

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Environmental Affairs ■ MEPA Office

ENF Environmental Notification Form

For Office Use Only
Executive Office of Environmental Affairs

EOEA No.: 14376
 MEPA Analyst: Anne Canaday
 Phone: 617-626-1035

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: Rehabilitation of Route 169 Roadway, Southbridge, MA		
Street: Route 169 (N. Woodstock Road)		
Municipality: Southbridge, MA	Watershed: Quinebaug	
Universal Transverse Mercator Coordinates: 4661506N 746996 E	Latitude: 42°04'14"N Longitude: 72°01'00"W	
Estimated commencement date: Spring 2009	Estimated completion date: Fall 2010	
Approximate cost: \$4,500,000.00	Status of project design: 25% Design	
Proponent: MassHighway		
Street: 10 Park Plaza, Room 4260		
Municipality: Boston	State: MA	Zip Code: 02116
Name of Contact Person From Whom Copies of this ENF May Be Obtained: Michael Trepanier		
Firm/Agency: MassHighway	Street: 10 Park Plaza, Room 4260	
Municipality: Boston	State: MA	Zip Code: 02116
Phone: 617-973-8250	Fax: 617-973-8879	E-mail: michael.trepanier@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 301 CMR 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 Massachusetts Highway Department is funding 20% and the Federal Highway Administration is funding 80% of the construction costs.**

Are you requesting coordinated review with any other federal, state, regional, or local agency?
 Yes (Specify _____) No

List Local or Federal Permits and Approvals: **Wetlands Protection Act – Notice of Intent, Order of Conditions, Section 404 Programmatic General Permit (PGP I), National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) General Permit for Construction Activities, National Environmental Policy Act (Categorical Exclusion), Section 106 Review**

FEB 10 2009

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 type="checkbox"/> Wetlands, Waterways, & Tidelands |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Water | <input type="checkbox"/> Wastewater | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Transportation: 301 CMR 11.03(6)(b)1.b., 301 CMR 11.06(6)(b)2.b., 301 CMR 11.06(6)(b)2.c. |
| <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	14			
New acres of land altered		3.52		
Acres of impervious area	8.6	1.9	10.5	
Square feet of new bordering vegetated wetlands alteration		269		
Square feet of new other wetland alteration		16,800 (Riverfront Area)		
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	N/A	N/A	N/A	
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 (**Specify: Priority Habitat: 1194 and Estimated Habitat 2055 (see Figure 1)**) No

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

(Specify: Two locations adjacent to Route 169 are listed on the National Register of Historic Places. These locations include the Bacon-Morse Historic District and the Smith-Lyon Farmhouse)

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 (*You may attach one additional page, if necessary.*)

The Massachusetts Highway Department (MassHighway) is proposing the reconstruction of approximately 3.1 miles of Route 169 (North Woodstock Road) from the Connecticut border to the intersection of Route 169 and Golf Street in Southbridge. The purpose of the project is to reconstruct and widen the roadway, improve roadway drainage, and improve intersection geometrics and safety while maintaining the roadway's historic character.

Land use adjacent to Route 169 along the southern portion of the project area (between the Connecticut boarder and the Upland Avenue intersection) is predominantly rural, having residential homes on large lots set back from the roadway. The north section of Route 169 is more densely developed, however this area still contains several undeveloped parcels and rural residential homes.

Existing Conditions:

Currently, Route 169 has two functional classifications. The section of Route 169 from the Connecticut border north to the intersection with Upland Avenue is classified as a "Rural Major Collector". The remaining portion of Route 169, from Upland Avenue to Golf Street, is classified as "Urban Minor Arterial".

The southern section of Route 169, classified as a Rural Major Collector, has an average roadway width of 22 feet. The width varies along this portion of the roadway between 20 and 24 feet. The northern section of Route 169, classified as an Urban Minor Arterial, has an average roadway width of 24 feet wide, varying between 22 feet and 26 feet wide.

Traffic volumes along Route 169 in the project area are modest. Traffic counts for Route 169 were taken at two locations. One survey location was near the Connecticut boarder. The average daily traffic (ADT) volume in this section was 1,930 vehicles per day (vpd). In 2022, the forecast ADT volume is expected to increase to 2,175 vpd. Traffic volume in the northern portion Route 169 is approximately 3,013 vpd. The forecast ADT volume for this section of Route 169 in 2022 is 3,400 vpd. Truck traffic on Route 169 represents 6% of the total vehicles surveyed.

In addition to the varying roadway width and forecast traffic volume increases, Route 169 has existing safety deficiencies including substandard vertical alignments and sight distance, poor pavement condition, and inefficient drainage.

Proposed Conditions:

MassHighway proposes to maintain the existing horizontal alignment along Route 169 while improving the vertical alignment in select locations. This will improve roadway drainage efficiency, improve sight distance and meet the desired 40 mile-per-hour design speed criteria to the extent possible.

Additional proposed improvements include minor box widening to provide a consistent paved roadway width. Roadway widening will be conducted in a manner that minimizes impacts to the historic and wetland resources. The southern portion of Route 169 (the Connecticut boarder north to Upland Avenue) will be widened from an average 22 feet to 26 feet (11 foot traveling lanes with 2 foot shoulders). The northern section of Route 169 (Upland Avenue north to Golf Street) will be widened from an average 24 feet to 30 feet (11 foot traveling lanes with 4 foot shoulders). The increase in width would have numerous safety benefits for motorists, pedestrians, and bicyclists.

The project also involves the relocation of existing stone wall adjacent to Route 169. In some locations, based on their extreme state of disrepair, stone walls will be removed without replacement. The widening of Route 169 also requires the removal of approximately 36 shade trees along the roadway.

MassHighway proposes further safety improvements, including realigning the intersection of Tipton Rock Road, Upland Avenue, and Jennison Street. Additionally, the vertical alignment of Route 169, immediately south of Tipton Rock Road, will be raised to improve sight distance. The proposed adjustments bring the existing roadway sight distance and curve radius to the desired 40 mile-per-hour design standard.

Based on discussions with the Town of Southbridge, the intersection of the North Woodstock Road and Old North Woodstock Road will be reconfigured to a "T" intersection. This will allow for better turning radii and increased visibility.

MassHighway also proposes drainage system improvements to improve efficiency and function. These improvements will be designed to meet the DEP's Stormwater Management Policy. Specific BMP to be used are included in MassHighway's Stormwater Handbook such as new drop inlets, water quality swales, and reconfigured or fully replaced catch basins.

A public informational meeting was held on March 1, 2006. MassHighway presented the current conditions of Route 169 as well as the proposed roadway layout and safety features. The meeting was open to the public and all abutters were notified. Public feedback at the meeting was generally positive.

Two wetland resource areas will be impacted along Route 169. One wetland area is located approximately 350 feet south of the intersection of Tipton Rock Road and Route 169. The wetlands are at the outlet of a 12" pipe. The wetland impact area is approximately 40 SF. A second wetland area is located approximately 1,000 feet south of the intersection of Old North Woodstock Road and Route 169 at the outlet end of a 36" cross pipe. This wetland impact area is approximately 229 SF in size. A wetland replication area will be located on the west side of the roadway, across from the larger impacted wetland area. This wetland replacement area will be 272 SF in size.

Two Species of Special Concern were found in the vicinity of the project. These species include the Triangle Floater and the Marbled Salamander. According to the Massachusetts Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program (NHESP), the Route 169 Roadway Rehabilitation Project intersects with Priority Habitat 1194 (PH 1194) and Estimated Habitat 2055 (EH 2055). *Alasmodonta undulate* (Triangle Floater) was identified as a species of special concern and *Ambystoma opacum* (Marbled Salamander), a threatened species were identified in PH 1194 and EH 2055. During the design of the project, MassHighway will continue to coordinate with the Massachusetts Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program to avoid affecting these species.

In accordance with the MEPA regulations (in 301 CMR 11.03(6)(b)1.b., 301 CMR 11.03(6)(b)2.b. and 301 CMR 11.03(6)(b)2.c.) an ENF is required because the project involves the widening of an existing roadway by four or more feet for one-half or more miles, the removal of 5 or more living public shade trees and removal of 300 or more feet of stone wall.