

DESIGN PUBLIC HEARING

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2019 AT 7:00 P.M.

AT

WINCHENDON TOWN HALL SECOND FLOOR AUDITORIUM 109 FRONT STREET WINCHENDON, MA 01475

FOR THE PROPOSED

CENTRAL STREET RECONSTRUCTION PROJECT FROM FRONT STREET TO MAPLE STREET Project No.: 608548 Roadway Project Management Section

IN WINCHENDON, MASSACHUSETTS

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION HIGHWAY DIVISION

> JONATHAN GULLIVER HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATOR

PATRICIA A. LEAVENWORTH, P.E. CHIEF ENGINEER

PRESENTERS

Thomas Currier, Project Manager, MassDOT - Highway Division Shirley Shiver, Right of Way Bureau, MassDOT - Highway Division Jeffrey Hoynoski, District 3 Office, MassDOT - Highway Division Alexander Fagnand, P.E., ENV SP, Tighe & Bond David Loring, P.E., LEED AP, Tighe & Bond

Name

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1 PROCEEDINGS 2 MODERATOR THOMAS CURRIER: Good 3 evening, everybody. My name is Tom Currier. I am with MassDOT. We are here tonight to talk to you 4 5 about the Central Street 122A improvement project. 6 We are at the 25 percent Design Public 7 Hearing tonight, which is a formal legal process that 8 MassDOT performs for every project as part of our 9 Federal Highway requirements. 10 The purpose of this meeting is to 11 explain the project to you. Your designer, Tighe & 12 Bond, is here with us tonight. That's Alex Fagnand 13 and Dave --14 DAVID LORING: Loring. MODERATOR CURRIER: Loring. I'm sorry, 15 16 David. I apologize. 17 With me tonight from MassDOT is Shirley 18 Shiver of District 3 municipal Right of Way Office. 19 She is here to explain the legal aspects of the right 20 of way process. 21 STENOGRAPHER: That mic is not working. 22 MODERATOR CURRIER: That mic is not 23 working? STENOGRAPHER: Well, it's 24

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intermittently. It's cutting in and out. You need a 1 2 sound check to get something going because it's not going to come through well. 3 4 MODERATOR CURRIER: Okay, Greg. This 5 gentleman is Greg Tarbox. We're having some technical 6 difficulties. 7 Maybe I can just use one of these. 8 How's that? No. 9 STENOGRAPHER: You've got to talk right 10 into it. 11 MODERATOR CURRIER: That works. Okay. 12 Good. 13 So, where was I? Greg Tarbox of 14 Arlington Typing and Mailing. He's capturing a 15 verbatim transcript of tonight's process. That's part of the legal requirements as well. 16 17 But, anyway, as I was saying, the 18 purpose of tonight's meeting is to explain the project 19 to you. And Alex is going to do that for us. But, 20 most importantly, we want to hear your comments, and 21 criticisms, and suggestions as to how to make it 22 better. Nobody knows the roadway better than you. 23 So, we're going to rely on your knowledge to help us 24 give you a better project.

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I know there's going to be some things you may not like, but other things you're going to like a lot. Hopefully, more of the latter than the former. We think it's a great job. I think there's a lot of room for improvement, but you'll help us figure it out.

Let me just take care of a couple more bookkeeping things. This meeting was advertised in the Gardner News on February 14th and February 21st, and in the Telegram and Gazette on February 14th and February 21st as well.

12 Currently, the cost is approximately \$5 million. And we're advertising this project for 13 construction on December 12, 2020. So, we're less 14 15 than two years out from that. That means your contractor would be on board and ready to go in the 16 17 spring of 2021. So, I would imagine it's going to 18 take 18 months or so, two years probably, 24 months 19 thereabouts, to build it. These are rough estimates 20 at this point. We're at the preliminary design stage. 21 And I don't want to tread on Alex's presentation too 22 much more, so I'll stop.

First, let's ask Shirley to read us theright of way law.

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1 SHIRLEY SHIVER: Absolutely. Thanks, 2 Tom. 3 MODERATOR CURRIER: Speak right into 4 that microphone. 5 SHIRLEY SHIVER: Good evening, 6 everyone. 7 When the Commonwealth, acting through 8 its Massachusetts Department of Transportation Highway 9 Division, indicated it would accept this \$5 million 10 project for funding, your municipality accepted 11 certain responsibilities. One of those 12 responsibilities is acquiring all of the necessary 13 rights in private and public lands for the design, 14 construction, and implementation of this project. 15 My function is to review and recommend procedures that your municipality will use in 16 17 acquiring these rights. The procedures must comply 18 with both federal and state regulations. 19 The current design plan indicates that 20 there are 44 temporary easements. 21 Property owners impacted by this 22 project will be contacted by your municipal officials. 23 They will present the proposed impacts to each owner 24 and discuss the methods with which they may acquire

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1 the needed rights for the project.

2 Frequently, municipalities will appeal for donations to minimize the acquisition cost for 3 4 your community. However, donations are not required, 5 and property owners are entitled to an appraisal, 6 review appraisal, and just compensation. 7 Right of way documents will be provided 8 to each owner to help them understand the acquisition 9 process and how the project affects their property. 10 Affected property owners' rights are 11 protected under our Massachusetts General Laws, 12 primarily Chapter 79. And, because this project is 13 receiving federal funds, the property owners' rights are further defined under Title III of the Real 14 Property Acts of 1970, as amended. 15 16 I will be happy to answer any general 17 questions concerning right of way activities during this open forum, and I will be available after the 18 19 hearing for any other questions you may have. 20 Thank you. 21 MODERATOR CURRIER: Thanks very much, 22 Shirley. 23 I never finished introducing Jeff 24 Hoynoski of District 3. He's the projects engineer

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with MassDOT. He helps the Town and the designer
 deliver a project that's advertisable and qualifies
 for federal funding. We have lots of federal
 guidelines we have to adhere to to spend their money
 on our projects.

I would like to emphasize that this is
a municipal roadway owned by the Town. And these
capable designers are working for you. We're just
reviewing the project and administering the
construction.

So, right now, let's ask Alex to
explain the details.

13 ALEXANDER FAGNAND: Good evening. My name is Alex Fagnand. I'm with Tighe & Bond, the 14 15 designer the Town has hired to work on this project. I'm happy to have the opportunity to speak with you 16 17 tonight about some of the details, and hopefully give you a nice overview of where we are today. 18 19 I think Jeff kind of ran through the 20 introductions. To note some of the Town officials

21 that have been involved in this part, Keith Hickey, 22 the Town Manager; Al Gallant, the DPW Director; and 23 Tracy Murphy, the Director of Planning, have all had 24 some input. And we've been working with them and

1 they've been developing this project. You know, it's 2 been a good collaborative exercise to date. And 3 myself and David Loring are here from Tighe & Bond 4 tonight to help give some details.

5 So, this actually isn't the first time 6 -- this is the Design Public Hearing for the project. It is an important legal step, as Tom was referring 7 8 to. But we were actually before the Select Board and 9 the Planning Board at a joint meeting in October of 10 2017 to present information. We were at the 11 conceptual stage at that point and wanted to get some 12 information about the project out. We were also 13 presenting the results of a public survey that we had 14 conducted at the Fall Fest that year. The Town had 15 some information out at their booth, and we had some survey cards to solicit input from the public on what 16 17 some of their concerns were. I do have a brief 18 summary of some of those concerns in a few slides. 19 Again, as Tom kind of alluded to, the 20 project team here is the Town of Winchendon is the 21 project proponent. 22 Tighe & Bond is the designer. 23 MassDOT is involved as administering

24 the design, doing design reviews, and they will be

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1 providing construction, resident engineering, and 2 administration services when we get to that stage. 3 FHWA, the Federal Highway 4 Administration, is also noted here as this is a 5 federally funded project and there's federal money 6 involved. 7 So, the project area. This is Central

8 Street right through downtown. The project begins 9 just beyond Blair Square, right about at the 10 Cumberland's driveway, and proceeds north up to just 11 past the CVS driveway right near the Maple Street 12 intersection.

13 It is important to note that it does 14 not actually include either intersection. Neither 15 intersection are in the scope of this. It's a linear 16 corridor improvement. It's about 2,200 feet.

17 So, the Town wanted to start developing 18 this project because they're aware of some existing 19 deficiencies out on Central Street. And we began 20 working with them and identified some of the concerns 21 out there.

So, there's existing safety concerns,
mostly concentrated around the intersection,
intersecting roadways, the side streets coming in. A

good deal of that has to do with something called intersection sight distance, which is just what it sounds like. When you're trying to pull onto Central Street, you don't necessarily have a good sightline of the traffic coming in either direction and it makes it difficult to make a safe maneuver out of those streets.

8 There's also frequent pedestrian 9 crossings and a lot of those are at midblock 10 locations. So you can't always anticipate when a 11 pedestrian is going to step into the road. Those are 12 issues we look to try to resolve and make pedestrian 13 crossings more convenient and obvious as we develop a 14 design on a downtown corridor like this.

15 The roadway condition itself is 16 obviously in poor repair at this point, lots of 17 cracking, utility trenching. And a lot of that is 18 accelerated by poor drainage. The roadway takes on water when it rains and it doesn't drain off so well. 19 20 There's also concerns with the ADA and 21 the multimodal accommodations out there. A lot of the ramps are not ADA compliant. There's some issues with 22 23 the sidewalk condition itself. You know, there's no 24 dedicated bicycle space out there. There's not that

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1 multimodal accommodation that you look for in a 2 downtown corridor.

3 And, also, the utilities. So, the 4 sewer and the water main are dated at this point. They're undersize. And with dated old utilities comes 5 6 increased repairs. If your water main breaks, you've That's costly. Obviously, 7 got to repair the road. 8 there's service interruptions for residents. So, 9 these are all things that we would look to address 10 with this project.

And I mentioned the October 2017
survey. So, you know, some of those common themes we
heard.

14 Speeding -- people are concerned with the motor vehicle speed on Central Street. And that 15 plays into some of the safety concerns. With a new 16 17 design, we will look to try to address those issues. 18 Streetscape came up a lot as well. 19 People are looking for more livable, approachable 20 downtowns, somewhere that they want to be, that they 21 want to bring their business. 22 And I threw up Blair Square because it 23 came up in the survey cards. And, you know, it is not

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part of the scope of this project, but the Town is

aware of, you know, the public concern with that
 intersection itself and is continuing to evaluate
 options at that location.

4 So, this is a great picture. We were 5 out doing some fieldwork and, you know, the driver 6 stopped here and paused. This is the stop bar. You can see it right here at the bottom of the picture. 7 8 So, this person is legally stopped at the stop line 9 attempting to make a maneuver from Grove Street onto 10 Central Street. I just wanted to point out a few key 11 features.

12 This car is legally parked in a parking 13 spot. This building corner, obviously, restricts the 14 sightline of the driver trying to get out onto 15 Central. If you can see it, there's actually an 16 oncoming vehicle right there.

17 I'd also want to point out that there's 18 another legal parking space in front of this car. So, 19 you can imagine if there was a, you know, Tahoe parked 20 here or a large SUV. You really don't have any 21 visibility onto Central Street, and you've got 22 concerns with speeding where you've got vehicles 23 coming at, you know, 40 miles an hour when really they 24 shouldn't be traveling much about 25, 30 on this

corridor. So, that's an illustration of the 1 2 intersection sight distance concern that I mentioned. You know, another couple of things to 3 4 point out in this photo. These ADA ramps are 5 noncompliant. The brick pavers, they tend to settle 6 funny. You don't have the correct surface. The ramp slopes aren't right. And, also, you know, you can see 7 8 pavement condition, general sidewalk condition, 9 obviously, issues that we highlighted. 10 And to the pavement and sidewalk, just some close images. You've got linear cracking. 11 12 You've got cracks across the sidewalk panels, curbing that's kind of sunk in, doesn't well define the 13 driveways anymore. So, typical issues you see on a 14 15 road that hasn't been replaced in a long time. 16 So, what do we want to do about it? 17 Project goals: improve safety on Central Street for all users; improve accommodation on Central Street for 18 19 all users; and create a more livable downtown for 20 residents that will support the local economy. 21 And how do we do that? We're looking 22 to install new public utilities. So, the Town is 23 looking to install a new sewer main and a new water 24 main with service connections to the abutting

1 properties.

They're also looking to kind of modernize the storm drain system to keep Central Street drier in storm events, and put in some modern best management practices like deep sumps in the catch basins and things that improve the water quality, have an environmental benefit for the Town, and for Whitney Pond where this ultimately goes.

9 There will be some adjustment of the 10 curb lines out there. There will be a new roadway 11 section so that the current proposal is two travel 12 lanes, two bicycle lanes, one parking lane, and two 13 sidewalks. So, the curbs are going to move in and out 14 in different areas accordingly to make that section 15 fit.

16 Once all that roughing work is done, if you will, they'll come through. They'll pave a new 17 18 road, new hot mix, new cement concrete sidewalks, ADA 19 compliant curb cut ramps, new pavement markings and 20 signage, and then the Town also has plans to install 21 some new lighting down here, potentially some 22 decorative lighting to enhance the aesthetic of downtown and really, you know, try to improve that 23 24 livability, and also some streetscape amenities. You

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know, there may be some strategically placed benches,
 places that you can kind of sit down and enjoy being
 downtown in Winchendon.

And we wanted to point out that this project is basically a footprint project. I know we're going to move some curb lines, but we're not really widening the road. So, there's very minimal right of way impacts, and those are generally going to be temporary easements on this project.

10 This is just a graphical illustration of that road section I just talked about. You'd have 11 two 11-foot drive lanes with marked bike lanes outside 12 of them. These drive lanes are a little bit more 13 14 narrow than what's out there today. There is a 15 centerline out there now, but it will give drivers a little bit more friction and it helps to slow cars 16 17 down a little bit and put a little more emphasis on 18 the downtown users, the people that are trying to go 19 to the stores and the restaurants downtown.

20 There will be five-foot minimum 21 sidewalks. But there is extra space in a lot of areas 22 down there within the existing right of way to provide 23 a little bit extra accommodation. And that will also 24 potentially allow for some street trees or a little

1 bit of streetscaping to occur as well.

2 Tom mentioned the schedule. So, here we are tonight at the Design Public Hearing. 3 There's 4 a couple more design steps. There's a 75 percent 5 design. There's a 100 percent design. That 100 6 percent design is a pretty critical step. That's when you're basically saying that the design is ready for 7 construction, although there's a little bit more back 8 9 and forth to iron out the details.

10 Construction is starting in April 2021. 11 And, again, a rough estimate at this time, but 12 construction might be finishing up in summer/fall 13 2022.

14 A big concern, obviously, how are we 15 going to live this day-to-day during that construction period? So, there's going to be traffic impacts. 16 17 There will be contractors out there working every day 18 for an extended period of time. But, it's important 19 to note that Central Street will remain open. There's 20 no plan to close it. You know, there may be special 21 considerations on a critical utility replacement, but 22 there's no closure of Central Street planned. There 23 will be some temporary lane closures. There will be 24 police details out there coordinating traffic.

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1 It says here, "Every effort will be 2 made to maintain at least one lane of traffic through the duration of the project." We just want to 3 4 emphasize that again. 5 Access to abutting properties will be 6 maintained at all times. 7 And then ADA-compliant pedestrian routes or detours will be provided at all times as 8 9 well. So, there's really an emphasis on making sure 10 that the abutters, the people that live and work downtown, are allowed to --11 12 MODERATOR CURRIER: You'll have two-way traffic in that section, one lane in each direction. 13 14 ALEXANDER FAGNAND: We should. 15 MODERATOR CURRIER: Yeah. ALEXANDER FAGNAND: We should. 16 17 MODERATOR CURRIER: There might be --18 ALEXANDER FAGNAND: There might be an 19 hour where they've got to do a water main connection 20 and it's alternating one-way for that hour in the middle of the day, but the plan is to keep traffic 21 22 moving on Central Street. Thank you, Tom. 23 From an environmental permitting 24 standpoint, there are no environmental permits out

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1 there because there's no adjacent resource areas.
2 But, MassDOT does have a comprehensive permitting
3 coordination process that includes MEPA permitting.
4 And that process has been begun. And they look at
5 historical and cultural resources and assets so that
6 all those stakeholders are considered and that's
7 considered in the design.

8 And with that, I'll put up some contact 9 information. There are mail-in cards at the door for 10 comments. Obviously, we're going to have an 11 opportunity to speak about your questions tonight. 12 But there's mail-in comment sheets, and Tom can also 13 be reached by the email address up there. 14 So, thank you, and we'll move on to the 15 fun part. 16 MODERATOR CURRIER: Yeah. Thank you 17 very much, Alex. That was a great job. 18 I did want to mention, as Alex just 19 touched on, that there's some handouts. I think 20 they're over there now. They have a comment sheet on 21 the back. 22 There's also copies of the presentation 23 over there, which might be nice to have to refer to 24 later.

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1 But, on the back sheet of the handout 2 is a comment page that I think has our MassDOT If you choose not to comment tonight, feel 3 address. 4 free to write down your comment and mail it into us. 5 One purpose of the recording that Greg 6 is capturing is that Alex and Dave will then take that back to their office and cull all the comments from it 7 so that we can address every single one and, 8 9 hopefully, incorporate as many as we can into the 10 future design. 11 I know it seems like it takes forever

12 to get these things out the door. It does. There's a lot of boxes to check and Ts to cross and Is to dot. 13 14 There's a lot of legal requirements. They're very 15 expensive. Engineering guidelines to follow, ADA law, that's federal law. There's no wiggle room there. We 16 17 have to comply with that. Not that anybody doesn't want to, but there's lots of things that these 18 19 gentlemen are accomplishing and that we have to do as 20 well before we can advertise it for construction. 21 So, just some rules for the group 22 I think you're all aware and are used to tonight. 23 working in this environment here, but if we could only 24 speak one at a time so Greg can pick up everything

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everybody is saying. He's got a really difficult job.
 And, God help the person who has to transcribe all
 this.

4 Can you hear me okay? Is this mic all 5 right?

6 AUDIENCE: Yes.

7 MODERATOR CURRIER: So, if when you 8 come up for a comment, if you could just tell us, you 9 know, if you live on the road or not, you know, are 10 you in Town, and if you could spell your last name. 11 Tell us who you are and spell your last name for Greg 12 so he can get it correct in the transcript.

And that's it. Is there anyone who would like to comment? Any elected officials who'd like to speak first perhaps? No? Yeah? Come on up. Yeah, terrific.

17 TOWN MANAGER KEITH HICKEY: Good 18 evening. And I want to thank everybody for coming out 19 this evening to participate, hear what the plans are 20 for Central Street, and provide some feedback to the 21 Town, our engineering group, and obviously to the 22 state DOT.

So, on behalf of the Board ofSelectmen, I want to thank you guys very much for

1 coming out this evening.

2 So, you've seen very briefly some of the schedule, benchmarks that they're working towards. 3 4 What I'm hoping to do as a community is to reach out 5 to the people. If you have a question, if you have a 6 concern, please give us a call, stop by. We want to 7 do this very collaboratively. You know, it's 8 important to us to -- we think this is a great project 9 for the community. It's really going to give a 10 facelift to Central Street and, hopefully, encourage 11 businesses to either stay or locate on Central Street 12 in the future.

13 There are going to be some disruptions, 14 as was mentioned. There's going to be some temporary 15 easements that are going to be needed. But we believe 16 that any permanent easements that may be needed or any 17 permanent takings that may be needed will be very, 18 very minimal, which is great for us as a community and 19 for the property owners themselves.

20 So, on behalf of the Town, I just 21 wanted to make sure that people were aware that we 22 want to work with you. There may be some times we may 23 not agree, but we want to try to address to the best 24 of our ability any concerns that residents and

property owners along Central Street have to try to 1 2 have a project at the end of the day that everybody can be proud of. 3 4 So, thank you very much. And please 5 feel free to ask any questions you have this evening. 6 Thank you. 7 MODERATOR CURRIER: Thanks very much. 8 The most important part of the evening 9 is just beginning. So, does anybody have any 10 questions at all? Yes, ma'am? Would you mind coming 11 up this side? We have to use a microphone. You can 12 use this one or you can sit down over there, whichever 13 you prefer. 14 CYNTHIA BOUCHER: Cynthia Boucher, B-o-15 u-c-h-e-r, resident. 16 The only question I have is just a 17 clarification, if I could. Alex, on the slide that 18 you had up, there's going to be parking only on one 19 side of Central Street. And based on what was shown, 20 it's going to be from Front Street down to Maple on 21 the left-hand side. There will be no parking 22 whatsoever on the right-hand side, is that correct? 23 ALEXANDER FAGNAND: That is correct. 24 CYNTHIA BOUCHER: Okay. Is there any

1 concern whatsoever with -- and I know this happens in 2 every community -- but with the bike lanes? I'm concerned on the side where there is parking. 3 I don't 4 know -- you know, again, it's up to the drivers when 5 they open their door. You know, if there's a bike 6 going by, somebody is going to get hurt. And I know that's not something that you -- and I know it's part 7 8 of the Complete Streets Program and all of that. But 9 is there anything that you do, anything that you can 10 do in order to educate the people who are parking to 11 just be careful to make sure that they look for 12 bicyclists in the bike lane?

13 ALEXANDER FAGNAND: That's a great 14 comment. Bike lanes, and especially when bike lanes 15 are new, tend to have that dooring hazard. There's sometimes preventative design approaches that can be 16 17 taken, like a buffer zone for the doors. Obviously, 18 that will require more footprint for the road 19 construction. We've seen instances of signage, you 20 know, look left before you open your door, things like 21 that posted in convenient locations. You know, there 22 could be a public education campaign. That would be 23 more in the Town's court.

24

MODERATOR CURRIER: There are the

1 painted symbols in the shoulder.

2 ALEXANDER FAGNAND: So the bike lane 3 will be marked. 4 CYNTHIA BOUCHER: No, I realize there 5 will be that little bicycle in the lane. 6 ALEXANDER FAGNAND: Yeah, for 7 awareness. CYNTHIA BOUCHER: But if you're not 8 9 accustomed to that being there, I can see that being a 10 potential issue. 11 MODERATOR CURRIER: You're absolutely 12 right. Those are -- Alex did use the wider parking 13 space for that purpose. We require -- our guidelines,

our design guidebook, recommends an eight-foot-wide parking space if there's a bike lane next door. It has to be a minimum of five-foot wide bike lane with an eight-foot parking space next to it, if that's -typically, they're seven feet wide.

19 CYNTHIA BOUCHER: Okay. And the reason 20 that I bring this up is, as Dave knows, we have a bike 21 trail in the Town, which is getting more and more 22 used. And we're happy for that. And we would like to 23 advertise to have more people living from outside the 24 area come. And we would like to invite them to come

1 to the downtown, which would encourage economic 2 development and businesses and all that. So, we may, 3 in fact, have more people coming who are on bicycles. 4 And so that's why I just --

5 MODERATOR CURRIER: Well, I'm glad you 6 feel that way because a lot of people are resistant to 7 including bikes on the roadway. But there's a big 8 upside, and you just cited them. They bring business 9 into Town, and more and more people want to commute 10 that way. And they pay taxes, so they have a right to 11 use the road, too. So that's why we accommodate peds, and bikes, and cars now. 12

13DAVID LORING: I'll just weigh in.14You're right; it is a concern. It's an educational15process not only for the drivers and people using the16parking spaces, but also the bicyclists themselves.

17 CYNTHIA BOUCHER: Yes.

DAVID LORING: You know, we're taking all the elements that you put into the project, which includes the legends painted within the bike lanes, the additional width of the parking lanes, the complementary landscape and streetscape elements all designed to slow traffic down so that there's a greater awareness that you're entering a downtown

that's got multi-users. So, the combined effect you 1 2 hope to gain is that people are aware that it's no longer just a driving and motorist facility. 3 4 CYNTHIA BOUCHER: Right. 5 DAVID LORING: So, it's just a greater 6 awareness and education on the part of all the roadway 7 users. 8 CYNTHIA BOUCHER: Okay. Well, thank 9 you for answering the questions. Thank you. 10 MODERATOR CURRIER: Great. Thanks. 11 This is a nice arrangement if you don't mind coming up. I know it's kind of awkward to have to walk up 12 13 and sit down. But it's a little more friendly. I 14 hope you don't feel intimidated. You know, come on up 15 and share your thoughts. Good, bad, or indifferent, we'd like to hear them. 16 17 JOHN CALLAHAN: John Callahan, C-a-l-l-18 a-h-a-n, Central Street property. 19 AUDIENCE: Into the mic please. 20 AUDIENCE: We can't hear you. 21 JOHN CALLAHAN: Oh, I'm not good at 22 this public speaking. 23 All right. The question I have is is 24 there going to be any additional parking in this

program because you're eliminating the whole side of 1 2 the street? How many number of parking spots are you eliminating, and are you going to replace those 3 4 somewhere on the street? 5 MODERATOR CURRIER: Do you guys have a 6 number for that? 7 ALEXANDER FAGNAND: So, we did a count. 8 We did a little bit of a study at the conceptual 9 phase, so before this design, this current set of 10 design plans. But taking out that parking lane would eliminate 60 of today's parking spaces. 11 12 JOHN CALLAHAN: Six-zero? 13 ALEXANDER FAGNAND: Sixty. 14 JOHN CALLAHAN: Six-zero. 15 ALEXANDER FAGNAND: Six-zero. 16 JOHN CALLAHAN: Okay. 17 ALEXANDER FAGNAND: I would point out 18 that a number of those spaces -- say we had a two 19 parking lane approach, you know, with the cross-20 section, a number of those spaces would be eliminated 21 under this project regardless because of those 22 intersection sight distance issues because of safety 23 concerns. So, to comply with current design 24 practices, this project would be removing parking.

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Now, we are formalizing a little bit of
 parking up on Summer Street, parallel parking on the
 side of Summer Street, a handful of spaces
 concentrated in the downtown. But it does not offset
 the six-zero. There will be a net loss of parking for
 sure on this project.

7 JOHN CALLAHAN: Okay. So you want to 8 generate business, the project, but you're going to 9 take away 60 parking spots on the main street and you 10 have no place for these people to park as it is now. 11 So, how do you justify having more business come into 12 Town when there's no place to park? We've got bikes 13 that go up and down the street, but I have no place for customers to park. So, they're going to park in 14 15 private parking lots because there's no place to park, which they're already doing now. 16

17 MODERATOR CURRIER: So you're saying 18 most of the parking spaces are used every day? JOHN CALLAHAN: Go up and down Central 19 20 Street. They park in my parking lot. They're not 21 supposed to be there. 22 MODERATOR CURRIER: I see. 23 JOHN CALLAHAN: You've already made

24 Walnut Street and Chestnut Street one way, which has

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1 now increased the parking in private parking spots.
2 And you're going to eliminate another 60 spots. So
3 where are these people going to park that you're
4 trying to bring into Town?

5 MODERATOR CURRIER: Right. Right. 6 JOHN CALLAHAN: Unless they're all 7 going to take their bikes in here, I don't see. MODERATOR CURRIER: I think the 8 9 observation from our side was that a lot of the spots 10 remain empty most of the day. Not that it's a plus to 11 remove them, but we think that removing the spots is 12 justified by the addition of the bike lane element. You can call it a bike lane, but it's really a 13 14 shoulder. We're just adding two shoulders to the 15 roadway, which bikes could use because it's a fivefoot wide shoulder. I know that's sacrificing a lot 16 of spaces, but we felt that most of those spaces are 17 18 not used anyway. But that's probably a matter of 19 opinion.

20 JOHN CALLAHAN: Well, if you go to the 21 IGA parking lot, you're seeing people park in their 22 parking lot.

- 23 MODERATOR CURRIER: Yeah.
- 24 JOHN CALLAHAN: Okay, which is not a

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1 public parking.

2 MODERATOR CURRIER: Right. Right. 3 JOHN CALLAHAN: You go to 111 Central 4 Street, you'll see them parking in that parking lot, 5 which is not a public parking. You go to the Rite-Aid 6 parking lot, you'll see people parking in that parking 7 lot, crossing the streets to go into different places. MODERATOR CURRIER: 8 Yeah. 9 JOHN CALLAHAN: So they're not parking 10 on Central Street, but they're parking on three 11 private areas. So that means if you're going to take 12 60 spots away, that means those private parking places 13 are now going to be used even more. 14 MODERATOR CURRIER: True. 15 JOHN CALLAHAN: And how do you stop 16 them from parking in those private parking areas? 17 MODERATOR CURRIER: I don't really have 18 an answer for you. 19 Does anyone have a comment? 20 DAVID LORING: Parking has always been 21 a strong concern when we met both with the surveys for 22 the community and we met with the selectmen. We 23 raised this issue as one of the biggest issues really, 24 if you will, of the project was the loss of on-street

parking. We did work with the Town officials to try 1 2 to identify other areas. And I think that process continues to find other areas where compensatory 3 4 parking could be provided. We're working with some of 5 the other landowners. And we also talked with them 6 about the utilization of the existing parking spaces 7 out there to try to, you know, what are you using. 8 But it is a problem that we don't 9 really have a good answer for. A lot of the feedback 10 has been parking spaces along the corridor just aren't 11 being utilized to the end to where additional parking 12 would be a concern. 13 I don't have an answer now. 14 JOHN CALLAHAN: But if you're going to 15 draw business to a community, and you're taking 16 parking places away, where is this new increase of 17 business going to park? 18 DAVID LORING: Part of the problem 19 along there is the location of the parking with 20 respect to the businesses. At the north end, there's 21 an abundance of parking with very limited businesses. 22 And those businesses that are on the north end have 23 off-street parking. It's the south end I think is 24 what you're referring to, you know, the Dunkin'

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1 Donuts, the CVS. That is at a premium. And I know 2 that the Town is working on a couple of other 3 alternatives there for off-street parking to mitigate 4 that loss. And we'll continue to work with Town 5 officials to identify space that won't be on the 6 street, but it may be off.

JOHN CALLAHAN: I can tell you, from the one-way change of Walnut Street, and the one-way change to Chestnut Street not as much, has changed the parking on those streets. You eliminated whole street parking there. And now, if you go down Walnut Street, there's no parking.

13 MODERATOR CURRIER: It's an issue. 14 JOHN CALLAHAN: Because that is a 15 street that -- you're doing the same thing on Central Street that you did on those two streets. And by 16 17 eliminating parking on both of those streets, we ran 18 into a problem for businesses that are on the street 19 for people to park at. So, aren't you going to be 20 doing the same thing, only in a larger grand scheme? 21 DAVID LORING: It is. It's trying to 22 weigh those other benefits with the bicycles and the 23 pedestrians. You have a valid concern. And I think 24 we need to continue to look at alternatives to provide

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1 the necessary parking and identify areas where we can 2 do that.

JOHN CALLAHAN: Right now, we have underground utilities. Are we going to continue with the underground utilities or are you going to bring them above the street once you start making these changes?

8 DAVID LORING: No, the utility 9 configuration -- water, sewer, storm drainage -- are 10 all underground, remain underground. There's 11 improvements and replacements being made there. The 12 aerial utilities, such as your electric,

13 communication, those will remain in largely the same 14 configuration that they do now.

15JOHN CALLAHAN: They'll stay16underground.

17 DAVID LORING: Yeah. There is a direct 18 bearing line that we're going to be able to place in a 19 conduit, but that will remain under the sidewalk in a 20 conduit. So, visually, there is no changes. We do 21 have a couple of aerial utility poles that we're 22 looking to relocate because those lines are too close 23 to some buildings and there's some conflicts with the 24 pedestrian routes there. But, largely, they'll be in

1 the same configuration that you see now.

2 MODERATOR CURRIER: So what's overhead 3 today will remain overhead, and what's underground 4 will remain underground. But we will try to organize 5 them better I think.

6 DAVID LORING: Some relocation in a7 couple of locations.

MODERATOR CURRIER: Yeah. 8 Right. You 9 raise a very -- I mean probably the critical issue on 10 this project is the parking. And it's an element of 11 debate. And we're at preliminary design. We're not 12 done. The pencils are still in-hand, so we can learn. 13 JOHN CALLAHAN: Does the bike lane need 14 to be put in to get the funding? Is that why you're 15 pushing that?

16 MODERATOR CURRIER: Yeah, that's true. 17 We need a waiver to eliminate it. And I don't think we'd be granted a waiver for this street because 18 19 there's so much room for -- again, it's a debatable 20 But I don't think we can get a waiver to issue. 21 eliminate it. Maybe with the Town's mitigative 22 efforts and some refinement in the design, we can 23 offset some of the parking loss and we end up with a 24 win-win.

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But stay involved. This is the whole 1 2 point of tonight's exercise is to get these kind of things out in the open so we can talk about it. So, I 3 4 appreciate your comments. 5 PATRICK DOYLE: My name is Patrick 6 Doyle, D-o-y-l-e. 7 Since 1976 when I took over an existing 8 business downtown on Central Street, I have been a 9 Central Street merchant. When I wasn't a merchant, I 10 was selling real estate out of offices on Central 11 Street. So I've been there a long time. 12 My greatest concern is this parking issue. I own a building on the corner of Walnut and 13 Central. The remaking or the redesign of Walnut 14 15 Street eliminated the parking adjacent to my building, 16 the on-street parking. 17 There's small things that play into why 18 this is problematic. One of them is to get an oil 19 delivery, the guy has got to block the traffic lane. 20 There's just no other alternative. 21 Now, we're proposing eliminating my 22 access, basically, except for sidewalk access, to the 23 front of my building. I feel like how am I going to 24 get in there? How are my tenants going to get in

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there? It's a problem. How are -- you know, there's 1 2 two commercial spaces downstairs and two residential I only have four -- on a good day -- four 3 upstairs. 4 parking spaces in the rear of the building. This is 5 not -- this is just how it was back in the day when 6 they built the building in 1907. But as we move forward and we see other things happening in Town, 7 8 including making Walnut and Chestnut one way, it makes 9 good sense in many respects, but it has eliminated a lot of parking. It is a huge issue. 10

For me to lose my parking in the front of the building, I don't know how viable the building is going to be anymore. I mean it could be, you know, the death knell for that building in terms of appealing to tenants.

My property happens to be adjacent to his. And he does have a good-sized parking lot. But the issue is the space that I would lease from him is now where the snow goes. So that, you know, that parking lot gets reduced in size by 20, 25 percent in the course of the winter with the snow pile. Across the street where we have the new

23 police headquarters, there's been parking spaces24 eliminated in the front, restricted to the use of

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1 emergency vehicles.

2 Now, granted, there is a parking lot adjacent to the police station. However, some of 3 4 those parking spaces are deeded rights to occupants of 5 the next building. And I defy anybody to drive by 6 there and actually find an available parking space. 7 That lot -- it doesn't accommodate that many cars to 8 begin with -- but that lot is full all the time. So, 9 that's the only municipal lot in the community. And 10 since 19 probably '81, '82, when they started doing master plans, a bunch of us have been pushing for 11 12 municipal parking. And because it was never done, now 13 we're going to have a crisis as far as I'm concerned. 14 I just wanted to make those comments. 15 Thank you. 16 MODERATOR CURRIER: Thank you very 17 much. We appreciate it. 18 So, we've got some work to do. Walnut 19 and Central is pretty tight. Thank you very much, Mr. 20 Doyle. 21 AUDREY LABRIE: Good evening. Audrev 22 LaBrie, L-a-B-r-i-e. 23 Just a general question. The 2,200 24 feet or whatever the actual length of this is, there's

1 a considerable difference in the width of Central 2 Street. You start it at Cumberland Farms and it's X. You get down to across from Belletetes, CVS, and it's 3 4 X plus X, X-squared or something. So, actually, from 5 what I see tonight, the plan is to have the same 6 design the full length of Central Street. So how are you going to accommodate for the narrowness at one end 7 and the width at the other end? 8 9 MODERATOR CURRIER: Can we put it up on 10 the screen, Alex? 11 ALEXANDER FAGNAND: Yes. Give me one 12 second. I've got to turn this back on. 13 MODERATOR CURRIER: A picture is worth 14 a thousand words. 15 AUDREY LABRIE: It is. 16 MODERATOR CURRIER: Do you have a plan 17 view? 18 ALEXANDER FAGNAND: Not on this 19 presentation. 20 MODERATOR CURRIER: No. Okay. 21 ALEXANDER FAGNAND: So, if I may? 22 MODERATOR CURRIER: Oh, yeah, by all 23 means. Yeah, it's your design. 24 ALEXANDER FAGNAND: This is definitely

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the typical section. There is a slight change in the 1 2 first block where I believe -- I wish I had it in front of me. But I believe the parking lane was a 3 4 little tighter in the first block because, to your point, it's like a, you know, a 50-foot right of way 5 6 on one side, and a huge right of way on the other side. So there was a little bit of narrowing of some 7 of these widths in the first section. But I believe 8 9 we were able to accommodate these uses through the 10 full corridor.

11 What you'll see down towards the end, 12 towards the north end where it's wider, is some more 13 of those streetscape amenities coming in, which will 14 be appropriate because your building setbacks are 15 increasing down there in general. You've got surface parking adjacent. So, you'll, hopefully, be able to 16 17 provide some buffer there to kind of keep the feel of 18 the street nice and contained to the corridor; 19 whereas, on the south side near Cumberland Farms 20 you're actually getting that by your storefront 21 buildings and that nice dense urban feel. You'll be 22 able to kind of have a consistent corridor from one 23 end to the other with these uses accommodated. 24 But, you're right. There's this minor

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1 change in widths. And then you may see some 2 additional elements introduced towards the north end where you have more room. 3 4 MODERATOR CURRIER: So you're using 5 that two-and-a-half-foot -- that strip to --ALEXANDER FAGNAND: That two-and-a-half 6 7 will not exist, you know, down near Chestnut Street. 8 MODERATOR CURRIER: Right. Right. 9 That's where you're --10 AUDREY LABRIE: I'm sorry. Say that 11 again. 12 MODERATOR CURRIER: That's how you adjust the width is with that -- see there's the five-13 14 foot sidewalk and then --15 AUDREY LABRIE: Yeah, I see it. So 16 that will not be on the narrow end? 17 MODERATOR CURRIER: Correct. 18 AUDREY LABRIE: Okay. ALEXANDER FAGNAND: You'll just have a 19 20 five-foot sidewalk --21 AUDREY LABRIE: I see. 22 ALEXANDER FAGNAND: -- and you're 23 basically butting up against the buildings that are 24 there.

1 AUDREY LABRIE: Okay. So it will just 2 be the sidewalk, the parking lane. 3 ALEXANDER FAGNAND: Yeah. 4 AUDREY LABRIE: And then as Central 5 Street widens out, that will be incorporated into the 6 width of the -- the width of the road. 7 ALEXANDER FAGNAND: Yes. AUDREY LABRIE: Is it feasible at all 8 9 to reroute one or both of the bike lanes in the more 10 narrow section of Central Street to perhaps keep some 11 of that additional parking instead of having the bike 12 lanes run the full length, down behind IGA perhaps, or something -- just kind of reroute the bike lanes 13 around that narrow section? That might eliminate some 14 15 of the parking issues because then instead of having those bike lanes, we could perhaps have parking 16 17 additional on both sides or something perhaps. 18 MODERATOR CURRIER: We could ask. We 19 could certainly explore it. 20 AUDREY LABRIE: Yeah. 21 MODERATOR CURRIER: We'll see what they 22 say. We have a Complete Streets engineer who is sort 23 of the omnipotent person directed with the 24 responsibility of determining what's feasible and what

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1 isn't, what complies with our policy and what doesn't. 2 AUDREY LABRIE: Right. Yeah. 3 MODERATOR CURRIER: So, we can appeal 4 to that person. We have a committee that approves or 5 denies design exceptions, which that would be. 6 AUDREY LABRIE: Right. 7 MODERATOR CURRIER: So, we have a 8 process and we can pursue it. We can look at 9 alternative routes, you know, perhaps. 10 AUDREY LABRIE: For that short section 11 there. 12 MODERATOR CURRIER: Yeah. Yeah. That's an interesting take. 13 AUDREY LABRIE: All right. Thank you 14 15 very much. 16 MODERATOR CURRIER: Yeah. Come on up. 17 JANE LAPOINTE: Hi. I'm Jane LaPointe, 18 L-a-P-o-i-n-t-e. 19 MODERATOR CURRIER: Oh, you'll have to 20 -- can you repeat that in the mic? 21 JANE LAPOINTE: I'm Jane LaPointe, L-a-22 P-o-i-n-t-e. 23 MODERATOR CURRIER: Thank you. 24 JANE LAPOINTE: Jane. I'm just trying

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1 to figure this out, as I'm looking at this picture, 2 how people, if they're driving down Central Street and want to stop, how they -- what they have to -- how 3 4 they'd have to maneuver to park. So, I'm spatially 5 challenged here. So, it's like if you're coming down 6 from Front Street, the parking is on your left, is 7 that right? You're driving from Front Street to Maple 8 Street, you park over on this side. So, if you're 9 coming down this way and you want to park on Central 10 Street, how do you get coming back this way to park? 11 I presume that's --12 MODERATOR CURRIER: You'd have to turn 13 around. 14 ALEXANDER FAGNAND: You'd have to turn 15 around. 16 JANE LAPOINTE: Where? 17 MODERATOR CURRIER: I guess go around 18 the block or the side street. It's a valid point. JANE LAPOINTE: There's not that many 19 20 side streets to turn around on. You know, if you 21 wanted to park in between Maple Street and Railroad, 22 let's say, where would you turn around? Do you have 23 to go up to Jackson Avenue, and then turn down Jackson 24 Avenue, and then down Juniper, and back up Maple

Street Extension? I just don't understand the flow of 1 2 traffic. That's all. 3 MODERATOR CURRIER: No, you're right. 4 ALEXANDER FAGNAND: You're correct, 5 yeah. 6 MODERATOR CURRIER: I guess you could 7 take a left on 202 and then a right -- does that make 8 sense? 9 JANE LAPOINTE: Well, I'm just 10 imagining all the traffic flow. I live about a block 11 up from Maple Street on Central Street. 12 MODERATOR CURRIER: Yeah. 13 JANE LAPOINTE: And the traffic is pretty interesting these days. But I just -- just how 14 15 it's going to work. You know, part of it is because I was thinking of how narrow it is up here. 16 17 MODERATOR CURRIER: Yeah. 18 JANE LAPOINTE: And I'm realizing, you 19 know, if we look out here on Pleasant Street by the 20 library and there's parking on both sides, it's really 21 hard for two cars to get by here anyway when there's 22 parking. So, I just wonder how it's going to affect 23 all of kind of the traffic flow on the rest -- on the 24 streets that are adjacent to Central Street, the

people who have to make U's to get turned around. 1 2 MODERATOR CURRIER: Yeah. 3 JANE LAPOINTE: That's all. It's just 4 traffic flow. 5 MODERATOR CURRIER: No, it's a great 6 comment. 7 JANE LAPOINTE: I just don't know where 8 it would flow. Thanks. 9 MODERATOR CURRIER: Alex, is there a 10 town lot anywhere on Central Street that could be 11 converted into parking or near Central Street? DAVID LORING: I think we've looked at 12 13 a couple of parcels that the town owns. One is kind 14 of an abandoned right of way that we've talked with 15 them about. And there's a couple of other semi-public facilities that we've looked at as well, that we 16 17 continue to look at for additional parking. It's a complicated situation in that on the south end of the 18 19 street, as people are expressing, we have commercial 20 properties and development within a narrowly defined 21 corridor. So the area that we really want the parking 22 is limited in the public right of way, limited in 23 space available to provide the necessary pedestrian, 24 bike, automobile, and parking facilities. Whereas, to

1 the north end, where we have businesses that are 2 spread out, they have on-site parking. The corridor opens up. We can provide the on-street parking, but 3 4 we don't have the need for it. 5 MODERATOR CURRIER: Yeah. Where you 6 need it, it becomes a problem. 7 DAVID LORING: It becomes a conundrum 8 as to balancing the needs of the abutting properties 9 and where you have businesses versus where we have the 10 space to provide that. 11 MODERATOR CURRIER: Yes. Yeah. 12 DAVID LORING: And we've been 13 struggling with that and working with the Town, 14 discussing it, and trying to find alternatives and 15 options to address just that issue. 16 MODERATOR CURRIER: Thanks. We're not 17 going to figure it out here tonight, but it's great 18 we're bringing it up so we can pay attention to it and 19 really resolve it one way or the other. 20 Anybody else? 21 TOM CLINKSCALE: My name is Tom 22 Clinkscale, C-l-i-n-k-s-c-a-l-e. We are -- I'm the 23 Pastor of Bethany Bible Chapel. We have a church 24 location on Central Street on the north part of it.

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1 My only concern has to do with money. 2 Would we incur any cost in any sort of sewer/water betterments that are going to be put into the 3 4 situation like, you know, like I'm buying another 5 property and there's a sewer betterment that's 6 included when you purchase a property? Is that going 7 to be incurred by property owners along that stretch? MODERATOR CURRIER: Yes, that's 8 9 something MassDOT can't participate in. That's owned 10 by the Town.

11 We also -- we have a reimbursement 12 policy for utility relocations by private utility 13 companies like Verizon, and Eversource, and whoever, 14 where we'll match their cost. We'll split the cost 15 with them if they keep to a schedule that's mutually agreed upon. But, publicly owned utilities like water 16 17 and sewer are borne by the ratepayers. If we're 18 asking you to move it for our project, then we would 19 pay 100 percent of that cost. But if you're making 20 improvements to the water system or the sewer system, 21 that would be on the Town.

ALEXANDER FAGNAND: To clarify one point. Yeah, so the water and the sewer is considered non-participating. The state cannot pay for that

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work. It's not necessitated by the roadwork. 1 2 However, we're not talking about a betterment against, you know, the individual abutters, which is what I 3 4 believe you're referring to where there's a betterment 5 accorded against the --6 TOM CLINKSCALE: So the present 7 proposal is not -- it's just to replace the drainage 8 and the -- because it says --9 ALEXANDER FAGNAND: The stormwater will 10 be replaced. 11 TOM CLINKSCALE: Right. But sewer main 12 with service connections and water main with service 13 connections? 14 ALEXANDER FAGNAND: Those would be 15 reconnections to the right of way line, and the Town would pay for them, but not -- we're not talking about 16 17 individual betterments on the property owners. 18 TOM CLINKSCALE: Okay. 19 MODERATOR CURRIER: So, we're using a 20 roadway contract -- or, actually, the Town is going to do that work before the roadwork, correct? It's going 21 22 to be prior to this. So, the Town is going to try and 23 save some money, which is a great idea, and have our 24 roadway contractor do the sewer and water work while

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1 they're ripping up the roadway to rebuild it, which 2 makes perfect sense. But the cost of that work is 3 borne by the ratepayers in Winchendon, not MassDOT or 4 federal.

5 TOM CLINKSCALE: Okay. Thank you. 6 MODERATOR CURRIER: Yeah. 7 TOWN MANAGER KEITH HICKEY: So, to 8 answer your question I guess more directly, there is 9 no betterment that will be charged. Typically, a 10 betterment is charged when water and sewer lines are 11 extended or expanded into areas that don't have water 12 and sewer to help offset the cost. This is just replacing of 100-year-old water and sewer mains that's 13 part of the maintenance of operating a water and sewer 14 15 department. So, there would be no betterments to any of the properties along Central Street. The Town 16 17 would replace the existing water and sewer line and 18 reconnect the existing water and sewer users to the 19 new water and sewer line. 20 TOM CLINKSCALE: Okay. Thank you.

21 MODERATOR CURRIER: Thank you.
22 JOHN CALLAHAN: Would that be similar
23 to what we did on Walnut Street where you did the
24 repair; you brought the water and sewer lines to the

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residents but there was no charge to us? Is that a 1 2 similar --3 DAVID LORING: Yeah, that's the same --4 STENOGRAPHER: Could you identify 5 yourself for the record? 6 JOHN CALLAHAN: Huh? 7 MODERATOR CURRIER: Could you give us 8 your name again? 9 JOHN CALLAHAN: I gave it to you my 10 name last time. 11 STENOGRAPHER: I can't remember it. 12 (Laughter.) 13 JOHN CALLAHAN: John Callahan. 14 DAVID LORING: John Callahan. 15 STENOGRAPHER: Thank you. 16 DAVID LORING: Yeah, the work is a very 17 similar format. Everything is replaced to the public right of way. 18 19 JOHN CALLAHAN: And it didn't cost us 20 anything. 21 DAVID LORING: Correct. 22 MODERATOR CURRIER: Come on up. Yeah. 23 Thank you. 24 JILL SACKETT: Good evening. Jill

Sackett, S-a-c-k-e-t-t. I've got several questions or
 comments.

First, I think it's really, really great that we're going to be improving Central Street. I can't wait. Two years is too long to wait. And I think between that and some storefront façade work and some signage and things, it will really be a nice -it will really be a great effect. So that was my opening comment.

10 I remain really concerned, like some of the other people here, about the parking. 11 I think 12 that just because the parking doesn't appear to be used right now doesn't mean it won't need to be used 13 14 in the future. And if we have the happy result of 15 bringing business into Town, we're going to probably need even more parking than we have now. So, I really 16 17 hope that the committee can go back and see what they 18 can do to maximize the parking and re-establish parking on both sides of the street where they can, if 19 20 at all, if you can at all, even on the wider end, on 21 the north end of Central. You know, even if you can't 22 manage it down by Cumberland Farms, if you can have 23 parking on both sides of the street at the north end 24 of the street at the expense of streetscape stuff, you

know, that might be preferable, you know, in the long 1 2 run to just -- I think -- we came from a community that went through a lot of growth, and improvement, 3 4 and brought a lot of economy into the Town. And even 5 if there's a perception that it's hard to park in 6 Town, people stay away. They don't come. So, it's just -- it's really, really a big deal. And I really 7 8 feel badly for the business owners that are already 9 feeling a pinch and it's only going to get worse if 10 you cut out 60 parking spots.

11 The other thing I wanted to ask about, 12 will this improvement do anything to on the driveway 13 ramps that go up into the parking lots that exist now? 14 For example, some of the entryways into like the IGA 15 lot are so steep you actually scrape the bottom of 16 your car going up into them. So, will this work 17 alleviate any of that?

18 MODERATOR CURRIER: They will all get 19 redone.

20 JILL SACKETT: It will be shallower 21 grades?

22 MODERATOR CURRIER: Yeah. Typically, 23 MassDOT's standard detail is the sidewalk goes down 24 about three inches and then across the curb cut

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opening it remains about three inches above the gutter line so that the little ramp -- so it eases that issue. So, someone traveling the sidewalk, where that's a pronounced bump, we can do that.

5 JILL SACKETT: Okay. I just wanted to 6 make sure that was being considered because right now 7 some of those are a real problem. I actually don't --8 I avoid those turn-ins with my car.

9 And I thought Audrey made a really, 10 really good point about rerouting the bike lane, 11 whether or not it alleviates parking issues. Because 12 if you think about the plan, if you have a bike lane 13 going down on the east side of Central Street toward Front Street, I'm not even sure where it safely ends 14 15 or why you even necessarily need it to go all the way down to Front Street because we have the access to the 16 17 bike route that goes around behind those shops, you 18 know, and on out toward Gardner. And that isn't a lot 19 of real estate there. If people wanted to stop, if a 20 biker wanted to stop and go get a Subway or a donut, I 21 mean you could easily have bike stands and it's a very 22 short walk. And I would argue that it's actually 23 pretty unsafe to have a bike lane going between Summer 24 Street and Front Street on the east side of Central.

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1 MODERATOR CURRIER: Would you put it on 2 Pleasant or Beech? 3 JILL SACKETT: Pleasant. 4 MODERATOR CURRIER: Pleasant. 5 JILL SACKETT: Because the library is 6 there. 7 MODERATOR CURRIER: Oh, yeah. Right. 8 JILL SACKETT: So, you could cut 9 through from the bike lane up Summer Street, you know, 10 cross across if you had some sort of very obvious safe crosswalk there. I don't know how all the crosswalks 11 12 are being planned. But they would cross across to Pleasant Street, and then from Pleasant Street they 13 could go over to the library, and the town hall, or up 14 15 to GAR Park, and so on. You know, that would be a nice place to cut through. 16 17 MODERATOR CURRIER: That might be 18 something we could consider and present to our 19 Complete Streets engineer. 20 JILL SACKETT: Yeah, I just think it's 21 actually unsafe. As a biker, I wouldn't want to go 22 down there between Central and Front, you know. 23 And the other thing that you might 24 consider in terms of parking is is there any room to

consider diagonal parking at least on Summer Street 1 2 wrapping around by the church there? That's a pretty wide street. And would that get you back some spaces 3 4 if you had diagonal parking running along the north 5 side of Summer Street? 6 MODERATOR CURRIER: Not parallel 7 parking? 8 JILL SACKETT: I don't know. You guys 9 are the -- don't you get more spots? 10 MODERATOR CURRIER: You do, but it 11 requires the driver to back out from it. 12 JILL SACKETT: Right. But Summer Street is not a high traffic street. 13 14 MODERATOR CURRIER: Not a high traffic. 15 Okay. 16 JILL SACKETT: It might be one way to 17 offer some parking. 18 MODERATOR CURRIER: It eats up more width, but could have them at an angle. 19 20 JILL SACKETT: Summer Street right now 21 You know, so it's -- the doesn't have sidewalks. 22 other side of the street is the turn-in to the bank. 23 And that's the really only other traffic they have 24 there. It's something for you to take a look at.

DAVID LORING: No, we can certainly DAVID LORING: No, we can certainly look at it. It's working with those streets that are a little bit narrower in right of way and pavement width, and pulling in diagonally into head-in parking would take more of that roadway width up than a parallel park. But it's something we could certainly look at.

8 MODERATOR CURRIER: Maybe if you guys 9 look at all the side streets up and down the corridor 10 and see how many spots you could recreate.

11 DAVID LORING: You know, one of the 12 problems when we quote the number of lost spaces, it's a count of those that are currently marked along the 13 14 corridor. And as in any of these projects, that 15 parking evolves over time. And when we come and we redo a street, we have to comply with -- ignoring the 16 17 street footprint and its use and start to comply with 18 current parking standards, which Alex explained about 19 the intersection sight distance. That alone cost us, 20 you know, four spaces at that location because we had 21 to take away two on each side. So, those numbers were 22 all kind of in that larger number that he quoted. 23 And, fire hydrants that people don't respect the 24 proper offset from, all of that contributed to that

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1 number that was quoted, unfortunately.

2 MODERATOR CURRIER: Oh, I see. 3 DAVID LORING: So, I just wanted to 4 make that point. It wasn't just the fact that we've 5 removed it from one side. It's a reconfiguration to 6 comply with codes --7 MODERATOR CURRIER: Right. 8 DAVID LORING: -- that you would expect 9 to make it a safe street for emergency services, 10 intersection sight distance, and just people to use 11 the parking appropriately. MODERATOR CURRIER: So, in that number 12 13 60, a good number of those maybe, you know, 15 maybe or something, are not really valid spots. 14 15 DAVID LORING: A little larger than 16 that. 17 MODERATOR CURRIER: Twenty? 18 DAVID LORING: Yeah. MODERATOR CURRIER: Wow! So, really, 19 20 you're losing about 40. 21 DAVID LORING: Somewhere in that range. MODERATOR CURRIER: Something like 22 23 that, yeah. 24 DAVID LORING: Yeah.

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MODERATOR CURRIER: I don't mean to
quote an exact number. So, a good number of them are
not valid parking spaces today if you applied proper
design --

5 DAVID LORING: Yeah. And I understand 6 it's still a loss of spaces. People are using them. 7 MODERATOR CURRIER: Yeah. Yeah. 8 DAVID LORING: But it's something we

9 have to consider.

10 MODERATOR CURRIER: We can't build back
11 an invalid space, unsafe space.

12 JILL SACKETT: The only thing I wanted 13 to leave with is the plan makes sure it has very good, clear pedestrian crosswalks on more than one location 14 15 along Central Street so that it just really encourages people to feel really comfortable crossing the street. 16 17 We get a lot of people crossing the street right now for the post office, for example, in that area, and 18 19 the Clark.

And if you're going to eliminate parking down toward Cumberland Farms, you probably need something down that way so people can use the businesses. You'd end up not having a solution for parking down there.

1 MODERATOR CURRIER: I think Alex has 2 included some bump-outs at the corners. There are a 3 few. 4 ALEXANDER FAGNAND: Yeah, there are a 5 few pedestrian crossing enhancements. There's some 6 bump-outs at the corner. 7 MODERATOR CURRIER: It shortens the 8 walk. 9 ALEXANDER FAGNAND: Yeah, the curb only 10 comes out. It takes up the space that the parking 11 lane can't be in because of the intersection sight 12 distance. And it puts the pedestrian still protected by the curb line, but out a little bit more visible, 13 14 and then it shortens the actual crossing distance of 15 the road. So, there's kind of a double benefit there. 16 We also took a little bit of a look at

17 the crosswalks. And right now, as it's currently 18 proposed, the crosswalks at Summer and Grove are 19 actually we're looking at maybe a different material 20 down there to really enhance those because we have the 21 Clark is right there, the post office is right there. 22 There's a lot of activity in that corridor. Even with 23 the school up on Grove Street, you think about kids 24 coming down after school, after school programs at the

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Clark. And you want to have a nice, safe crossing
 facility there.

3 So, we did take a look and did 4 incorporate some pedestrian enhancements in the 5 design, targeted especially right in the middle there, 6 but definitely looking at the crosswalks as well. But, it's something to continue to keep an eye on 7 8 where are those desire lines and making sure people 9 are being safely accommodated, you know, where they 10 need to go across the street.

JILL SACKETT: Okay. And will there be -- if there are any significant changes made to this, will there be another opportunity for the public to see them?

MODERATOR CURRIER: We can come back and do a Public Information Meeting and present the changes to you.

18 JILL SACKETT: I think there's lot of 19 people interested in whether there's some sort of 20 parking solutions that might come up. That's all. 21 MODERATOR CURRIER: Yeah. No, I think 22 with the number of issues that we need to take a 23 closer look at, maybe it makes sense to come back and 24 explain what we came up with. It may be a

1 disappointment, or it may be, "Hey! Look what we've 2 figured out." 3 JILL SACKETT: Thank you. 4 MODERATOR CURRIER: How about -- I 5 didn't mean to ignore you. I apologize. Anybody else 6 who would like to make a comment, suggestion? Come 7 on. 8 PATRICK DOYLE: Patrick Doyle. Same 9 name, just a little older. 10 (Laughter.) 11 MODERATOR CURRIER: Aren't we all? 12 PATRICK DOYLE: I just wanted to 13 clarify. You had mentioned the necessity of waivers 14 of certain things. 15 MODERATOR CURRIER: Yeah. 16 PATRICK DOYLE: Is that federal or 17 state waivers? MODERATOR CURRIER: I believe it's a 18 19 federal requirement that we have that process in 20 place, this waiver process, yeah. 21 PATRICK DOYLE: Okay. But --22 MODERATOR CURRIER: You're right. It's 23 a federal -- to answer your question, it's federal. 24 PATRICK DOYLE: It is federal?

1 MODERATOR CURRIER: Yeah. 2 PATRICK DOYLE: Oh, thanks. MODERATOR CURRIER: The reason it's --3 4 of course, nothing is simple. We have 13 controlling 5 criteria, which are federally obligated to comply with 6 unless you can justify a waiver. They involve roadway geometry like sight distance, horizontal sight 7 8 distance, vertical sight distance, curve radius 9 minimums and maximums, super-elevation, and stuff like 10 that.

11 Then we have state-mandated design 12 criteria that involve bike accommodations, pedestrian 13 accommodations. We require, in Massachusetts, with 14 our Healthy Transportation Initiative, that every 15 roadway have two sidewalks, one in each direction, and five-foot shoulders for bike accommodation, minimum. 16 17 Today, we even want separated bike facilities if we 18 can have the room where the bikes are off the roadway 19 altogether.

20 Now, we often build a bike lane and 21 then have a painted two- or three-foot buffer that's s 22 sort of hashed out to keep the cars and the bikes 23 separated. But there's no room for that here. But 24 that's only a state thing. So, this design exception

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1 is sort of a -- mostly federal, a couple of state 2 things, too. 3 PATRICK DOYLE: Thank you. MODERATOR CURRIER: What do you think? 4 5 Yeah, come on up. Mr. Callahan. 6 JOHN CALLAHAN: Another question. With 7 this program you're doing now, you mentioned it doesn't affect Blair or Maple but it's something that 8 9 they're talking about doing in the future. Is this 10 proposal going to be able to tie into future plans for 11 that or is going to be that after you're done with 12 this it's going to have to be redone to make those 13 changes if they do a roundabout or whatever. 14 AUDREY LABRIE: Excuse me, Mr. 15 Callahan. I'm getting a signal. They can't hear you through the mic. 16 17 MODERATOR CURRIER: Oh, can you come on 18 up, Mr. Callahan? I'm sorry. You're getting your 19 steps in today. 20 JOHN CALLAHAN: Yeah, now I'm up to 42. 21 (Laughter.) 22 JOHN CALLAHAN: So, my question is, you 23 mentioned here Blair and Maple. But I know the Town 24 has talked about doing things at those. Is this going

1 to be tied into those future plans or are we going to 2 like -- I see on the highway, you blacktop it, and the 3 next thing you know you're taking the blacktop up to 4 do something over again.

5 MODERATOR CURRIER: I would hazard that 6 there might be a slight overlap where something had to 7 -- you know, where the two projects would match, there 8 might be a little overlap that has to be redone. But 9 --

10 JOHN CALLAHAN: Because obviously 11 you're talking about the bike path and everything 12 else.

13 MODERATOR CURRIER: Right.

24

14 JOHN CALLAHAN: Will that change those 15 changes around after we get this done?

16 MODERATOR CURRIER: There might be a 17 short segment at the end of this project, at each end, 18 if you're talking about the two intersections at the 19 ends, that might have to be reworked to tie into 20 whatever is designed for those two intersections. 21 DAVID LORING: Yeah, the intention is a 22 very short section. We've been coordinating a little 23 bit with MassDOT District Office on what might go in

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for improvements at those locations to try to make

sure that what we design for Central Street does not 1 2 get torn back up. You know, it's just that 25 feet or something to match the designs together. 3 4 JOHN CALLAHAN: Right. 5 DAVID LORING: But, to your point, 6 there is coordination and discussions. We don't know 7 what those intersections are going to look like yet in 8 the future, but we're trying to match the cross-9 sections to minimize that. 10 JOHN CALLAHAN: All right. Thank you. 11 MODERATOR CURRIER: Well, I see no 12 hands. What we can do is we can close this formal part and then stick around. And we'll remain here as 13 14 long as you'd like us to. And we can lean over the 15 plans and talk about your properties or what have you. 16 So, if you don't have any objection, 17 maybe I should do that and then we'll open up the 18 plans and see what we see. 19 Okay. So, Mr. Tarbox, let's close this 20 officially at 8:10. And thank you so much for coming out. I really appreciate it. I think we're going to 21 22 end up with a much better project. 23 (Whereupon, the hearing was closed at 24 8:10 p.m.)

CERTIFICATE

I, Judith A. Luciano, do hereby certify that the foregoing record is a true and accurate transcription of the proceedings in the abovecaptioned matter to the best of my skill and ability.

Judith *H.* Quciani

Judith A. Luciano

** ALL NAMES NOT PROVIDED WERE SPELLED PHONETICALLY TO THE BEST OF MY ABILITY



DESIGN PUBLIC HEARING February 28, 2019

AT

WINCHENDON TOWN HALL, 2nd FLOOR AUDITORIUM

109 Front Street

WINCHENDON, MASSACHUSETTS

7:00 PM

FOR THE PROPOSED

Central Street Reconstruction Project from Front Street to Maple Street

Project No. 608548 Roadway Project Management

IN THE TOWN OF WINCHENDON, MASSACHUSETTS

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION HIGHWAY DIVISION

JONATHAN GULLIVER HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATOR

PATRICIA A. LEAVENWORTH, P.E. CHIEF ENGINEER

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE (to be inserted here by Web Administrators)

HIGHWAY CHIEF ENGINEER LETTER (to be inserted here by Web Administrators)

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.

LOCUS MAP (To be inserted by Web Administrators)

DESCRIPTION

Project Description

The Massachusetts Department of Transportation Highway Division (MassDOT) and the Town of Winchendon (Town) propose the reconstruction of 2,200 feet of Central Street (Route 202) between Front Street and Maple Street. The primary goal of the project is to provide a safe, accessible, and multi-modal corridor to spur economic development in downtown Winchendon and better serve an aging population. The existing roadway and underlying utilities are in poor condition and do not adequately meet the needs of the community. The project will enhance accommodations for all users, with improved sidewalks, bicycle lanes, a parking lane, and travel lanes, while also introducing streetscape elements to improve the livability of downtown.

Existing Conditions

Central Street runs through the downtown urbanized center of Winchendon. There are numerous commercial and mixed-use properties abutting the road with minimal setbacks. The existing road carries one lane of traffic in each direction, with two parking lanes, and two sidewalks. The current condition of the pavement is deteriorated and many of the sidewalk ramps are not ADA compliant. There are no formal bicycle facilities. The existing drainage system is inadequate for roadway runoff and the municipal utilities serving the abutting properties are near or at the end of their service life.

Scope of Work

The proposed work involves the full-depth reconstruction of the roadway with changes to the curb lines and a minor shift of the centerline of the road, installation of new storm drain, sanitary sewer, and watermain, and introduction of streetscape features and complete streets elements to improve safety and aesthetics. Minimal earthwork is anticipated to complete the project. The proposed cross section includes one travel lane and one bike lane in each direction, with one parking lane. New cement concrete sidewalks will be installed on either side of the road.

<u>Right-of-way Impacts</u>

Temporary construction easements are required to reconstruct driveways, make utility connections, and to accommodate grading from the construction. No permanent acquisitions are currently planned. MassDOT's policy regarding land acquisitions will be discussed at the hearing.

Maintenance of Traffic During Construction

It is the intent of the project that Central Street will remain open to through traffic. Some temporary lane reductions and closures during construction may be required, which could restrict vehicles to alternating traffic flow. Access to abutting properties shall be maintained at all times during construction. ADA compliant pedestrian accommodations will also be maintained at all times.

Project Construction Costs

The participating costs for the project will be funded with a combination of moneys from the Federal Highway Administration and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and is currently estimated at \$5.1 million. Additional non-participating utility costs will be funded by the Town.

THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION HIGHWAY DIVISION

FEDERAL AID PROJECT

Winchendon, MA Central Street Reconstruction Project File No. 608548

This sheet is provided for your comments. Your input is solicited and appreciated. Please return your sheet, with comments, to a staff member at the meeting, or mail to:

Patricia A. Leavenworth, P.E., Chief Engineer MassDOT – Highway Division 10 Park Plaza, Boston, MA 02116-3973 Attn: Roadway Project Management

The final date for receipt of written statements and exhibits for inclusion into the official hearing transcript will be ten (10) days after the Public Hearing.

PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT LEGIBLY.

Name:	Title:
Organization:	
Address:	

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	

RE: Public Hearing CENTRAL STREET RECONSTRUCTION PROJECT **WINCHENDON** Project File No. 608548 Insert section: Roadway Project Management

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MassDOT Public Hearing **Central St. Improvements** Winchendon Town Hall February 28, 2019

SIGN IN SHEET

NAME	ADDRESS
1. Audrey LaBrie	125 Royalston Rd. N.
1. Audrey LaBrie 2. tracy muphy 3. ARTINUN ANKNIA JR	P&D Winchendon town hall
3. ARTINUN ANKNIA JR	52 JACKSON AYE
4. Dane La Pointe	359 Contral St
5. MARCA BROULLETTE	359 Contral St 40-44 CENTRAL ST 19 VAINEST (HOME)
6. Ruth Defmicis	1 Colonial Ave
7. JOHN CALLAHAN	111 CENTRA ST
8. David Walsh	80 Central St
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