



DESIGN PUBLIC HEARING

TUESDAY, AUGUST 30, 2005

AT

**ALDERMANIC CHAMBERS
SOMERVILLE CITY HALL
93 HIGHLAND AVENUE
SOMERVILLE, MA 02143**

6:00 PM

FOR THE PROPOSED

**SOMERVILLE AVENUE SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT
IN
SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS
(MHD FILE NO. 602109)**

**THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
DEPARTMENT OF HIGHWAYS**

**LUISA PAIEWONSKY
COMMISSIONER**

**JOHN BLUNDO, P.E.
CHIEF ENGINEER**

**THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
MASSHIGHWAY DEPARTMENT**

NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING

A Design Public Hearing will be held by MassHighway to discuss the proposed reconstruction of Somerville Avenue, in Somerville, MA.

WHERE: Aldermanic Chambers
Somerville City Hall
93 Highland Avenue
Somerville, MA 02143

WHEN: Tuesday, August 30, 2005, at 6:00 pm.

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

PROPOSAL: The project entails the reconstruction of Somerville Avenue from the Cambridge city line to Union Square, a length of approximately 1.32 miles. The work consists of full depth roadway construction, sidewalk reconstruction with granite curbing and wheelchair ramps, installation of new drain line, renovation of the sewer line, replacement of old traffic signal equipment and signalization of intersections, street lighting poles, planting of new trees, installation of streetscape amenities, signing, pavement markings and landscaping.

A secure right-of-way is necessary for this project. Acquisitions in fee and permanent or temporary easements may be required. The **City of Somerville** is responsible for acquiring all needed rights in private or public lands. MassHighway's policy concerning land acquisitions will be discussed at this hearing.

Written views received by MassHighway 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 is available on the MassHighway 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 John Blundo, P.E., Chief Engineer, Massachusetts Highway Department, 10 Park Plaza, Boston, MA 02116. Such submissions will also be accepted at the hearing. The final date of receipt of these statements and exhibits for inclusion in the public hearing transcript will be ten (10) days after this Public Hearing.

The community has declared that this facility is accessible to all in compliance with the ADA / Title II. However, persons in need of ADA / Title II accommodations should contact Juan Flores by phone VOICE (617) 973-7281, TDDY (617) 973-7306 or email juan.flores@mhd.state.ma.us. Requests must be made at least 10 days prior to the date of the public hearing.

In case of inclement weather, hearing cancellation announcements will be posted on the MassHighway website <http://www.mass.gov/mhd>.

LUISA PAIEWONSKY
COMMISSIONER

JOHN BLUNDO, P.E.
CHIEF ENGINEER

Boston, Massachusetts

Dear Concerned Citizen:

The Massachusetts Highway Department (MassHighway) is committed to building and maintaining a transportation infrastructure that is both safe and efficient for the traveling public, 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 MassHighway will review all of your comments and, where feasible, incorporate them into the design of the project.

Unfortunately, new construction often creates inconveniences for the public. MassHighway places a great deal of emphasis on minimizing the temporary disruptive effects of construction.

MassHighway encourages input from local communities and values your thoughts. Please be assured that we will undertake no project without addressing the concerns of the community.

Sincerely,



John Blundo, 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).

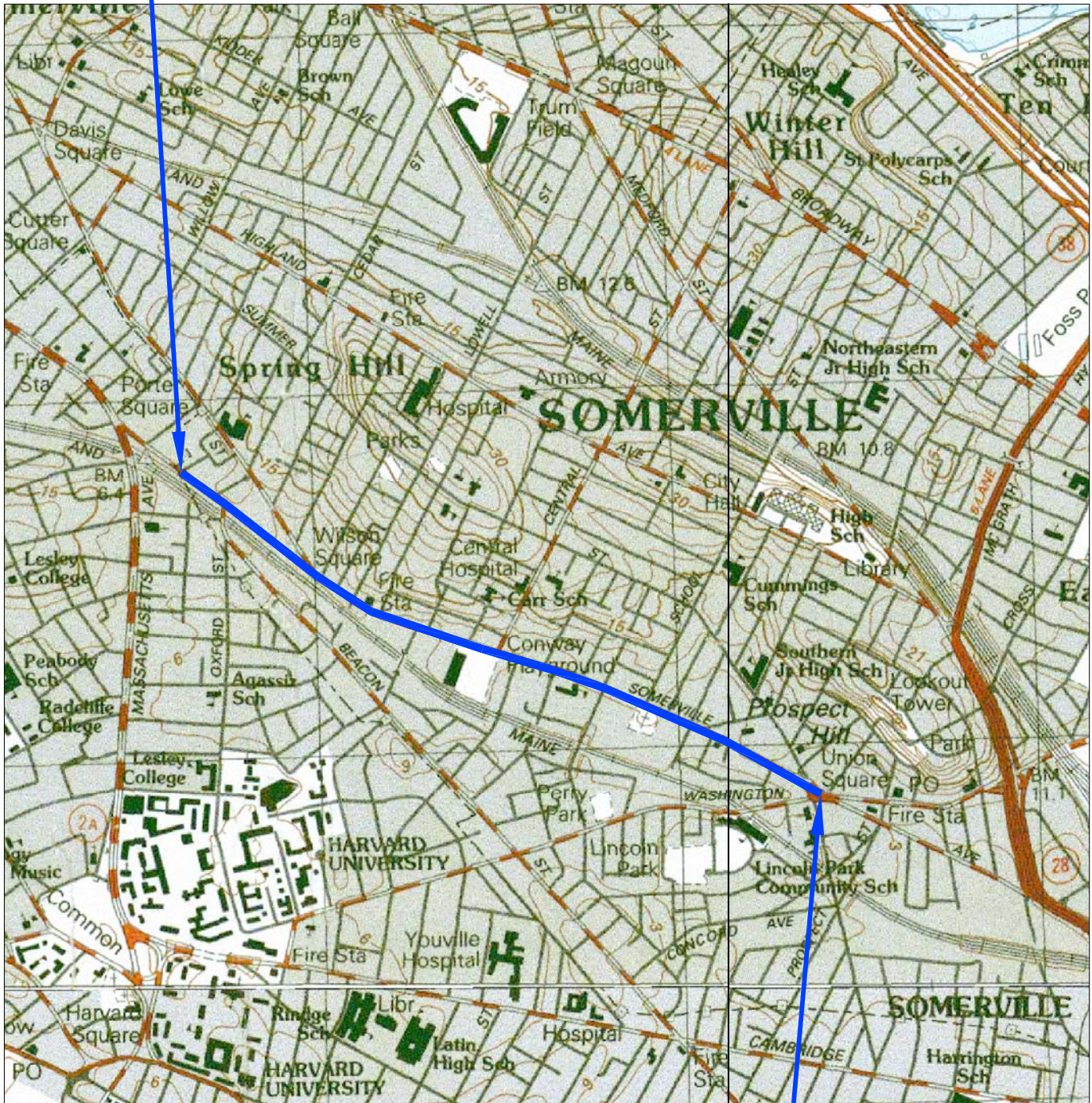
5. MUST I ACCEPT THE MUNICIPALITY OFFER?

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.

NORTH

BEGINNING OF PROJECT

STA: 1 + 00.000
N 904237.2526
E 231442.3853



END OF PROJECT

STA : 21+20.000
N 903350.0536
E 233236.8771

DCI PROJECT NO. 1997-078

Design Consultants, Inc.
Consulting Engineers and Surveyors



DESIGN CONSULTANTS BUILDING
265 MEDFORD STREET
SOMERVILLE, MA 02143
(617) 776-3350

SOMERVILLE AVENUE
SOMERVILLE, MA
MIDDLESEX COUNTY

Limit of Work

USGS
BOSTON NORTH
QUADRANGLE

SCALE: 1"=1,500'±

FIGURE # 1

**PROPOSED SAFETY AND TRAFFIC OPERATIONAL IMPROVEMENTS
FOR
SOMERVILLE AVENUE
SOMERVILLE, MA**

PURPOSE

The purpose of this hearing is to provide the public with the opportunity to become fully acquainted with the proposed reconstruction of Somerville Avenue. All views and comments made at the hearing will be reviewed and considered to the maximum extent possible.

PROJECT OVERVIEW

Somerville Avenue is functionally classified as a minor urban arterial and lies within a highly urbanized corridor connecting two major cultural centers, Porter Square and Union Square. It is a heavily utilized roadway by vehicular, pedestrian and bicycle traffic, and is in significant need of both roadway and infrastructure improvements.

The purpose of this project is to improve vehicular, pedestrian and bicycle flow, increase safety and to make Somerville Avenue a more aesthetically pleasing corridor. In addition, the project proposes to improve the roadway drainage through the installation of a new storm drain. Improvements to the combined sewer and water systems are also proposed.

The project entails the reconstruction of Somerville Avenue from the Cambridge city line to Union Square, a length of approximately 1.32 miles. The work consists of full depth roadway construction, sidewalk reconstruction with granite curbing and wheelchair ramps, installation of new drain line, renovation of the sewer line, replacement of old traffic signal equipment and signalization of intersections, street lighting, planting of new trees, installation of streetscape amenities, signing, pavement markings and landscaping.

EXISTING DEFICIENCIES

- High accidents rates along the roadway corridor
- Inconsistent curb openings
- Extensive roadway pavement cracking and patches
- Inadequate storm drainage system
- Antiquated traffic signal equipment
- Poor intersection geometry
- Inconsistent travel lane arrangements
- Poor lighting
- Need for improved traffic signage and pavement markings

PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS

Roadway Improvements

- Full depth roadway re-construction
- Sidewalk reconstruction with new granite curbing
- Upgrading of wheelchair ramps
- Installation of new 66" storm drain line
- Renovation of the sewer line
- Replacement of old traffic signal equipment and signalization of intersections
- New roadway lighting
- Enhanced pedestrian lighting
- New street trees and landscaping
- Installation of streetscape amenities, bike racks, benches, trash receptacles
- Upgraded signing and roadway pavement markings.

Intersection Improvements

New traffic signals, improvements and upgrades to the existing equipment and design have been proposed at the following intersections:

- Mossland Street
- Beacon Street
- Elm Street
- Ibbetson Street (Pedestrian signal)
- Lowell Street
- Beach Street
- Park Street
- Dane Street
- School Street

LAND ACQUISITION

No takings or land acquisitions are required for this project. Proposed improvements are within the roadway layout. Limited grading at driveway aprons and at back of sidewalk is accounted for through Right of Entry authorizations.

RIGHT OF ENTRY

Right of Entries have been obtained from the abutting property owners.

MAINTENANCE OF TRAFFIC

Construction Staging and Traffic Management Plan will be prepared by the contractor and submitted for approval by the Engineer. The contractor shall demonstrate in detail the construction methods, time frames, address pedestrian and vehicular flow to and through the construction operations, on-street parking, and access by emergency vehicles, as well as bus and delivery truck traffic. The Contractor shall update this plan on a

weekly basis. All revisions to the construction staging plans must be submitted in writing and are subject to the review and approval of the Engineer.

The minimum requirements set forth in the project specifications include:

- Maintaining all existing and proposed temporary and permanent traffic signal control equipment.
- The furnishing, installing, maintaining, and moving all warning devices, barricades, signs, steel plates, bridging materials, special apparel, and other safety measures and controls deemed necessary by the Engineer for the protection of motorists, of pedestrians, and of his own personnel.
- Employment of uniformed police for the protection and maintenance of traffic.
- Maintaining two lanes of traffic at all times, one in each direction (3m wide).

In addition, before work begins the Contractor shall submit a Construction Sequencing Plan that considers the suggested sequence of construction that is outlined in the project specifications.

PROJECT SCHEDULE

It is anticipated that construction will begin in the Spring of 2006 and continue through the Summer of 2008. The underground utility work will be largely completed by the Fall of 2007 with the roadway improvements continuing through to 2008. Landscape and tree plantings will begin in the Spring of 2008.

PROJECT COST

The project construction costs will be funded with federal, state and city funds and is estimated at \$14,000,000.

Please Fold and Tape

Please Place
Appropriate
Postage Here

John Blundo, P.E.
Chief Engineer
Massachusetts Highway Department
10 Park Plaza
Boston, MA 02116-3973

RE: Public Hearing
SOMERVILLE SAFETY IMPROVEMENT PROJECT
SOMERVILLE, MA
Project File No. 602109
