



**DESIGN PUBLIC HEARING**

**JUNE 13, 2012**

**AT**

**THOMAS CRANE PUBLIC LIBRARY  
Auditorium**

**QUINCY, MASSACHUSETTS**

**7:00 PM**

**FOR THE PROPOSED**

**ADAMS GREEN TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT**

**Project No. 606235**

**IN THE CITY OF QUINCY, MASSACHUSETTS**

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

**FRANK DEPAOLA, P.E.  
HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATOR**

**THOMAS F. BRODERICK, P.E.  
CHIEF ENGINEER**

**THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS  
MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION – HIGHWAY DIVISION  
NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING**

**Project File No. 606235**

A Design Public Hearing will be held by MassDOT to discuss the proposed Adams Green Transportation Improvements Project in the City of Quincy, MA.

WHERE: Thomas Crane Public Library  
40 Washington Street  
Quincy, MA 02169

WHEN: Wednesday, June 13, 2012 @ 7:00 PM

PURPOSE: The purpose of this hearing is to provide the public with the opportunity to become fully acquainted with the proposed transportation improvements for Adams Green in downtown Quincy. All views and comments made at the hearing will be reviewed and considered to the maximum extent possible.

PROPOSAL: The proposed project consists of reconfigurations to the roadways in downtown Quincy, Massachusetts. The project proposes to close a section of Hancock Street between Washington Street and Temple Street, improve bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure, and make the required upgrades to signal equipment and traffic patterns to support these changes.

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 Thomas F. Broderick, P.E., Chief Engineer, MassDOT, 10 Park Plaza, Boston, MA 02116, ATTN: Highway Division Project File No. 606235. 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 Director of Civil Rights by phone at (617) 973-7171, TTD/TTY at (617) 973-7715, fax (617) 973-7311 or by email to [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/>

FRANCIS A. DEPAOLA, P.E.  
HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATOR

THOMAS F. BRODERICK, P.E.  
CHIEF ENGINEER

**Boston, Massachusetts**



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 DESIGN HEARING?**

### **WHY A DESIGN 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 meetings 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 DESIGN 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.

## **TO SAFEGUARD THE PROPERTY OWNER**

If your property, or a portion of it, must be acquired by the City of Quincy for highway purposes in the interest of all Quincy residents, your rights are fully protected under the law. Briefly, here are some of the answers to questions you might ask.

### **1. WHO CONTACTS ME?**

Representatives of the City of Quincy; they will explain the impacts and your rights as protected under Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 79.

### **2. WHAT IS A FAIR PRICE FOR MY PROPERTY?**

Every offer is made to ensure that an equitable value is awarded to you for the property, or to appraise the “damage” to the property as a result of the acquisition. City of Quincy appraisers, independent appraisers, and a Real Estate Appraisal Review Board may all contribute in arriving at an award of damages. The City also pays a proportionate part of the real estate tax for the current year for fee takings, and interest from the date the property is acquired to the payment date, on all impacts.

### **3. MUST I ACCEPT THE CITY’S OFFER?**

No. If, after the figure established as market value has been offered to the owner, the owner feels he or she is not being offered a fair price, he or she has the right, within three years, to appeal to the courts. Pending a court decision, he or she can be paid on a “pro-tanto” basis (or “for the time being”) that in no way prejudices the court appeal.

### **4. WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO MY HOUSE?**

The owner will have the opportunity to buy back his or her house, provided he or she has a location to which it can be moved, and the proper permits for its removal. If the owner does not wish to repurchase, the house will be advertised for bids. The highest bidder, who must also have a location and permits for removal, will be awarded the house. Otherwise, the structure will be slated for demolition.

### **5. WHAT HAPPENS IF I MUST RELOCATE?**

In addition to the market value of the property, the City pays certain relocation benefits for both owners and tenants of acquired residences and businesses who meet eligibility requirements. Assistance in relocation is also provided. City materials are available for details on these benefits.



## **Project Location**

The City of Quincy is proposing a set of improvements and changes to several of the roadways in downtown Quincy. These changes will include visible alterations to the streetscape of the downtown area and below-grade improvements to area utilities. This collective package of change is known as the Adams Green Transportation Improvement Project. Impacted streets include the following:

- Hancock Street between Dimmock Street and Cottage Street;
- Coddington Street from Temple Street to Spear Street;
- Granite Street between Hancock Street and the MBTA right-of-way;
- Washington Street from Temple Street to Foster Street;
- A segment of Chestnut Street between Maple Street and Foster Street; and,
- The entire length of Maple Street.

## **Purpose**

The purpose of this project is to create the needed transportation infrastructure to ensure that the Adams Green Park can achieve its full potential as a new transit-focused, bicycle and pedestrian-friendly green center for downtown Quincy. Roadway improvements will be made to increase bicycle and pedestrian safety while ensuring that vehicular traffic can continue to move effectively through the downtown area. All roadways subject to change as part of this project will be brought into alignment with current design standards with regard to safety and ADA-compliance.

## **Existing Conditions**

Downtown Quincy is the center of the tenth largest city in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. It is home to Quincy's current and historic City Halls, the Church of the Presidents which is both home to an active congregation and a historic site in its own right. Nearby the area defined by the Church and City Hall are Quincy's high school and central public library. Downtown is served by the Quincy Center MBTA station where bus, subway, and commuter rail services are all available, making this part of Quincy a natural transit hub. Local businesses in the area are a mix of small retail and office functions.

## **Scope of Work**

This project proposes to address the transportation and utility infrastructure changes needed to support the creation of the new Adams Green Park. The central aspect of the current project will be the closure of Hancock Street between Washington Street and Temple Street. The closed section of street will be repurposed to be part of the new park. Modifications to the intersection of Washington Street/Temple Street, including both changes to the signal equipment and roadway geometry, to ensure that traffic can continue to move effectively through downtown will also be made as part of this project. A new, wider raised crosswalk will cross Hancock Street near where it curves towards Washington Street to improve pedestrian safety and slow traffic. As the Adams Green Park will not be constructed immediately following the roadway

improvements, the closed section of Hancock Street will be rebuilt into an interim condition with improved drainage.

Additional proposed improvements include the following:

- New street lighting throughout the limits of work.
- New pavement throughout the limits of work
- New street trees and bicycle accommodations on Hancock Street between Russell Park and City Hall.
- New street trees and sidewalks in the area around the to-be closed section of Hancock Street and along Washington Street towards the intersection with Temple Street.
- The intersection of Washington Street/Coddington Street/Temple Street will be narrowed with curb extensions to shorten pedestrian crossing distances and better define parking lanes. New signal equipment and crosswalks would also be installed. The left turn. The Washington Street southbound approach will include a left-turn lane, a through lane, and a right-turn lane. A bicycle lane will also be provided. The Temple Street approach will include two travel lanes and a parking lane. Left turns from the Coddington Street approach will not be permitted.
- Coddington Street will be improved with all crossings brought into ADA-compliance as far as Faxon Avenue. The crosswalk at Faxon Avenue will be shortened.
- The intersection of Chestnut Street/Maple Street/Granite Street will be signalized.
- A truck restriction on Temple Street, Hancock Street, Granite Street and Ross Way will be implemented.

The Adams Green Transportation Improvement Project is being paid for using a federal transportation earmark. All federal transportation funding in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts flows through the state's transportation agency: MassDOT. As such, both the City of Quincy and MassDOT are proponents of this project and partners in its design and construction.

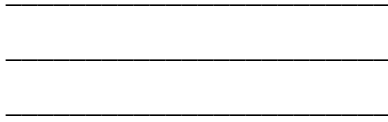
### **Schedule**

The Adams Green Transportation Improvement Project is being coordinated with the broader revitalization efforts for downtown Quincy and the larger Street-Works project. The roadway and utility infrastructure work are projected to achieve the 100% design level in the Fall of 2012. Construction will take place during 2013 and 2014.





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Thomas F. Broderick, P.E.  
Chief Engineer  
MassDOT, Highway Division  
10 Park Plaza  
Boston, MA 02116-3973

RE: Public Hearing  
Adams Green Transportation Improvements Project  
Quincy, MA  
Project File No. 606235

