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May 10, 2006

CERTIFICATE OF THE SECRETARY OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS
ON THE
ENVIRONMENTAL NOTIFICATION FORM

PROJECT NAME : Bennett Street Improvements Project
PROJECT MUNICIPALITY : Gloucester
PROJECT WATERSHED : North Coastal
EOEA NUMBER : 13769
PROJECT PROPONENT : City of Gloucester Engineering Department
DATE NOTICED IN MONITOR : April 10, 2006

Pursuant to the Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act (G. L. c. 30, ss. 61-62H) and Section 11.06 of the MEPA regulations (301 CMR 11.00), I hereby determine that this project **does not require** the preparation of an Environmental Impact Report (EIR).

As described in the Environmental Notification Form (ENF), the project involves the construction of roadway and drainage infrastructure improvements along 3,900 linear feet (lf) of Bennett Street from the Washington Street/Bennett Street intersection south to the Bennett Street/Dennison Street intersection in Gloucester. According to the information contained in the ENF, the project involves 2,200 lf of in-place pavement reclamation, 1,700 lf of gravel base preparation, and the installation of bituminous concrete pavement over the entire 3,900 lf of Bennett Street to improve roadway geometry and site distance. The roadway improvement project will create a uniform 20-foot wide roadway throughout the Bennett Street project corridor. The proposed drainage improvements include the construction of approximately thirteen new stormwater catch basins and new drain pipe within the Bennett Street right-of-way.

The project is undergoing review pursuant to sections 11.03 (6)(b)(1)(b) and (6)(b)(2)(b) of the MEPA regulations, because the project involves widening an existing roadway by more than four feet for a distance of more than ½ mile, and the cutting of five or more public shade trees of 14 inches or more in diameter. The project will require an Order of Conditions from the Gloucester Conservation Commission, (and hence a Superseding Order from the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) if the local Order were appealed).

This project will also require a 401 Water Quality Certificate. According to comments received from the Department of Environmental protection (DEP) the proposed project must comply with DEP's Solid Waste and Air Quality Control regulations. Because proponent is seeking funding or financial assistance from the Commonwealth for the proposed project, MEPA jurisdiction extends to all aspects of the project that may cause significant Damage to the Environment.

Stormwater/Drainage:

As described in the ENF, the project will increase the amount of paved area by approximately one acre. The increases in stormwater runoff generated by the project will be mitigated by the implementation of Best Management Practices (BMPs) including approximately 14 new 4-foot deep sump hooded catch basins to be located at each of the low elevation points along the project corridor. The proposed catch basins will discharge treated stormwater to adjacent wetland resource areas. The proponent has committed to maintain catch basins and sediment traps.

Wetlands:

According to statements made by the proponent during the MEPA Scoping Session for the project, the project has been design to avoid direct impacts to bordering vegetated wetlands (BVW) and wetlands resource areas.

Based on a review of the information provided by the proponent and after consultation with the relevant public agencies, I find that the review of the ENF has served to demonstrate that the potential impacts of the project do not warrant the preparation of an EIR. The proponent can finalize the proposed drainage improvements and the mitigation of wetlands, and any remaining issues, during the process of final design and in the permitting process.

May 10, 2006
DATE


Stephen R. Pritchard, Secretary

Comments received: None

ENF #13769
SRP/NCZ/ncz