

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.: 14276
 MEPA Analyst: Aisling Eglinton
 Phone: 617-626-1034

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: King Street at Interstate 495 Ramps Roadway Reconstruction		
Street: King Street		
Municipality: Franklin	Watershed: Charles River	
Universal Transverse Mercator Coordinates: X: 301480.8, Y: 4661445.9	Latitude: 42.08 N Longitude: 71.40 W	
Estimated commencement date: 2009	Estimated completion date: 2010	
Approximate cost: \$3,800,000.00	Status of project design: 100 %complete	
Proponent: MassHighway		
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: Catherine Rilla		
Firm/Agency: MassHighway	Street: 10 Park Plaza, Room 4260	
Municipality: Boston	State: MA	Zip Code: 02116
Phone: (617) 973-7882	Fax: (617) 973-8879	E-mail: Catherine.Rilla@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): It is anticipated that the Massachusetts Highway Department will fund 20% and the Federal Highway Administration will fund 80% of the construction costs.

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

List Local or Federal Permits and Approvals: MA Wetlands Protection Act, Final Order of Conditions (issued 1/26/06), U.S. EPA, NPDES - Storm Water General Permit; National Environmental Policy Act, Categorical Exclusion Determination.

Categorical Exclusion Determination.

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

- | | | |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Land | <input type="checkbox"/> Rare Species | <input type="checkbox"/> Wetlands, Waterways, & Tidelands |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Water | <input type="checkbox"/> Wastewater | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Transportation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Energy | <input type="checkbox"/> Air | <input type="checkbox"/> Solid & Hazardous Waste |
| <input type="checkbox"/> ACEC | <input type="checkbox"/> Regulations | <input type="checkbox"/> Historical & Archaeological Resources |

Summary of Project Size & Environmental Impacts	Existing	Change	Total	State Permits & Approvals
LAND				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Order of Conditions <input type="checkbox"/> Superseding 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other Permits (including Legislative Approvals) – Specify: NPDES - Storm Water General Permit
Total site acreage	7.57			
New acres of land altered		2.01		
Acres of impervious area	4.20	2.01	6.21	
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		
STRUCTURES				
Gross square footage				
Number of housing units				
Maximum height (in feet)				
TRANSPORTATION				
Vehicle trips per day				
Parking spaces				
WATER/WASTEWATER				
Gallons/day (GPD) of water use				
GPD water withdrawal				
GPD wastewater generation/ treatment				
Length of water/sewer mains (in miles)				

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 _____) No

Based on review of the Estimated Habitat of Rare Species and Priority Habitat of Rare Species information provided in MassGIS, there is no Rare or Endangered Species habitat located within the project corridor.

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 MassHighway Cultural Resources Unit (CRU) has reviewed the project under the terms of the 2004 Massachusetts Statewide Programmatic Agreement for Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended [36 CFR Part 800.3(a)(2)]. The CRU has determined that based on the nature of the project and the lack of National Register (NR) listed or eligible properties within the project area, this project requires no further review in accordance with Stipulation V.B. of the amended Section 106 Programmatic Agreement.

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 _____) 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.)

MassHighway and the Town of Franklin are proposing the King Street at I-495 Ramps Roadway Improvement Project in Franklin, Massachusetts. The purpose of this project is to reduce traffic congestion and improve vehicular, pedestrian, and bicycle safety at several intersections along King Street at I-495. Traffic on King Street suffers from severe traffic congestion. With approximately 22,750 vehicles per day (vpd) (2000) traveling along King Street at I-495, this area experiences very poor Levels of Service (LOS). The traffic volumes are forecast to increase to 34,325 vpd by 2010, which will result in even more severe traffic congestion in the project area.

The project includes improvements to the four I-495 Ramps intersection with King Street, and extends along King Street from Union Street to Upper Union Street, and includes Upper Union Street from King Street to Constitution Boulevard.

King Street is currently a two lane Urban Minor Arterial in Franklin. Within the project boundaries, the speed limit is 30 miles per hour. Land use around King Street at the I-495 Ramps is predominately commercial, including the Franklin Industrial Park on Constitution Blvd., and some residential use.

This project will address a number of specific traffic operation problems in the project area including poor LOS characterized by lengthy intersection delays, long vehicle queues, and high accident rates at the signalized and unsignalized intersections along King Street. For example, the I-495 northbound and southbound exit-ramps both function at LOS F in the morning and evening peak hours. The King Street/Upper Union Street signalized intersection operates at LOS E in the morning peak hour and LOS C in the evening peak hour. Accident data collected from 1997 to 1999 indicate that the King Street/Union Street intersection and the King Street/I-495 northbound and southbound ramp intersections had 20 and 34 accidents, respectively.

Reasons for poor traffic operations include lack of sufficient roadway width, inadequate signals, and undefined turning lanes. Other deficiencies along King Street include lack of sidewalks in some areas, lack of handicapped access, and undefined bicycle accommodations.

Public involvement has been a very important aspect of this project. On October 27, 2003, a Design Public Hearing was held in Franklin to provide the public an opportunity to become fully acquainted with the design of the project and make comments concerning the project. The Town of Franklin held an additional project informational meeting on May 15, 2008.

To minimize impacts to the abutting wetlands and residential and commercial property in the project area, documentation was prepared by the design consultant seeking a Design Exemption from the highway design parameters established in *MassHighway Project Development and Design Guide* (2006 edition). MassHighway's Chief Engineer reviewed this documentation and approved the Design Exception. The Design Exception permitted the design of the four lane cross section of King Street to be reduced from 62 feet to 52 feet. The narrower roadway width minimized impact to abutting residential and commercial properties and wetlands, and reduced the number of trees to be removed. Several alternatives were considered for the design of the intersection of King Street and Constitution Blvd. The preferred alternative for this location was chosen because it would meet the safety goals of the project, effectively manage the anticipated increased future traffic volumes from the adjacent Franklin Industrial Park and allows for the construction of a stormwater detention basin and landscaping (within the abandoned portion of Upper Union Street).

The preferred alternative includes the following elements:

- Widening of King Street to provide two lanes in each direction with left and right turning lanes at appropriate locations and designated bicycle travel lanes.

- Widening and realigning Upper Union Street to make Constitution Blvd the major traffic movement.
- Upgrading signals at King Street/Upper Union Street intersection and providing two left turn lanes from King Street to Upper Union Street.
- Removing existing concrete pavement and reconstructing four I-495 Ramps with full depth asphalt pavement.
- Installing new signals at the intersections of I-495 Southbound and Northbound Ramps and upgrading the signals along King Street to provide better traffic flow.
- Providing six-foot sidewalks along the south side of King Street with wheel chair ramps at appropriate intersections.

Land acquisition will be required at two of the intersections. The south side of King Street will be widened by approximately 15 feet for a distance of approximately 375 feet west of the King Street/Union Street intersection. The total land area of these takings is approximately 5,400 square feet. This widening is required to construct an exclusive right turn lane at the eastbound approach to the intersection. This widening will impact the landscaped front area of Joe's American Bar and Grill and the Silver Maple Commons. A landscaping plan has been developed to beautify this area.

At the Upper Union Street/Constitution Boulevard intersection, approximately 3,500 square feet of town-owned land (rear portion of Fire Station property) at the northwest corner of the intersection will be acquired to construct the two southbound right-turn lanes into Constitution Boulevard.

A Notice of Intent was submitted for this project to the Franklin Conservation Commission for work within the 100-foot buffer zone to BVW. An Order of Conditions was issued by the Franklin Conservation Commission on 1/26/06. A red maple swamp associated with a perennial stream is located in the area between Constitution Boulevard and the Franklin Water Tank. Another forested wetland associated with an intermittent stream isolated in an area just west of Upper Union Street. Approximately 11,620 square feet of impacts to buffer zone will occur due to this project. No work is proposed in any regulated wetland resource areas.

A substantial stormwater system upgrade is proposed at the intersection of Upper Union Street and Constitution Boulevard consisting of the construction of a detention basin within the abandoned portion of Upper Union Street. For erosion and sedimentation controls along the boundaries of the wetland resource areas during construction, staked hay bales and polyethylene fabric fencing will be installed.

The proposed project exceeds MEPA review thresholds for Transportation. In accordance with the MEPA regulations (301 CMR 11.03 (6)(b)(1)(b)) an ENF required because the project requires the widening of an existing roadway by four or more feet for one-half or more miles.