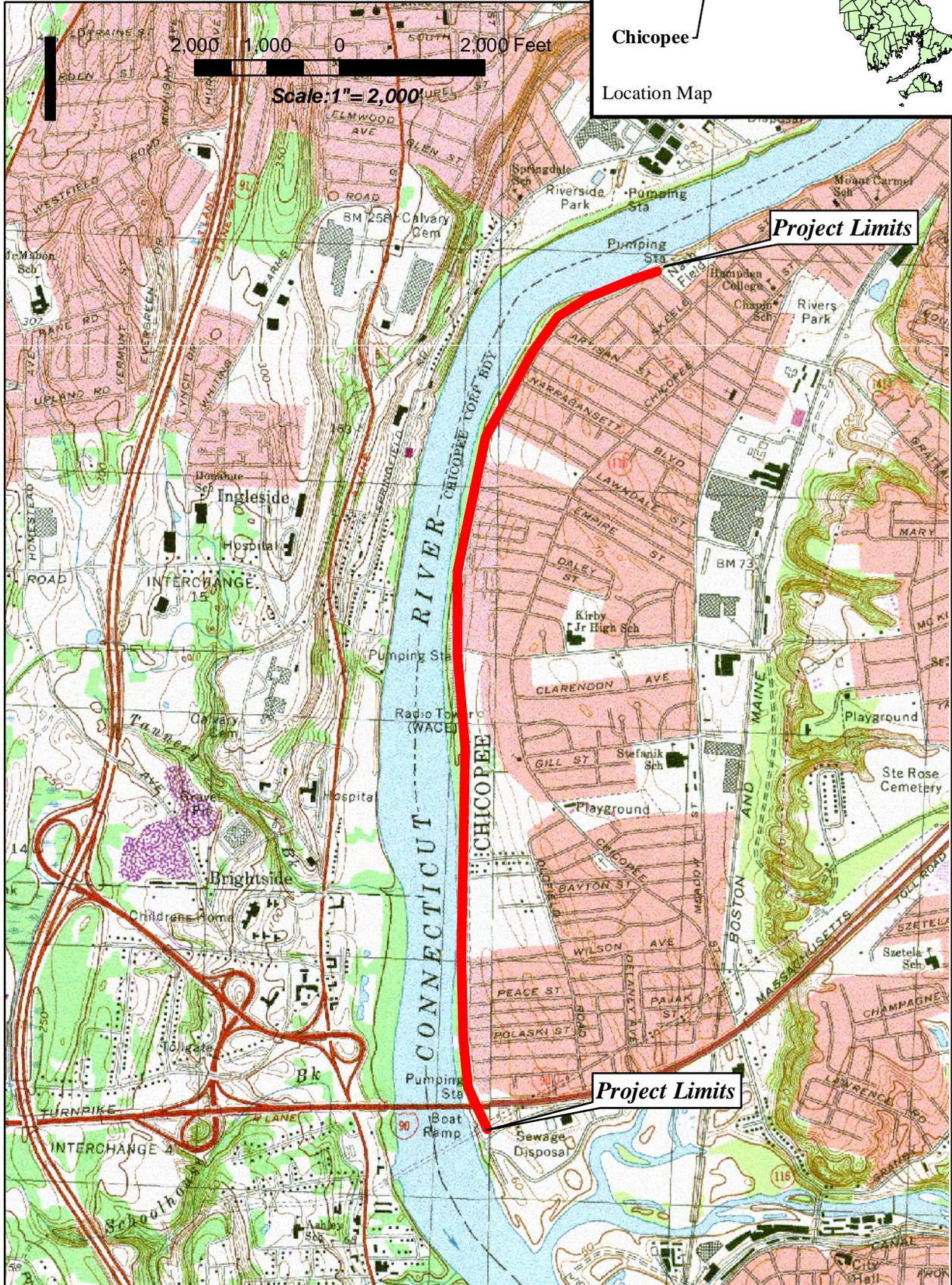
In the event that donations are not considered, or completed, every effort will be made to ensure that an equitable value is awarded. Municipal and/or outside appraisers will complete an appraisal. Consideration is given to the type of rights needed, whether in fee, permanent or temporary easements. 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.

Connecticut River Walk and Bike Path
Chicopee, MA

Figure No. 1 - Project Location Map



PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Purpose: The Connecticut Riverwalk and Bikeway project begins at Medina Street near the existing boat ramp and extends northerly parallel to the river, a distance of approximately 2.56 miles to Ferry Street and Nash Field. The primary objective of this project is to provide a new multi-use path to enhance recreational use and public enjoyment along the river. The project is part of the Connecticut Riverwalk Initiative, a 20 mile shared use path extending from Holyoke to Agawam.

Existing Conditions: The project corridor is located within the City's existing flood control parcel. The path alignment runs adjacent to the river west of the levee. The levee protects the adjacent residential neighborhoods to the east. The corridor passes under the high tension lines near Medina Street and under the Mass Turnpike bridge. The alignment also passes over the discharge channel from the Paderewski Street pump station and then continues following the worn maintenance access path through the undeveloped vegetated area adjacent to the levee ending at Nash Field and Ferry Street. Key features within the corridor include the Connecticut River, the flood control levee, the Medina Street boat ramp, the Mass Turnpike overpass, stormwater pumping stations at Paderewski Street and Jones Ferry Road and Nash Field. .

Proposed Improvements: Improvements will include development of approximately 13,500 feet of a 10 foot wide asphalt multi-use trail with grass shoulders, construction of three (3) overlook areas adjacent to the river, crossover paths to connect the Riverwalk to Paderewski Street and Jones Ferry Road and a new pedestrian bridge over the Paderewski Street pump station discharge channel. The project will also reconstruct approximately twenty (20) existing parking spaces located on the north side of Ferry Street and provide a new sidewalk connection between the parking and the path. A stone dust path will be included along the top of the levee. The design of the project is consistent with the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

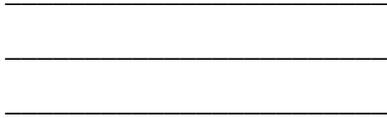
Maintenance of Traffic During Construction: The project does not cross any roadways. The project begins at Medina Street, a dead end road that provides access to the City's water treatment facility and a boat ramp, and ends at Ferry Street, a dead end road that provides access to Nash Field and several residential properties. Construction vehicles will likely access the project corridor from both Medina Street and Ferry Street.

Right-of-Way: The proposed improvements will be undertaken within the existing publically owned flood control parcel and the existing Rights of Way for Medina Street, the Mass Turnpike and Ferry Street. There are no permanent or temporary acquisitions required from private property.

Project Cost: The estimated construction cost for this project is approximately \$3,060,000.

Project Status: The plans on display this evening are at the 25% design stage. Comments received at this hearing will be incorporated to the maximum extent feasible. The 75% design will commence immediately.

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
CONNECTICUT RIVERWALK AND BIKEPATH
CHICOPEE, MA
Project File No. **602911**
Project Management

