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September 7, 2006

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

PROJECT NAME : Somerset Avenue Roadway Improvements Project  
PROJECT MUNICIPALITY : Taunton  
PROJECT WATERSHED : Taunton River  
EOEA NUMBER : 13855  
PROJECT PROPONENT : MassHighway  
DATE NOTICED IN MONITOR : August 8, 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 reconstruction and widening 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 proposed length is approximately 1.75 miles. 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; and installing new pavement markings and signs.

The project is undergoing review pursuant to Sections 11.03 (6)(b)1.b of the MEPA regulations, because the project will result in the widening of an existing roadway by four feet or

more for a distance of more than ½ mile. Because the proponent is seeking financial assistance from the Commonwealth for the project, MEPA jurisdiction exists over all aspects of the project that may cause significant Damage to the Environment. The project will not require any state permits.

If the proponent will seek federal funding, a project-level air quality analysis will be necessary to ensure consistency with the State Implementation Plan (SIP). If applicable, this analysis must be completed prior to the proponent's receipt of funding.

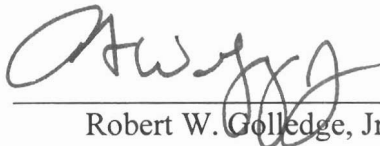
The project involves the installation of sidewalks. Consistent with the requirements of M.G.L. Ch. 90 Section 2A, the proponent should ensure that the roadway design accommodates bicyclists to the maximum feasible extent. The final design of the roadway should also ensure appropriate signage and striping in the area where the roadway widens.

The project does involve 158 square feet of wetland alterations. The project has received a Final Order of Conditions for the project on May 3, 2006 from the Taunton Conservation Commission.

I conclude that no further MEPA review is required. The review of the ENF has served to adequately disclose impacts and mitigation, and to demonstrate that the impacts of the project do not warrant the preparation of an EIR. The proponent can resolve any remaining issues during the process of final design.

September 7, 2006

Date

  
Robert W. Colledge, Jr.

Comments received:

08/25/06 Department of Environmental Protection SERO

RWG/ACC/acc