



**DESIGN PUBLIC HEARING**

**SEPTEMBER 25, 2018**

**AT**

**CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

**NORTHAMPTON, MASSACHUSETTS**

**6:30 PM**

**FOR THE PROPOSED**

**Intersection Improvements at King Street, North Street & Summer Street and at King  
Street & Finn Street  
Project No. 607502  
Roadway Project Management Section**

**IN THE CITY OF NORTHAMPTON, 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 HEARING**

**Project File No. 607502**

A Design Public Hearing will be held by MassDOT to discuss the proposed Intersection Improvements at King Street, North Street & Summer Street and at King Street & Finn Street project in Northampton, MA.

**WHERE: City Council Chambers Room  
212 Main Street  
Northampton, MA 01060**

**WHEN: Tuesday, September 25, 2018 @ 6:30 PM**

**PURPOSE:** The purpose of this hearing is to provide the public with the opportunity to become fully acquainted with the proposed Intersection Improvements at King Street, North Street & Summer Street and at King Street & Finn Street 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 at King Street intersections with North and Summer Streets and with Finn Street. Improvements include addition of a turning lane along the North Street and Finn Street approaches to King Street, new ADA compliant ramps, new signage and pavement markings, and traffic signal upgrades. A separated bike lane is provided on a portion of King Street northbound and a 5-foot wide bicycle lane is provided on each side elsewhere in accordance with applicable design guides.

A secure right-of-way is necessary for this project. Acquisitions in fee and permanent or temporary easements may be required. The city 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. 607502. 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](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, 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.

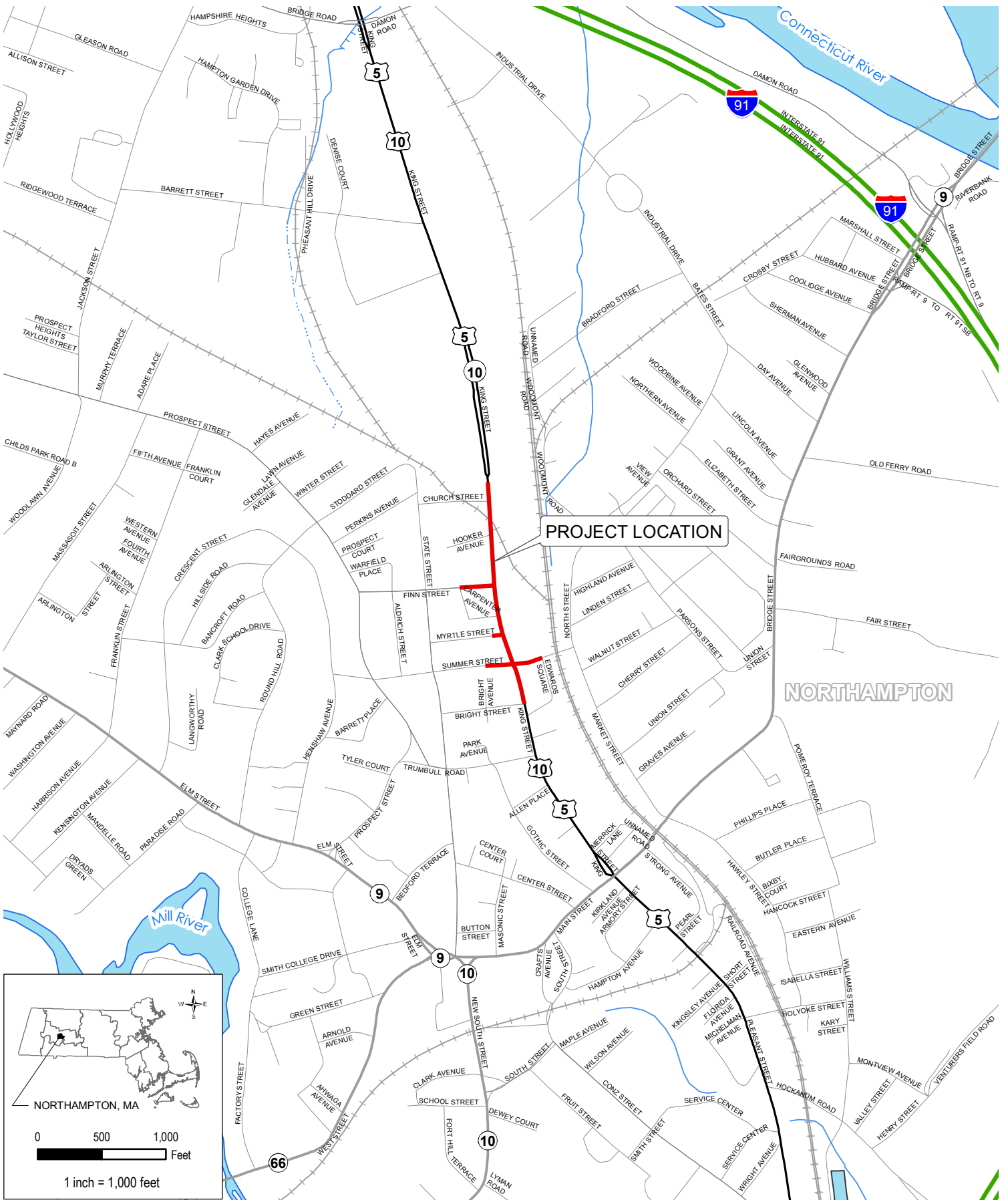
4. WHAT IS A FAIR PRICE FOR THE ACQUIRED PARCELS?

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?

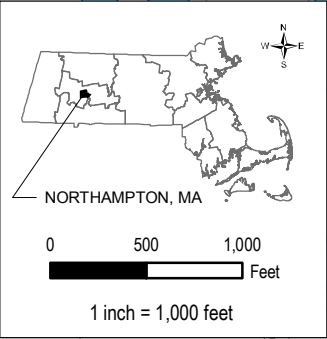
No, if the owner feels that the offer is not fair the owner may petition the courts. This action does not stop or delay the acquisition. The action must occur within 3 years. The owner(s) may be paid pro tanto (for the time being). The pro tanto payment will not prejudice the court's final decision.

File Path: J:\GIS\2009\1145\A20\Figure 1 Location.mxd Plotted: Tuesday, January 03, 2017



PROJECT LOCATION

NORTHAMPTON



# FIGURE 1: SITE LOCATION MAP

Intersection Improvements at King/Summer/North Street and King/Finn Street  
Northampton, MA

MassDOT Proj. # 607502

January 3, 2017

## **PROJECT OVERVIEW**

This project will provide traffic operations improvements at four locations within the project area, as well as sidewalk, crosswalk, and bike lane improvements for pedestrians and bicycles. The project begins just south of the intersection of King Street and Bright Street, and continues along King Street to approximately 300 feet north of its intersection with Church Street. The intersection of State Street and Finn Street is also included in the project. The intersections of King Street at Finn Street and King Street at Summer Street and North Street currently operate with traffic signals and will be upgraded, while the intersection of State Street at Finn Street is currently un-signalized, but will be signalized as part of this improvement project. The land use in the surrounding project area is primarily commercial, with some residential properties on Finn, State, and other side streets. A lack of bicycle accommodations and inadequate pedestrian facilities limit cyclist and pedestrian access throughout the project area. Roadway layout deficiencies and outdated traffic equipment create an unsafe condition for vehicular traffic. The improvements proposed as part of this project will address existing safety deficiencies, relieve traffic congestion, improve bicycle and pedestrian facilities, and improve the aesthetics of this heavily traveled connector. The proposed improvements will involve the following:

- Improve geometry of the King Street and North Street/Summer Street intersection.
- Reduce the number of southbound travel lanes to eliminate an unsafe merging condition and existing left-turn trap at North Street. This also allows for future turn lane into the old Northampton Honda site when it is developed.
- Provide auxiliary turn lane pocket into Foster Farrar Hardware store based on demand.
- Increase auxiliary lane queue storage and capacity.
- Replace obsolete traffic signal equipment.
- Signalize State Street and Finn Street intersection.
- Increase pedestrian safety and make accessibility improvements at the intersection of King Street with North St., Summer St., Myrtle St., Finn St., Hooker Ave. and Church St. Shorten crosswalk distances across King St., North St., Summer St., Myrtle St., Hooker St. and Church St.
- Upgrade pedestrian signals with APS Equipment at specific locations.
- Minor landscape enhancements to promote economic development of the old Northampton Honda site.
- Create a “gateway” at Lower King Street at North/Summer Street. Extend the urban context of downtown to Lower King Street
- Provide alternative/sustainable methods of treating stormwater run-off through the use of pavement reduction and streetside rain gardens. This also improves drainage capacity.
- Provide 5’ bicycle lanes and 5’ grade separated NB bike lane in front of the future development site at old Northampton Honda.
- Provide a tree belt for snow storage while also fixing steep driveway aprons.
- Provide pavement milling and full-depth box widening of the roadway within the project area as shown on the construction plans.

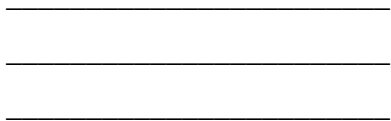




Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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Please Fold and Tape



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

RE: Public Hearing  
Intersection Improvements at King Street, North Street & Summer Street and at King Street  
& Finn Street  
**NORTHAMPTON**  
Project File No. 607502  
Insert section: Roadway Project Management Section

