

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Environmental Affairs ■ MEPA Office

ENF Environmental Notification Form

<i>For Office Use Only</i> <i>Executive Office of Environmental Affairs</i>
EOE No.: <i>14394</i> MEPA Analyst: <i>Purvi Patel</i> Phone: 617-626- <i>1029</i>

The information requested on this form must be completed to begin MEPA Review in accordance with the provisions of the Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act, 301 CMR 11.00.

Project Name: Transportation Improvement Project Route 181, Belchertown		
Street: Route 181		
Municipality: Belchertown		Watershed: Chicopee River
Universal Tranverse Mercator Coordinates: 714323.35 to 719004.50 4683769.99 to 4676589.52		Latitude: 42°16'36.18" N to 42°12'38.76" N Longitude: 72°24'03.25" W to 72°20'48.92" W
Estimated commencement date: Summer 2010		Estimated completion date: Summer 2012
Approximate cost: \$5,300,000		Status of project design: 25% complete
Proponent: Massachusetts Highway Department, Town of Belchertown		
Street: 10 Park Plaza		
Municipality: Boston		State: MA
Zip Code: 02116		
Name of Contact Person From Whom Copies of this ENF May Be Obtained: Jessie Wilson		
Firm/Agency: MassHighway		Street: 10 Park Plaza
Municipality: Boston		State: MA
Zip Code: 02116		
Phone: (617) 973-8281	Fax: (617) 973-8879	E-mail: Jessie.Wilson@mhd.state.ma.us

Does this project meet or exceed a mandatory EIR threshold (see 301 CMR 11.03)?

Yes No

Has this project been filed with MEPA before?

Yes (EOEA No. _____) No

Has any project on this site been filed with MEPA before?

Yes (EOEA No. _____) No

Is this an Expanded ENF (see 301 CMR 11.05(7)) requesting:

a Single EIR? (see 301 CMR 11.06(8)) Yes No

a Special Review Procedure? (see 301CMR 11.09) Yes No

a Waiver of mandatory EIR? (see 301 CMR 11.11) Yes No

a Phase I Waiver? (see 301 CMR 11.11) Yes No

Identify any financial assistance or land transfer from an agency of the Commonwealth, including the agency name and the amount of funding or land area (in acres): The project will be funded 80% by the Federal Highway Administration and 20% by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. The project does not require a land transfer from the Commonwealth.

Are you requesting coordinated review with any other federal, state, regional, or local agency?

Yes (Specify _____) No

List Local or Federal Permits and Approvals:

National Environmental Policy Act Categorical Exclusion – Federal Highway Administration; Order of

Conditions - Belchertown Conservation Commission; Massachusetts Programmatic General Permit (PGP) – Army Corps of Engineers, Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act Review/Clearance – Massachusetts Historical Commission; NPDES General Construction Permit – US Environmental Protection Agency

Which ENF or EIR review threshold(s) does the project meet or exceed (see 301 CMR 11.03):

- | | | |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Land | <input type="checkbox"/> Rare Species | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Wetlands, Waterways, & Tidelands (301 11.03 (3)(b)1.f.) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Water | <input type="checkbox"/> Wastewater | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Transportation (301 11.03 (6)(b)1.b. & 301 11.03 (6)(b)2.b.) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Energy | <input type="checkbox"/> Air | <input type="checkbox"/> Solid & Hazardous Waste |
| <input type="checkbox"/> ACEC | <input type="checkbox"/> Regulations | <input type="checkbox"/> Historical & Archaeological Resources |

Summary of Project Size & Environmental Impacts	Existing	Change	Total	State Permits & Approvals
LAND				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Order of Conditions <input type="checkbox"/> Superseding Order of Conditions <input type="checkbox"/> Chapter 91 License <input type="checkbox"/> 401 Water Quality Certification <input type="checkbox"/> MHD or MDC Access Permit <input type="checkbox"/> Water Management Act Permit <input type="checkbox"/> New Source Approval <input type="checkbox"/> DEP or MWRA Sewer Connection/ Extension Permit <input type="checkbox"/> Other Permits <i>(including Legislative Approvals) – Specify:</i>
Total site acreage	39.4			
New acres of land altered		0		
Acres of impervious area	18.8	4.7	23.5	
Square feet of new bordering vegetated wetlands alteration		2,241		
Square feet of new other wetland alteration		56,035 <i>(Riverfront)</i>		
Acres of new non-water dependent use of tidelands or waterways		0		
STRUCTURES				
Gross square footage	N/A	N/A	N/A	
Number of housing units	N/A	N/A	N/A	
Maximum height (in feet)	N/A	N/A	N/A	
TRANSPORTATION				
Vehicle trips per day	7,474	0	7,474	
Parking spaces	N/A	N/A	N/A	
WATER/WASTEWATER				
Gallons/day (GPD) of water use	N/A	N/A	N/A	
GPD water withdrawal	N/A	N/A	N/A	
GPD wastewater generation/ treatment	N/A	N/A	N/A	
Length of water/sewer mains (in miles)	N/A	N/A	N/A	

CONSERVATION LAND: Will the project involve the conversion of public parkland or other Article 97 public natural resources to any purpose not in accordance with Article 97?

- Yes (Specify _____) No

Will it involve the release of any conservation restriction, preservation restriction, agricultural

preservation restriction, or watershed preservation restriction?

Yes (Specify _____) No

RARE SPECIES: Does the project site include Estimated Habitat of Rare Species, Vernal Pools, Priority Sites of Rare Species, or Exemplary Natural Communities?

Yes No

An Estimated Habitat for Rare Wildlife (EH209) and Priority Habitat for Rare Species (PH308) are shown on the Massachusetts Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program (MNHESP) 2008 Atlas. In correspondence dated May 22, 2007, the MNHESP indicated that the wood turtle (*Glyptemys insculpta*) a state species of special concern have been identified in the vicinity of the project (see attached correspondence). A Wetlands Protection Act (WPA)-streamlined review of the project and activities located within Priority and/or Estimated Habitat will be completed with MNHESP during the Notice of Intent process.

HISTORICAL /ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCES: Does the project site include 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

A review of project plans, the State and National Registers of Historic Places and information compiled from the Massachusetts Historical Commission (MHC)'s statewide inventory and site files by MassHighway's Cultural Resources Unit (CRU) staff has revealed that the northerly project limits on Route 181 at Maple Street pass through the Belchertown Center Historic District, which is listed in the National Register of Historic Places. In addition, the project route passes by the Clapp Memorial Library (BLC.32), which is individually listed in the National Register, as well as a number of properties that are included in the Inventory of Historic and Archaeological Assets of the Commonwealth.

No recorded archaeological sites have been identified in the immediate vicinity of the project area. CRU staff will evaluate project impacts to National Register-listed or -eligible properties within the project's Area of Potential Effect (APE), and will coordinate their review with the MHC under the terms of the amended Section 106 Programmatic Agreement.

If yes, does the project involve any demolition or destruction of any listed or inventoried historic or archaeological resources?

Yes (Specify _____) No

AREAS OF CRITICAL ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERN: Is the project in or adjacent to an Area of Critical Environmental Concern?

Yes (Specify _____) No

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The project description should include (a) a description of the project site, (b) a description of both on-site and off-site alternatives and the impacts associated with each alternative, and (c) potential on-site and off-site mitigation measures for each alternative.

The Massachusetts Highway Department (MassHighway) and the Town of Belchertown propose to reconstruct and rehabilitate 5.65 miles of Route 181 (intermittently also known as South Main Street,

Mill Valley Road, Franklin Street, and Depot Street) from its intersection with Route 202 to 200 feet from the Swift River Bridge and the Palmer town line. Route 181 is a two-lane county roadway running in a north/south direction through Belchertown. It is functionally classified as a rural minor arterial and serves mainly a residential area. Several wetland areas are found adjacent to Route 181 and several streams cross under it. It also serves as a major route for vehicles traveling to the Massachusetts Turnpike and the University of Massachusetts-Amherst. The current Average Daily Trips for this road is 4,800 and the expected Average Daily Trips in the design year is 5,300.

Route 181 will be reconstructed to a final lane configuration of two, 11.5 foot travel lanes and two, 3.5 foot shoulders. Safety improvements to be constructed as a part of this project include sight distance improvements, bicycle accommodation improvements, sidewalk reconstruction, roadway drainage improvements, guard rail installation and installation of pavement markings and signage as well as other project incidentals.

The project is being designed in accordance with the design parameters established under the MassHighway Highway Project Development and Design Guide. The Guide allow communities to enhance historic and community character, extend the service life of an existing roadway, enhance safety for all users, reduce maintenance costs and protect the environment. Projects constructed under this program provide roadway improvements that follow the existing horizontal and vertical roadway alignments or generally fall within the existing "footprint" of the project roadways. These parameters have been established to protect the characteristics of the town centers, local, natural and historic resources and public lands as well as to be sensitive to private property located in the vicinity of roadway improvement project.

Project alternatives considered the "No-Build" alternative, which was rejected because it would not serve to improve the existing substandard roadway conditions along Route 181 nor improve the environment as the existing poor drainage characteristics of the roadway would remain. A "Replacement In-kind" alternative was considered and rejected as the replacement of Route 181 as is would not improve horizontal and vertical roadway deficiencies. Sidewalks would not be reconstructed, and shoulders would not be widened to provide safer pedestrian and bicyclist passage. This alternative was further rejected because it did not address concerns such as substandard sight distance and inadequacies in the drainage system.

The preferred alternative is the context-sensitive "Reconstruction" solution, which uniformly reconstructs the project roadway within the existing footprint of the road. Pavement condition in the corridor ranges from poor to good. In sections where the pavement has been determined to be in poor condition four (4) inches of asphalt will be removed and replaced with two (2) inches of binder course with two (2) inches of top course asphalt. Segments that were determined to be in fair or good condition will be cold planed to a depth of two (2) inches and overlaid with two (2) inches of asphalt. Sections that were determined to be in very good condition will be overlaid with two (2) inches of asphalt. Existing catch basins and drop inlets within the project limits will be replaced with deep sump structures in order to conform to current stormwater best management practices. A new stormwater drainage system will be implemented with a closed system with collection of pavement runoff in catch basins and drop inlets and discharged at natural watercourses. The existing cross culvert at Jabish Canal is in good condition and shall be retained. Roadway drainage system modifications will be designed for a 10 year storm and utilize infiltration systems and existing drainage outfalls. The stormwater management system will collect and treat the runoff prior to release, improving existing water quality. All existing guard rail will be removed and reset with new posts and terminal end sections. All existing asphalt berm, asphalt sidewalks, as well as striping will be replaced in conformance with the latest standards.

This project requires an Environmental Notification Form pursuant to 301 11.03 (3)(b)1.f., 11.03 (6)(b)1.b. and 11.03(6)(b)2.b. The project requires the alteration of half-acre or more other wetlands (Riverfront Area), the widening of an existing roadway by four or more feet for one-half or more and

the cutting of five (5) or more living public shade trees 14 or more inches in diameter at breast height (dbh). In this case, the project will result in 56,035 square feet of Riverfront Area alteration; the project roadway will be widened to a uniform 30 foot wide cross-section and will result in the removal of 34 public shade trees.