



DESIGN PUBLIC HEARING

JULY 28, 2008

AT

BELMONT TOWN HALL

BELMONT, MASSACHUSETTS

7:00 PM

FOR THE PROPOSED

TRAPELO ROAD / BELMONT STREET CORRIDOR IMPROVEMENTS

IN THE TOWNS OF BELMONT AND WATERTOWN AND THE CITY OF WALTHAM,
MASSACHUSETTS

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
MASSACHUSETTS HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

LUISA PAIEWONSKY
COMMISSIONER

FRANK A. TRAMONTOZZI, P.E.
CHIEF ENGINEER

**THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
MASSACHUSETTS HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT**

NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING

A Design Public Hearing will be held by MassHighway to discuss the proposed Trapelo Road / Belmont Street Corridor Improvements project in Belmont, Waltham, and Watertown, MA.

WHERE: Belmont Town Hall Auditorium
455 Concord Avenue
Belmont, MA 02478

WHEN: Monday, July 28, 2008 @ 7:00 PM

PURPOSE: The purpose of this hearing is to provide the public with the opportunity to become fully acquainted with the proposed Trapelo Road / Belmont Street 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 roadway, sidewalk, traffic signal and landscape improvements to Trapelo Road from just west of Waverley Oaks Road in Waltham to Belmont Street in Belmont, and improvements to Belmont Street from its intersection with Trapelo Road to the Cambridge Town line, a total distance of about 2.5 miles.

A secure right-of-way is necessary for this project. Acquisitions in fee and permanent or temporary easements may be required. The towns of Belmont, Waltham, and Watertown are 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 Frank A. Tramontozzi, P.E., Chief Engineer, Massachusetts Highway Department, 10 Park Plaza, Boston, MA 02116. 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.

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 Angela Rudikoff by phone at (617) 973-7005 or email angela.rudikoff@eot.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
ENGINEER

FRANK A. TRAMONTOZZI, P.E.
CHIEF

Boston, Massachusetts



DEVAL L. PATRICK
GOVERNOR

TIMOTHY P. MURRAY
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF TRANSPORTATION
MASSACHUSETTS HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

EOT

BERNARD COHEN
SECRETARY

LUISA PAIEWONSKY
COMMISSIONER

Dear Concerned Citizen:

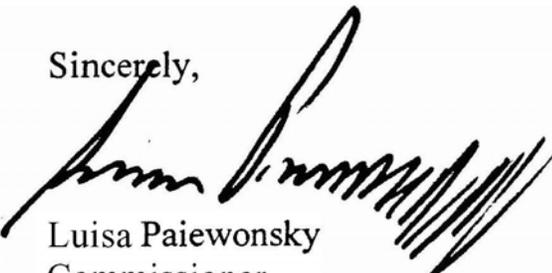
The Massachusetts Highway Department (MassHighway) is committed to building and maintaining a transportation infrastructure that is both safe and efficient for all who use our roadways, bridges, bicycle facilities and pedestrian paths, while maintaining the integrity of the environment.

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, 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 opinions. Please be assured that we will undertake no project without addressing the concerns of the community.

Sincerely,



Luisa Paiewonsky
Commissioner

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.

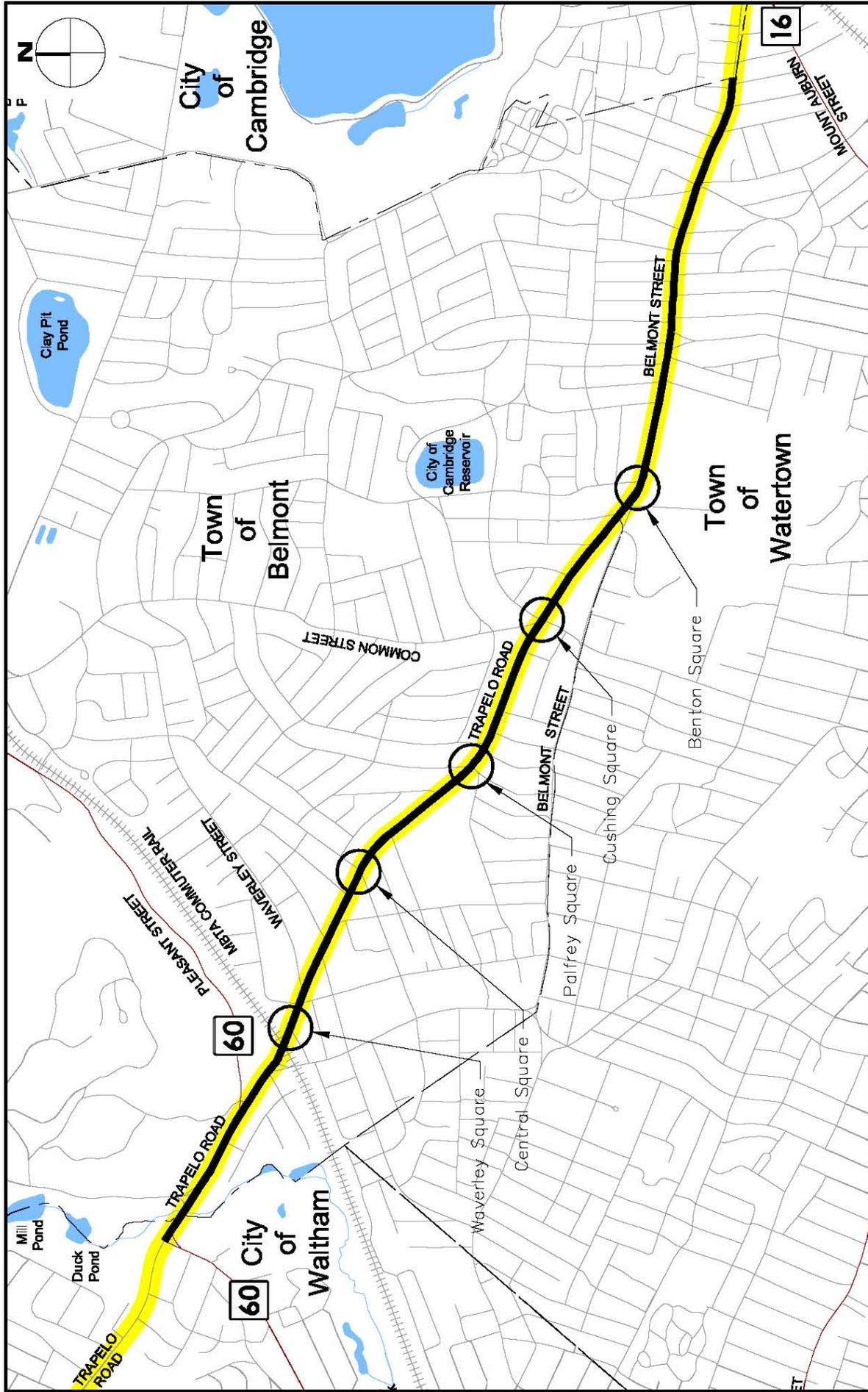
A Right of Entry is a document that is signed by the owner. It allows the Contractor to perform certain types of work on the owner's land. The work is usually minor in nature and frequently consists of loaming/seeding behind sidewalks, new driveway apron work, grading/sloping, and wetland protection,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



1" = 1400'

Project Location Map
 Trapelo Road / Belmont Street Corridor Improvements
 Belmont, MA

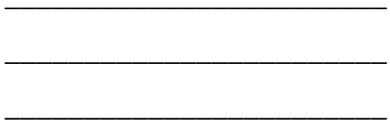


PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Project consists of the improvements to the Trapelo Road / Belmont Street corridor through the Town of Belmont and sections of Waltham and Watertown. More specifically, Trapelo Road from just west of Waverley Oaks Road in Waltham, to its intersection with Belmont Street in Belmont, and improvements to Belmont Street from its intersection with Trapelo Road to the Cambridge Town line, a total distance of about 2.5 miles. In general the project will:

- Provide a roadway width that is consistent with the number of lanes of traffic. In some areas the pavement width will be narrowed and the sidewalk width increased, in other areas the roadway width will be widened and the sidewalk width narrowed.
- Provide bicycle accommodation for its entire length.
- Replace old and often substandard traffic signal equipment with modern fully actuated systems.
- Put closely spaced signalized intersections into coordinated systems.
- Improve the level of service at five of the highest volume intersections on the corridor.
- Improve pedestrian access by providing new and, in some areas, widening sidewalks and by providing sidewalk bump outs that shorten the crosswalks.
- Improve access to individuals with disabilities by bringing all wheelchair ramps up to current standards.
- Rehabilitate a worn pavement by removing the old surface and replacing it.
- Replace worn and cracked sidewalks.
- Provide additional street trees.
- Replace the failing Beaver Brook Culvert with a system that will carry the 50 year storm.
- Provide fire preemption along the corridor.
- Provide a trackless trolley priority system.

Please Fold and Tape



Please Place
Appropriate
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Frank A. Tramontozzi, P.E.
Chief Engineer
Massachusetts Highway Department
10 Park Plaza
Boston, MA 02116-3973

RE: Public Hearing
Trapelo Road / Belmont Street Corridor Improvements
Belmont, Waltham, and Watertown
Project File No. 604688

