



**Environmental  
Notification Form**

*For Office Use Only*  
*Executive Office of Environmental Affairs*

EOEA No.: 13742  
MEPA Analyst: Briony Angus  
Phone: 617-626-1029

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: Worcester State College Parking Garage		
Street: 486 Chandler Street		
Municipality: Worcester	Watershed: Blackstone	
Universal Transverse Mercator Coordinates: 46 83 430N, 2 65 677E (WGS84/NAD83)	Latitude: 42° 15' 59"	Longitude: 71° 50' 32"
Estimated commencement date: May 15, 2006	Estimated completion date: August, 2007	
Approximate cost: \$8.5 million	Status of project design:	25 %complete
Proponent: Massachusetts State College Building Authority (MSCBA), Contact: Janet Chrisos		
Street: 136 Lincoln Street		
Municipality: Boston	State: MA	Zip Code: 02111
Name of Contact Person From Whom Copies of this ENF May Be Obtained: Brian McLane, EIT		
Firm/Agency: Judith Nitsch Engineering, Inc.	Street: 186 Lincoln Street, Suite 200	
Municipality: Boston	State: MA	Zip Code: 02111
Phone: 617-338-0063	Fax: 617-338-6472	E-mail: bmclane@jnei.com

- 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. 10929, 6511, 1497, 894)  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 MSCBA will be issuing bond(s), which through an agreement with the college will be retired by student and parking fees. The MSCBA will obtain a 40-year lease for the garage site from the college.

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

List Local or Federal Permits and Approvals: Worcester Conservation Commission Order of Conditions,

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             |
| <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
<b>LAND</b>				<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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other Permits <i>(including Legislative Approvals) – Specify: State Department of Public Safety, Division of Inspection: Building Permit</i>
Total site acreage	37.6			
New acres of land altered		3.16		
Acres of impervious area	1.2	0.83	2.03	
Square feet of new bordering vegetated wetlands alteration		N/A		
Square feet of new other wetland alteration		N/A		
Acres of new non-water dependent use of tidelands or waterways		N/A		
<b>STRUCTURES</b>				
Gross square footage	0	172,000 SF	172,000 SF	
Number of housing units	N/A	N/A	N/A	
Maximum height (in feet)	0	60 feet	60 feet	
<b>TRANSPORTATION</b>				
Vehicle trips per day	7,314	+786	8,100	
Parking spaces	1,700	+523	2,200	
<b>WATER/WASTEWATER</b>				
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 \_\_\_\_\_ )  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 (Specify \_\_\_\_\_ )  No

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.)

**SEE ATTACHED PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

## **PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

### **Worcester State College-Parking Garage & Dowden Hall Parking Lot Expansion**

To improve on-campus safety and to allow for creation of a future campus quad, Worcester State College proposes to construct a 553-space parking garage. The additional parking spaces give the college flexibility when planning a future internal "green" campus quad area. Parking spaces will need to be eliminated to establish a quad area.

The Massachusetts State College Building Authority (MSCBA) through the issuance of bond(s) will fund the construction of the parking garage. Through an agreement between the MSCBA and Worcester State College student and parking fees will be used to offset the cost of the project financing. The new garage will:

- ✓ Reduce student on-street parking (May and Chandler Streets);
- ✓ Reduce parking in adjacent residential neighborhoods;
- ✓ Reduce circulation through the parking lots to find space;
- ✓ Reduce vehicle trips through the inner campus area;
- ✓ Reduce conflicts between vehicles and pedestrians;
- ✓ Improve internal parking lot/roadway intersection operation and safety; and
- ✓ Improve overall safety on-campus.

The garage will be located on the perimeter of the campus, in the southeasterly corner, between the Sullivan Auditorium and Wasylean Hall. During the 2003 planning for Wasylean Hall the need for a garage and the proposed site was presented in community meetings with the abutting residential neighborhood.

The 6 ½ story garage structure is being sited partially within an existing hillside to reduce its view from neighboring Zenith Drive residents. The nearest residence is approximately 100-feet from the garage. An extensive sheet retaining wall system will be used to retain the soil and minimize the tree buffer between the building and residences. Project landscaping improvements will include evergreen tree plantings to enhance the vegetative buffer and screening of the Zenith Street residences. The garage's rooftop lighting will include diffusers and will be located to direct light only onto the garage and not spill into the neighborhood.

The proposed garage footprint is approximately 25,500 square feet. Within the building will be a maintenance storage area and electrical closet (approximately 4,000 square feet). In addition, there will be two stair towers encased in glass (providing full view for security reasons). One tower will also include an elevator. For additional security the stair towers will include ambient noise monitors and each level of the garage will have emergency telephones. The garage will also incorporate hi/lo and daylight dimming to control the lighting system to reduce electric energy needs. The garage will be mostly used for commuter students and be available for special campus events.

Siting of the garage will cause the eliminations of 83 existing surface parking spaces. In addition, Worcester State College will also expand an existing surface parking lot (Dowden Hall Parking Lot) with the construction of 53 spaces in the northwest corner of the campus. The net increase in parking spaces with the construction of the new parking garage and the expansion of the existing parking lot will be 523 spaces.

A Traffic Impact and Assessment Study (see Appendix) was completed to assess the traffic impacts of the new garage on the May and Chandler Streets and internal site traffic. Traffic

impacts were analyzed at the two driveways onto the campus and at key adjacent off campus intersections. Analyses were performed for existing conditions as well as for a future year build condition for the morning and evening peak hour traffic periods. Proposed short-term mitigation measures to improve safety on Chandler and May Streets include the striping and delineation of travel lanes and turning lanes. On-campus improvements include enhancement of pedestrian facilities and improving pedestrian and vehicular safety at the flashing beacon intersection adjacent to the proposed garage.