



**Environmental
 Notification Form**

EOEA No.: 12808
 MEPA Analyst: Mick ZAVOLAS
 Phone: 617-626-1030

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: Merritt Road Sight Distance Improvement Project		
Street: Intersection of Route 8 and Merritt Road		
Municipality: Otis	Watershed: Farmington	
Universal Tranverse Mercator Coordinates: NAD 83 meters: 887,320 N, 67,320 E	Latitude: 42° 13'30" N	Longitude: 73° 06'27.5" W
Estimated commencement date: Summer 2002	Estimated completion date: Fall 2002	
Approximate cost: \$16,000	Status of project design:	25% complete
Proponent: Massachusetts Highway Department		
Street: 10 Park Plaza		
Municipality: Boston	State: MA	Zip Code: 02116 - 3973
Name of Contact Person From Whom Copies of this ENF May Be Obtained: Matthew F. DeSorbo		
Firm/Agency: Massachusetts Highway Dept.	Street: 10 park Plaza	
Municipality: Boston	State: Ma	Zip Code: 02116 - 3973
Phone: (617) 973 - 7882	Fax: (617) 973 - 8879	E-mail: Matthew.DeSorbo@MHDstate.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): Massachusetts Highway Department (State funds) 100% of Project 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:

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
LAND				<input 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:</i> <u>Special Use Permit from The Massachusetts Fish and Wildlife Department</u> <u>Determination of Applicability</u> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
Total site acreage	0.6			
New acres of land altered		0		
Acres of impervious area	0	0	0	
Square feet of new bordering vegetated wetlands alteration		0		
Square feet of new other wetland alteration		0		
Acres of new non-water dependent use of tidelands or waterways		0		
STRUCTURES				
Gross square footage	0	0	0	
Number of housing units	0	0	0	
Maximum height (in feet)	0	0	0	
TRANSPORTATION				
Vehicle trips per day	0	0	0	
Parking spaces	0	0	0	
WATER/WASTEWATER				
Gallons/day (GPD) of water use	0	0	0	
GPD water withdrawal	0	0	0	
GPD wastewater generation/treatment	0	0	0	
Length of water/sewer mains (in miles)	0	0	0	

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 _____)

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.*)

This project involves creating greater sight distances at the intersection of Merritt Road; a local road, and Route 8; a Rural Minor Arterial, in the Town of Otis. This intersection has very limited sight distance due to the horizontal curve on Route 8 and the high embankment to the east of Route 8. The Town of Otis has requested this work due to increasing concern regarding the ability of cars to safely pull out of Merritt Road.

Currently the sight distance for vehicles emerging from Merritt Road and entering Route 8 is approximately 310 feet to the north and approximately 310 feet to the south. The sight distance at this location is limited due to large trees adjacent to Route 8 on the Merritt Road side as well as protruding sections of earth and boulders. Acquiring a greater sight distance line will be achieved through the removal of 10 public shade trees and vegetation, and the excavation of 500 feet of slope to establish a 20 foot level area and a 1.5:1 slope. This slope work is limited to the east side of Route 8, 352 feet on the north side and 148 feet on the south side of Merritt Road. 30 feet of a low stone wall will be removed and reset. Upon completion of the excavation the slopes will be graded and loam and seed will be applied. After the proposed work has been completed the sight distance will be increased to 570 feet to the north and 635 feet to the south and thus creating a safer condition at the intersection.

This work will occur on Massachusetts State Highway layout, and property of the Massachusetts Department of Fish and Wildlife. A Special Use Permit has been obtained from the Massachusetts Division of Fish and Wildlife to allow for the Work.

Rock removal will be accomplished with machinery only. No blasting is proposed. Best Management Practices will be implemented during excavation to protect adjacent wetlands from silt and construction debris. No work will take place within the wetlands; however, the limits of the project may encroach on a wetland resource buffer zone. A Request for Determination of Applicability will be filed with the Otis Conservation Commission.