

*For Office Use Only*  
*Executive Office of Environmental Affairs*

EOEA No.: **13855**  
 MEPA Analyst: **Ann Canaday**  
 Phone: 617-626-**X1035**

# ENF Environmental Notification Form

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: Somerset Avenue Roadway Improvements Project		
Street: Somerset Avenue and Lawton Street		
Municipality: Taunton	Watershed: Taunton River	
Universal Transverse Mercator Coordinates: 46 40349 N to 46 37828 N 19 326514 E to 19 325 145 E	Latitude: 41°53.77' N to 41°52.38' N Longitude: 71°5.51' E to 71°6.46' E	
Estimated commencement date: 2006	Estimated completion date: 2007 (9 months)	
Approximate cost: \$5,000,000.00	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: Michael Furlong		
Firm/Agency: MassHighway	Street: 10 Park Plaza, Room 4260	
Municipality: Boston	State: MA	Zip Code: 02116
Phone: 617-973-8067	Fax: 617-973-7484	E-mail: Michael.Furlong@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):

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

List Local or Federal Permits and Approvals: Final Order of Conditions, NPDES - Storm Water General Permit

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
<b>LAND</b>				<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	14.07			
New acres of land altered		1.07		
Acres of impervious area	11.32	1.07	12.39	
Square feet of new bordering vegetated wetlands alteration		0		
Square feet of new other wetland alteration		158.30		
Acres of new non-water dependent use of tidelands or waterways		0		
<b>STRUCTURES</b>				
Gross square footage				
Number of housing units				
Maximum height (in feet)				
<b>TRANSPORTATION</b>				
Vehicle trips per day		50		
Parking spaces				
<b>WATER/WASTEWATER</b>				
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 Memorial Park, a City Park - the alignment in front of the park will be altered slightly the City will retain the property)  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

According to the 2003 Massachusetts Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Atlas, there are no Rare or Endangered Species 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 See Attachment)  No

The MassHighway Cultural Resources Unit 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)], and has determined that the project will have No Adverse Effect on properties that are listed or may be eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. (See attached MHC concurrence dated 3/9/06)

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 in cooperation with the City of Taunton has proposed reconstruction of Somerset Avenue/ Lawton Street from Baker Road to Weir Street (Route 138) and is located in the southeastern corner of the City of Taunton. The project length is approximately 1.75 miles. The land use in the project area is primarily residential. The proposed project will include: geometric improvements & roadway widening; construction/reconstruction of sidewalks, wheelchair ramps, driveway aprons and walls where necessary; removing and resetting, or installing new curbs where necessary; installing new pavement markings and signs. The purpose of this project is to improve safety with geometric and stopping sight improvements as well as provide accessibility in compliance with the American with Disabilities Act. An ENF is required because the project will require the removal of more than five public mature trees and widening four feet or more for a half mile or more. This north/south arterial (Route 138) is a major regional transportation corridor. The new roadway and its improvements will also benefit the service of the Route 5 bus line which travels down Somerset Avenue. The project complies with MA Fix it First policies. The road will be reconstructed in place to improve efficiency and safety. The project also complies with Communities First policies. The

City through the Mayor's office has reviewed this project and provided opportunity for community input.

### **Existing Conditions**

The portions of Lawson Street and Somerset Avenue within the project limits are functionally classified as an urban minor arterial roadway. Lawson Street and Somerset Avenue are part of an area highway network and serve as a primary travel route for localized residential, business, and through traffic.

Existing land use abutting Somerset Avenue consists of a combination of single and multi-family residences, and scattered retail-commercial businesses. From south of Weir Street to the vicinity of Fifth Street, adjacent dwellings are densely sited on short frontage parcels with walls, fences, and shrubbery located immediately at the back of the sidewalks. South of Fifth Street, adjacent land usage becomes increasingly less urbanized, with a general increase in lot frontages and setback distances. There are no major traffic generation sources located directly on the roadway within the project limits.

The curb to curb width varies along much of Lawton Street and Somerset Avenue. The combination of short horizontal curves and the wide variety of curbing materials creates a variable edge of pavement width. The curb to curb width can vary from 26 feet to 32 feet, with 30 feet being typical for the roadway.

Based on site reconnaissance and surveys, the review of record plans and the U.S.G.S. quadrangle map, there appears to be only one resource area within 100' of the project area, this being where Cobb Brook crosses Somerset Avenue between Highland Street and Fifth Street. The existing culvert has recently been replaced.

Memorial Park and Leddy School are located within the project limits. Somerset Avenue is a primary route to Memorial Park which is located between Forest Street and Orchard Street. Leddy School is located on Second Street east of Somerset Avenue.

### **Purpose and Need**

- Very poor existing roadway pavement.
- Many existing blind spots created by the short horizontal curves that are present.
- Intersection sight distance concerns due to poor geometry and numerous obstructions.
- Sidewalks and wheelchair ramps are not ADA compliant.
- Irregular cross sections and poor roadway delineation.

ADTs: 8,600 V.P.D. (1995)  
12,000 V.P.D. (2015)

### **Proposed Improvements**

In general, the construction scope of work will be as follows:

- Geometric improvements & roadway widening
- Construction/reconstruction of sidewalks, wheelchair ramps, and driveway aprons and walls where necessary
- Removing and resetting, or installing new curbs where necessary
- Installing new pavement markings and signs

The proposed project involves the reconstruction of Route 138 (Lawton Street/Somerset Avenue) for approximately 1.75 miles from Baker Road on the south to Weir Street on the north. Work includes

full depth reconstruction of the existing paved roadway, intersection realignments, roadway widening, traffic signal installation, drainage improvements and sidewalk and wheelchair ramp construction. Upon completion, the roadway will be 34 feet wide and carry a 12 foot travel lane and a 5 foot paved shoulder in each direction.

Minor geometric improvements are proposed for nearly every intersection in the project area, with more major realignments proposed for the following six intersections along Somerset Avenue: Lawton Avenue North (sheet 27), Highland Street (sheet 30), Fifth Street (sheet 32), Second Street (sheet 35), First Street (sheet 36), Barnum/East Walnut Street (sheet 40). New mast arm traffic signals will be installed at the intersection of Somerset Avenue and First Street to replace the outmoded existing pole mounted traffic signals.

Minor roadway widening from three to eight feet will occur along Somerset Avenue and Lawton Street to create a minimum roadway width of 34 feet throughout the project area. More substantial widening is proposed at the following locations to flatten out sharp curves in the roadway: 20 feet along the west side of Lawton Street south of Somerset Avenue (sheet 27), 20 feet along the west side of Somerset Avenue across from the intersection with Highland Street (sheet 30), 16 feet along the east side of Somerset across from Fifth Street (sheet 32), 20 feet along the east side of Somerset Avenue across from Barnum/East Walnut Streets (sheet 40).

All existing bituminous concrete sidewalks will be removed throughout the project area and new cement concrete sidewalks with granite curb will be constructed along both sides of Somerset Avenue and Lawton Street. New cement concrete wheelchair ramps will be constructed along the sidewalks and existing driveway aprons will be reconstructed. Drainage improvements include installation of new deep sump catch basins, drop inlets, manholes and pipe. An existing reinforced concrete box culvert will be extended by approximately 5 feet on the west side of Somerset Avenue south of Fifth Street (sheet 59). New concrete headwalls will be constructed at both ends of the culvert.

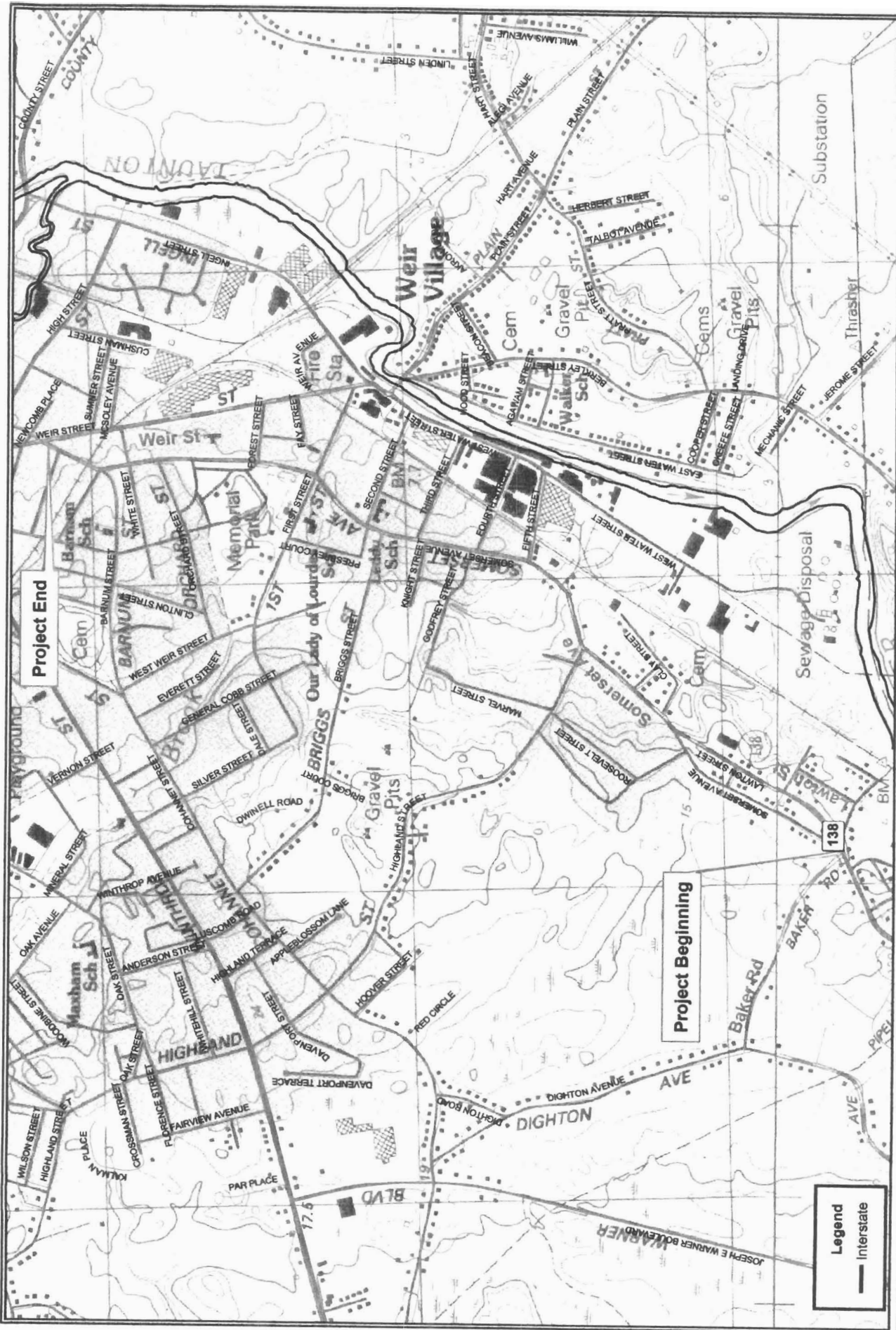
Low granite retaining walls and granite fence posts will be removed and reset along Somerset Avenue between White Street and Orchard Street. Several new cemented fieldstone retaining walls will be constructed along Somerset Avenue at locations of proposed roadway widening. Several curbside trees will be removed to facilitate roadway widening or sidewalk construction.

#### **Avoidance, Minimization and Mitigation Measures**

The project has been designed to minimize impacts to the abutting area. A waiver was obtained to provide a narrower cross section (34' instead of 40'). The narrower roadway width minimizes impact to abutting properties and wetlands and requires the removal of fewer trees. 31 additional trees will be planted as part of this project.

#### **Alternative Analysis**

The alternatives considered for this project involved larger roadway cross sections. The 34 foot roadway section minimizes impacts to the abutting area while maintaining successful traffic operations. Reconstruction in place would not meet the safety goals of the project.



# Commonwealth of Massachusetts

## Taunton: Somerset Ave Roadway Improvement Project Rt 138: Baker Rd to Weir St

**Legend**  
 — Interstate



**EOT**  
 MASSACHUSETTS  
 EXECUTIVE OFFICE  
 OF TRANSPORTATION