

For Office Use Only
Executive Office of Environmental Affairs
 MEPA Analyst: *Nick ZAVOLAS*
 Phone: 617-626-*1030*

NPC

Notice of Project Change

The information requested on this form must be completed to begin MEPA Review of a NPC in accordance with the provisions of the Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act and its implementing regulations (see 301 CMR 11.10(1)).

Project Name: Methuen - I-93 at the Route 110/Route 113 Rotary Interchange Reconfiguration and Reconstruction		EOEA #: 14279
Street: I-93/Route 110/Route 113/Riverside Drive		
Municipality: Methuen	Watershed: Merrimack	
Universal Tranverse Mercator Coordinates: Zone 19N x=318960 y=4730452.503	Latitude: 42°42'18.872" Longitude: 71°12'37.929"	
Status of project construction: 0 %complete		
Proponent: Massachusetts Highway Department		
Street: 10 Park Plaza		
Municipality: Boston	State: MA	Zip Code: 02116
Name of Contact Person From Whom Copies of this NPC May Be Obtained: E. Ryan McNeill		
Firm/Agency: MassHighway	Street: 10 Park Plaza, Room 4260	
Municipality: Boston	State: MA	Zip Code: 02116
Phone: 617-973-7446	Fax: 617-973-8879	E-mail: e.ryan.mcneill@state.ma.us

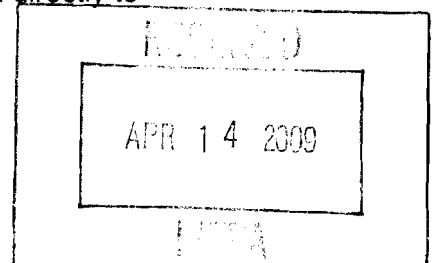
In 25 words or less, what is the project change? This NPC is a Phase I Waiver Request for construction of certain short term improvements prior to completion of the Draft EIR.

See full project change description beginning on page 3.

Date of ENF filing or publication in the Environmental Monitor: July 9, 2008

Was an EIR required? Yes No; if yes,
 was a Draft EIR filed? Yes (Date:) No
 was a Final EIR filed? Yes (Date:) No
 was a Single EIR filed? Yes (Date:) No

Have other NPCs been filed? Yes (Date(s):) No
 If this is a NPC solely for lapse of time (see 301 CMR 11.10(2)) proceed directly to
"ATTACHMENTS & SIGNATURES" on page 4.



PERMITS / FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE / LAND TRANSFER

List or describe all new or modified state permits, financial assistance, or land transfers not previously reviewed:

Are you requesting a finding that this project change is insignificant? (see 301 CMR 11.10(6))

Yes No; if yes, attach justification.

Are you requesting that a Scope in a previously issued Certificate be rescinded?

Yes No; if yes, attach the Certificate

Are you requesting a change to a Scope in a previously issued Certificate? Yes No; if

yes, attach Certificate and describe the change you are requesting:

Summary of Project Size & Environmental Impacts	Previously reviewed	Net Change	Currently Proposed
LAND			
Total site acreage	45	0	45
Acres of land altered	7.17	0.01	7.18
Acres of impervious area	21.89	0.01	21.90
Square feet of bordering vegetated wetlands alteration	23,500	0	23,500
Square feet of other wetland alteration	0	0	0
Acres of non-water dependent use of tidelands or waterways	0	0	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)			

Does the project change involve any new or modified:

1. conversion of public parkland or other Article 97 public natural resources to any purpose not in accordance with Article 97? Yes No
 2. release of any conservation restriction, preservation restriction, agricultural preservation restriction, or watershed preservation restriction? Yes No
 3. impacts on Estimated Habitat of Rare Species, Vernal Pools, Priority Sites of Rare Species, or Exemplary Natural Communities? Yes No
 4. impact on 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 No; if yes, does the project involve any demolition or destruction of any listed or inventoried historic or archaeological resources? Yes No
 5. impact upon an Area of Critical Environmental Concern? Yes No
- If you answered 'Yes' to any of these 5 questions, explain below:

PROJECT CHANGE DESCRIPTION (attach additional pages as necessary). The project change description should include:

- (a) a brief description of the project as most recently reviewed
- (b) a description of material changes to the project as previously reviewed,
- (c) the significance of the proposed changes, with specific reference to the factors listed 301 CMR 11.10(6), and
- (d) measures that the project is taking to avoid damage to the environment or to minimize and mitigate unavoidable environmental impacts. If the change will involve modification of any previously issued Section 61 Finding, include a proposed modification of the Section 61 Finding (or it will be required in a Supplemental EIR).

Project Description – This Notice of Project Change is a Phase I Waiver Request for the construction of two of the Short Term Improvements discussed in the ENF and Secretary's Certificate on the ENF. MassHighway would like to design and construct an I-93 Interchange 46 Northbound Bypass Lane and install a new traffic signal at the intersection of Route 110 and Riverside Drive in advance of submittal of the Draft Environmental Impact Report. Both of these Short Term Improvements were discussed in the ENF within the parameters of the larger Methuen Rotary Interchange project.

Material Changes to the Project as Previously Reviewed – Both of these improvements were identified and recommended as part of the short-term improvement packages for the Methuen Rotary Interchange Project. However, these projects have now advanced beyond the conceptual design phase and more detailed engineering plans have been developed. Wetland resource impacts have now been refined for these two improvements and will include approximately 7835 square feet of the 100-foot wide buffer of two bordering vegetated wetlands (BVW) (Wetland C 5985 SF and Wetland D 1850 SF) resulting from the construction of the northbound bypass lane. The traffic signal and sidewalk modifications will impact 460 square feet of Bordering Land Subject to Flooding (BLSF) and will have no impact on the 100-foot wide buffer of another BVW (Wetland E) and no impact on the 200-foot wide riverfront area.

Significance of Proposed Project Changes pursuant to 301 CMR 11.10(6) – The proposed project changes are insignificant in consideration of the following factors:

- (a) The proposed changes will not result in an increase in the physical dimensions of the overall project by more than 10%.
- (b) The proposed changes will not result in an increase of any impacts in excess of 25% of any review threshold and will not generate any increase in release or emission of pollutants or contaminants during or after completion of the project.
- (c) The proposed project change will not change the commencement of the project or commencement of construction, since these proposed short-term improvements were recommended for implementation to provide temporary relief until the proposed long-term improvements could be designed, permitted and constructed.
- (d) There is no change in the project site.
- (e) The only “new” application associated with the proposed short-term improvements will be a Notice of Intent (NOI) pursuant to the Wetlands Protection Act.
- (f) The proposed project change will not prevent or delay the realization of net benefits to environmental quality and resources or public health. These improvements will provide some temporary relief for traffic congestion and safety at two specific locations.
- (g) The proposed project change does not involve a lapse of time.

Measures to Avoid, Minimize and Mitigate Environmental Impacts – The design of the I-93 Exit 46 northbound off-ramp bypass has attempted to avoid impacts to the buffer zones of Wetlands C and D to the extent practicable. However, adherence to engineering design and highway safety standards will require a minor amount of impacts to these resources. Impacts have been minimized to the extent practicable. There are no direct impacts to BVW resulting from the northbound off-ramp bypass lane or from the traffic signal installation and therefore no mitigation is proposed. Impacts to the BLSF will not consist of any flood storage loss since the proposed short section of new sidewalk will be constructed at the same elevation as the existing raised median island. There will be 460 square feet of work within the BLSF, but no additional fill within the floodplain (BLSF).

ATTACHMENTS & SIGNATURES

Attachments:

1. Secretary's most recent Certificate on this project
2. Plan showing most recent previously-reviewed proposed build condition
3. Plan showing currently proposed build condition
4. Original U.S.G.S. map or good quality color copy (8-1/2 x 11 inches or larger) indicating the project location and boundaries
5. List of all agencies and persons to whom the proponent circulated the NPC, in accordance with 301 CMR 11.10(7)

Signatures:

<u>4/10/09</u>	<u>Kevin M. Walsh</u>	<u>4/10/09</u>	<u>William P. Grace</u>
Date	Signature of Responsible Officer or Proponent	Date	Signature of person preparing NPC (if different from above)

<u>Kevin M. Walsh</u>	<u>William P. Grace</u>
Name (print or type)	Name (print or type)
<u>MassHighway</u>	<u>TranSystems</u>
Firm/Agency	Firm/Agency
<u>10 Park Plaza</u>	<u>38 Chauncy Street</u>
Street	Street
<u>Boston, MA 02116</u>	<u>Boston, MA 02111</u>
Municipality/State/Zip	Municipality/State/Zip
<u>617-973-7484</u>	<u>857-453-5497</u>
Phone	Phone