



*The Commonwealth of Massachusetts*  
*Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs*  
100 Cambridge Street, Suite 900  
Boston, MA 02114

Deval L. Patrick  
GOVERNOR

Timothy P. Murray  
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

Ian A. Bowles  
SECRETARY

Tel: (617) 626-1000  
Fax: (617) 626-1181  
<http://www.mass.gov/envir>

July 24, 2009

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

PROJECT NAME : Route 106/Route 24 Commuter Parking Lot Upgrade  
PROJECT MUNICIPALITY : West Bridgewater  
PROJECT WATERSHED : Taunton  
EEA NUMBER : 14436  
PROJECT PROPONENT : MassHighway  
DATE NOTICED IN MONITOR : June 24, 2009

Pursuant to the Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act (M.G. L. c. 30, ss. 61-62I) 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 consists of the expansion and upgrade of an existing "Park and Ride" facility operated by MassHighway. The project includes the addition of 40 parking spaces to supplement the existing 155 parking spaces to improve parking capacity to meet current and future demand. The proposed expansion work includes grading, drainage, paving, and the installation of sidewalks, curbing and signage. The existing parking area will be repaved and parking spaces will be re-striped. A designated bus pull-out area will be provided on Pleasant Street adjacent to the parking areas to facilitate boarding of passengers. Covered bicycle accommodations will also be provided on site. Access to the parking areas will be provided from Old West Center Street via the intersection of West Center Street (Route 106) and Pleasant Street.

Estimated environmental impacts associated with the project include the alteration of approximately 0.51 acres of the 1.66 acre project site through the creation of new impervious surfaces. Under existing conditions approximately 1.04 acres of the project site are paved; the total impervious area on-site subsequent to the project will be 1.55 acres. The project will create 40 additional parking spaces and is estimated to generate approximately 180 new vehicle trips per day. The project is located within the Hockomock Swamp Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC). The project site will be leased from the Town of West Bridgewater to MassHighway. The property is not designated as Article 97 land, therefore no additional action by State legislature is required to facilitate this project.

### Jurisdiction

The project is undergoing review pursuant to Section 11.03(11)(b) of the MEPA regulations because the project is being undertaken by a State agency and is located within a designated ACEC. The project will not require any State permits.

The project will be undertaken by and financed in part by MassHighway, a State agency. Therefore, MEPA jurisdiction for this project is broad and extends to all aspects of the project that are likely, directly or indirectly, to cause Damage to the Environment as defined in the MEPA regulations.

### Transportation

The existing Park and Ride facility services the Route 24 corridor and is served by a regional commuter bus. As noted by both MassHighway and the Old Colony Planning Council (OCPC), the existing facility is consistently over-capacity. The project will provide an additional 40 parking spaces, for a facility total of 195. The anticipated increase in vehicle trips per day is estimated at 180, for a site total of 878. The project is consistent with both the 2007 Regional Transportation Policy and the 2000 OCPC Regional Policy Plan. Project funding has been programmed in the OCPC endorsed 2007-2010 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).

As recommended by OCPC, MassHighway should work with the Town of West Bridgewater to identify any potential safety problems associated with the Route 106 and Pleasant Street intersection to affirm that the project will not exacerbate existing conditions. As necessary, the Proponent should identify and develop applicable strategies and/or improvements in the area directly attributable to the project's impacts on traffic conditions. Additionally, as a means to further enhance the use of the Park and Ride facility, MassHighway should incorporate signage and transportation schedule and map information into the project site to further assist commuters.

Stormwater


The project is located outside of wetlands jurisdiction under the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act (WPA), but as noted previously, it is located within the Hockomock Swamp ACEC. Furthermore, I note the Department of Conservation and Recreation’s (DCR) comment that the project is located within a Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) approved Wellhead Protection Area (Zone II). I encourage the Proponent to consider DCRs comments regarding stormwater treatment levels, stormwater system upgrades, and the proposed use of porous pavement on-site in the final construction design. I encourage the Proponent to prepare a long-term operation and maintenance plan for the site’s stormwater management system, including protocols for snow removal and storage.

Construction Period

The Proponent should confirm that the preparation of a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) in accordance with the NPDES Construction General Permit will not be required for the project. Regardless, given the location of the project in the ACEC, I strongly encourage the Proponent to establish construction period Best Management Practices (BMPs) to control erosion and sedimentation. A construction sequencing plan should be established that limits restrictions on the on-going operations of the Park and Ride facility during the construction period. Additionally, I encourage the Proponent to consider participation in the MassDEP Diesel Retrofit Program to mitigate the construction period impacts of diesel emissions. MassDEP staff is available to assist in the implementation of construction period diesel emission mitigation, which could include the installation of after-engine emission controls such as diesel oxidation catalysts (DOCs) or diesel particulate filters (DPFs). Finally, I strongly encourage that construction equipment operate on ultra low sulfur diesel (ULSD) fuel, which will be required for off-road engines in 2010.

Based on the information in the ENF and after consultation with relevant public agencies, I find that no further MEPA review is required at this time. The project may proceed to State permitting.

July 24, 2009  
Date

  
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Ian A. Bowles

Comments received:

- 07/08/2009 Old Colony Planning Council
- 07/14/2009 Department of Conservation and Recreation – Areas of Critical Environmental Concern Program
- 07/14/2009 Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection – SERO
- 07/23/2009 West Bridgewater Board of Selectmen

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