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August 8, 2008

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

PROJECT NAME : King Street at Interstate 495 Ramps Roadway  
 Reconstruction  
 PROJECT MUNICIPALITY : Franklin  
 PROJECT WATERSHED : Charles River  
 EEA NUMBER : 14276  
 PROJECT PROPONENT : Massachusetts Highway Department (MassHighway)  
 and the Town of Franklin  
 DATE NOTICED IN MONITOR : July 9, 2008

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).

The proposed project consists of roadway improvements along an approximately one-half mile segment of King Street including the I-495 ramps and other intersections. The purpose of the project is to address operational deficiencies due to inadequate roadway width, traffic signals and turning lanes. The project is expected to reduce traffic congestion and improve vehicular, pedestrian and bicycle safety. Impacts associated with the project include approximately two acres of new impervious area, cutting of one public shade tree, and 11,620 square feet of buffer zone alteration. The project will also require easements or land takings on two properties, totaling 5,400 square feet of land area.

The project is undergoing MEPA review because it is being undertaken by a state agency and because it exceeds the MEPA review threshold at Section 11.03(6)(1)(b) for the proposed widening of an existing roadway by four or more feet for one-half or more miles. The project requires an Order of Conditions from the Franklin Conservation Commission (and, on appeal only, a Superseding Order from the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP)). The project will also require a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Construction Stormwater General Permit from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).



Because the project will be undertaken by a state agency (MassHighway), MEPA jurisdiction extends to all aspects of the project that may cause Damage to the Environment as defined in the MEPA regulations.

The proposed roadway improvements consist of:

- Widening at King Street to provide two lanes in each direction with left and right turning lanes and designated bicycle travel lanes;
- Widening and realigning of Upper Union Street to make Constitution Boulevard the major traffic movement;
- Upgrading of signals at King Street/Upper Union Street intersection and provision of two left turn lanes from King Street to Upper Union Street;
- Removal of existing concrete pavement and reconstruction of I-495 ramps with full depth asphalt paving;
- Installation of new signals at the intersection of I-495 southbound and northbound ramps and upgrading of signals along King Street to provide better traffic flow; and
- Construction of six-foot sidewalks along the south side of King Street with wheel-chair ramps at appropriate intersections.


An Order of Conditions for the project was issued by the Franklin Conservation Commission on January 26, 2006 and is valid until January 26, 2009. The proponents intend to request an extension of the Order before the expiration date. The proponent has committed to measures to avoid and minimize or mitigate impacts including:

- A new detention basin to improve stormwater management at the intersection of Upper Union Street and Constitution Boulevard;
- Erosion and sedimentation controls to protect wetlands resource areas during construction;
- A landscaping plan for properties impacted by the proposed road widening; and
- Tree planting (31 trees).

The Environmental Notification Form (ENF) has defined the nature and general elements of the project and proposed measures to avoid and minimize, or mitigate environmental impacts. Based on a review of the ENF, comments received, and consultation with relevant public agencies, I find that the project does not warrant preparation of an EIR. I am satisfied that any remaining issues can be adequately addressed during the state funding and local permitting processes. The proposed project requires no further review under MEPA.

August 8, 2008

DATE



Ian A. Bowles, Secretary

Comments Received:

- 7/29/08 Paul F. Matthews and Adam C. Ploetz, ARC of Innovation  
on behalf of the 495/MetroWest Corridor Partnership.
- 7/29/08 Margaret C. Ranieri, D.G. Ranieri Real Estate

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