

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

Executive Office of Environmental Affairs ■ MEPA Office

**ENF**

**Environmental Notification Form**

*For Office Use Only*  
 Executive Office of Environmental Affairs  
 EOEA No.: 13287  
 MEPA Analyst: Anne Canaday  
 Phone: 617-626-1035

The information requested on this form must be completed to begin MEPA Review in accordance with the provisions of the Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act, 301 CMR 11.00.

Project Name: Route 106 Reconstruction		
Street: Rte 106 from Hope Street to East Street (Easterly Intersection)		
Municipality: Mansfield	Watershed: Taunton River	
Universal Transverse Mercator Coordinates: Start: 4655720N; 316960E. End: 4655060N; 319500E	Latitude: Start: 70°12'30"W End: 42°01'45"N Longitude: Start: 42°2'00"N End: 71°10'30"W	
Estimated commencement date: 2004	Estimated completion date: Fall 2005	
Approximate cost: 3.7 million dollars	Status of project design: 100 %complete	
Proponent: Town of Mansfield/Massachusetts Highway Department		
Street: 10 Park Plaza, Room 4260		
Municipality: Boston	State: MA	Zip Code: 02116
Name of Contact Person From Whom Copies of this ENF May Be Obtained: Patrick Leahy		
Firm/Agency: Massachusetts Highway Department	Street: 10 Park Plaza, Room 4260	
Municipality: Boston	State: MA	Zip Code: 02116
Phone: 617.973.8245	Fax: 617.973.8879	E-mail: patrick.leahy@mhd.state.ma.us

- Does this project meet or exceed a mandatory EIR threshold (see 301 CMR 11.03)?  
 Yes  No
- Has this project been filed with MEPA before?  
 Yes (EOEA No. \_\_\_\_\_)  No
- Has any project on this site been filed with MEPA before?  
 Yes (EOEA No. \_\_\_\_\_)  No
- Is this an Expanded ENF (see 301 CMR 11.05(7)) requesting:
- A Single EIR? (see 301 CMR 11.06(8))  Yes  No
  - A Special Review Procedure? (see 301CMR 11.09)  Yes  No
  - A Waiver of mandatory EIR? (see 301 CMR 11.11)  Yes  No
  - A Phase I Waiver? (see 301 CMR 11.11)  Yes  No

Identify any financial assistance or land transfer from an agency of the Commonwealth, including the agency name and the amount of funding or land area (in acres): MassHighway 20% FHWA 80%

Are you requesting coordinated review with any other federal, state, regional, or local agency?  
 Yes (Specify \_\_\_\_\_)  No

Which ENF or EIR review threshold(s) does the project meet or exceed (see 301 CMR 11.03):

- Land
- Water
- Energy
- ACEC

- Rare Species
- Wastewater
- Air
- Regulations

- Wetlands, Waterways, & Tidelands
- Transportation
- Solid & Hazardous Waste
- Historical & Archaeological Resources

Summary of Project Size & Environmental Impacts	Existing	Change	Total	State Permits & Approvals
<b>LAND</b>				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Order of Conditions <input type="checkbox"/> Superceding Order of Conditions <input type="checkbox"/> Chapter 91 License <input type="checkbox"/> 401 Water Quality Certification <input type="checkbox"/> MHD or MDC Access Permit <input type="checkbox"/> Water Management Act Permit <input type="checkbox"/> New Source Approval <input type="checkbox"/> DEP or MWRA Sewer Connection/ Extension Permit <input type="checkbox"/> Other Permits <i>(including Legislative Approvals) – Specify:</i>
Total site acreage	12 ac (4.9 ha)			
New acres of land altered		.3 ac (0.1 ha)		
Acres of impervious area	10 ac (4.0 ha)	0.4 ac (0.2 ha)	10.4 ac (4.2 ha)	
Square feet of new bordering vegetated wetlands alteration		0		
Square feet of new other wetland alteration		0		
Acres of new non-water dependent use of tidelands or waterways		0		
<b>STRUCTURES</b>				
Gross square footage	N/A	N/A	N/A	
Number of housing units	N/A	N/A	N/A	
Maximum height (in feet)	N/A	N/A	N/A	
<b>TRANSPORTATION</b>				
Vehicle trips per day	18,800	0	18,800	
Parking spaces	0	0	0	
<b>WATER/WASTEWATER</b>				
Gallons/day (GPD) of water use	0	0	0	
GPD water withdrawal	0	0	0	
GPD wastewater generation/treatment	0	0	0	
Length of water/sewer mains (in miles)	0	0	0	

**CONSERVATION LAND:** Will the project involve the conversion of public parkland or other Article 97 public natural resources to any purpose not in accordance with Article 97?

Yes (Specify \_\_\_\_\_ )  No

Will it involve the release of any conservation restriction, preservation restriction, agricultural preservation restriction, or watershed preservation restriction?

Yes (Specify \_\_\_\_\_ )  No

**RARE SPECIES:** Does the project site include Estimated Habitat of Rare Species, Vernal Pools, Priority Sites of Rare Species, or Exemplary Natural Communities?

Yes (Specify PH 1230 & WH 438 Polygons MNHA July 2003.)  No

No work is proposed that would alter the habitat of a rare species.

**HISTORICAL /ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCES:** Does the project site include any structure, site or district listed in the State Register of Historic Place or the inventory of Historic and Archaeological Assets of the Commonwealth?

Yes (Specify \_\_\_\_\_ )  No

The Mansfield Historical Commission has been contacted (see attached). In addition, the Massachusetts Highway Department's Cultural Resources Section will coordinate its review with the MHC in compliance with state Chapter 254 or federal Section 106 (as appropriate).

If yes, does the project involve any demolition or destruction of any listed or inventoried historic or archaeological resources?

Yes (Specify \_\_\_\_\_ )  No

**AREAS OF CRITICAL ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERN:** Is the project in or adjacent to an Area of Critical Environmental Concern?

Yes (Specify: Canoe River Aquifer ACEC)  No

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION:** The project description should include (a) a description of the project site, (b) a description of both on-site and off-site alternatives and the impacts associated with each alternative, and (c) potential on-site and off-site mitigation measures for each alternative (You may attach one additional page, if necessary.)

The Town of Mansfield, in conjunction with MassHighway, proposes minor roadway widening, intersection improvements, and replacement of the Canoe River Bridge along a 2.9-kilometer (9500-foot) segment of State Route 106 from the Hope Street intersection to the easterly intersection with East Street. In addition to resurfacing deteriorated pavement, the project includes measures to improve traffic safety, upgrade or maintain the level of service provided at traffic intersections in the project area, improve bicycle safety, improve certain sidewalks and cross walks to enhance pedestrian safety and to replace a 47-year old bridge. The proposed project will also improve access to transportation facilities that serve the area such as the Mansfield Commuter Rail Station and the Greater Attleboro Taunton Regional Transit Authority (GATRA). GATRA provides public transportation services in the form of buses throughout 17 member communities, including a bus line connecting Mansfield and Norton. Proposed work includes: reconstruction of five intersections to add turning lanes and correct substandard geometrics, traffic signal improvements, demolition of the existing Canoe River Bridge and construction of a new replacement bridge, re-striping to better define travel lanes and provide wider paved shoulders, and the reconstruction of existing sidewalks and the addition of wheelchair ramps to comply with the American with Disabilities Act (ADA). New sidewalks will also be installed to fill gaps in the existing network. New deep sump catch basins will be installed in the existing closed drainage system to improve sediment-trapping efficiency.

and, where possible, flared end sections and energy dissipating structures will be added at culvert outfalls.

Three alternatives were evaluated for this project. Alternative 1 is the "no build" alternative, which would consist solely of repaving the roadway without other improvements. This alternative would not provide the safety, level of service, or accessibility improvements included in the project purpose. No alternatives outside of the current Route 106 right-of-way (ROW) were considered because they would have very high right-of-way acquisition costs and greater impacts to existing cultural and natural resources.

Two build alternatives were considered within the existing ROW. Alternative 2 would provide a minimum roadway cross section consisting of two 3.5-meter (11.5-foot) wide travel lanes and two 2.5-meter (8.2-foot) wide shoulders. Alternative 2 would meet the minimum lane and right shoulder width requirements for an urban arterial without median as provided in Table 5.1 of the 1997 Massachusetts Highway Design Manual. Alternative 3 would retain the 3.5-meter (11.5-foot) travel lane width but would reduce the shoulder width to 2.0-meters (6.5-feet). MassHighway cited the significant reduction in wetland impacts, reduction in cost of improvements to adjacent private properties, and impact avoidance at the Canoe River Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) as reasons for approving a design exception for minimum shoulder width for the Route 106 improvements. Alternative 3 was chosen as the preferred alternative for this project.

### **Existing Conditions**

The segment of State Route 106 to be improved is typically 11 meters (36 feet) wide with one 3.7-meter (12-foot) wide travel lane in each direction and two 1.8-meter (6-foot) wide shoulders. Sidewalks exist throughout most of the project length, but are discontinuous in some segments near the Franklin Street intersection. Route 106 is an east/west route that runs from the Foxborough/Mansfield town line through Mansfield Town Center and continues easterly into Easton. The Mansfield Commuter Rail Station, which is part of the MBTA Attleboro/ Stoughton line, is located in the Town Center adjoining Route 106. The Mansfield Police Department recorded seventy-one accidents in the project corridor over the three-year period from 1998 to 2000. Forty-seven accidents occurred at intersections. Stormwater runoff is handled by both closed and open drainage systems in the project corridor. Existing catch basins have smaller sediment sumps than the current MassHighway standard. Route 106 crosses the Canoe River, an ACEC, on a bridge constructed in 1957. The Massachusetts Natural Heritage Atlas GIS coverage indicates the presence of two priority habitats of rare species and one estimated habitat of rare wildlife within the immediate vicinity of the project corridor.

### **Proposed Conditions**

Under proposed conditions, the overall roadway width will be 11 meters (36 feet), which is the existing typical paved width. In order to improve traffic operations, minimize congestion and improve flow to regional transportation facilities minor widening will be necessary in some segments that do not match this width. The travel lanes will be narrowed 0.2 meters (0.7 feet) to 3.5 meters (11.5 feet) and shoulders will be widened to a minimum of 2.0 meters (6.5 feet) to improve bicycle safety. MassHighway has approved a design exception from the recommended minimum shoulder width of 2.5 meters to 2.0 meters for this roadway improvement. The project is able to undertake this substantial improvement without direct impact to wetland resources, other than Riverfront Area. Five substandard intersections (Hope Street, East Street, Franklin Street, Stearns Avenue and Eastman Street) will be reconstructed to improve the safety and level of service provided. Congestion on Route 106 not only affects people commuting by car but also travelers accessing other modes of transportation, in view of the fact that 106 serves as a link to the Mansfield Commuter Rail Station and piece of the Mansfield/Norton GATRA line. The Canoe River Bridge will be replaced by constructing new abutments in the back of the existing abutments. The existing abutments and downstream wing-walls will remain in place to minimize stream disturbance, provide scour

protection, and retain fill. No permanent alteration of bordering vegetated wetland will occur at the ACEC. In an effort to improve stormwater quality, existing catch basins will be replaced with catch basins designed with deep sumps to improve sediment trapping efficiency, and where necessary, energy dissipation structures will be installed at culvert outfalls to prevent erosion. Wheelchair ramps will be added to sidewalks to comply with the ADA.

In accordance with 310 CMR 11.03 (11)(b), this project requires an Environmental Notification Form because a portion of the project is located within a designated ACEC.

**LAND SECTION – all proponents must fill out this section**

**I. Thresholds / Permits**

A. Does the project meet or exceed any review thresholds related to **land** (see 301 CMR 11.03(1))      Yes   X   No; if yes, specify each threshold:

**II. Impacts and Permits**

A. Describe, in acres, the current and proposed character of the project site, as follows:

	<u>Existing</u>	<u>Change</u>	<u>Total</u>
Footprint of buildings	<u>    N/A    </u>	<u>    N/A    </u>	<u>    N/A    </u>
Roadways, parking, and other paved areas	<u>  10 ac  </u>	<u>  0.4 ac  </u>	<u>  10.4 ac  </u>
Other altered areas (describe)	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
Undeveloped areas	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>

B. Has any part of the project site been in active agricultural use in the last three years?      Yes   X   No; if yes, how many acres of land in agricultural use (with agricultural soils) will be converted to nonagricultural use?

C. Is any part of the project site currently or proposed to be in active forestry use?      Yes   X   No; if yes, please describe current and proposed forestry activities and indicate whether any part of the site is the subject of a DEM-approved forest management plan:

D. Does any part of the project involve conversion of land held for natural resources purposes in accordance with Article 97 of the Amendments to the Constitution of the Commonwealth to any purpose not in accordance with Article 97?      Yes   X   No; if yes, describe:

E. Is any part of the project site currently subject to a conservation restriction, preservation restriction, agricultural preservation restriction or watershed preservation restriction?      Yes   X   No; if yes, does the project involve the release or modification of such restriction?      Yes   X   No; if yes, describe:

F. Does the project require approval of a new urban redevelopment project or a fundamental change in an existing urban redevelopment project under M.G.L.c.121A?      Yes   X   No; if yes, describe:

G. Does the project require approval of a new urban renewal plan or a major modification of an existing urban renewal plan under M.G.L.c.121B? Yes      No   X   ; if yes, describe:

H. Describe the project's stormwater impacts and, if applicable, measures that the project will take to comply with the standards found in DEP's Stormwater Management Policy:

Project will improve the stormwater quality in the project area by installing deep sump catch basins and, where feasible, reconstructing outfalls with flared end sections and stone aprons to dissipate flows.