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.: 14444
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: Nonantum Road Improvements		
Street: Nonantum Road		
Municipality:Boston/Newton/Watertown	Watershed: Charles River	
Universal Tranverse Mercator Coordinates: UTM 19 4692544N 319966E	Latitude: 42° 21' 51.95" N Longitude: 71° 11' 9.03" W	Nonantum Rd/ Galen St.
Estimated commencement date: Jan. 2010	Estimated completion date: Aug. 2011	
Approximate cost: $8 million	Status of project design: 75 %complet	
Proponent: Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation		
Street: 251 Causeway Street, Suite 600		
Municipality: Boston	State: MA	Zip Code: 02114-2104
Name of Contact Person From Whom Copies of this ENF May Be Obtained: John C. Yaney, P.E.		
Firm/Agency: Fay, Spofford & Thorndike	Street: 15 Broad Street, Suite 301	
Municipality: Boston	State: MA	Zip Code: 02109
Phone: 617-723-8882	Fax: 617-723-9995	E-mail: jyaney@fstinc.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._____) ☒ 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): Funding is anticipated to be entirely from the Federal Economic Stimulus program.

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

List Local or Federal Permits and Approvals: (1) Orders of Conditions from Boston, Newton, and Watertown Conservation Commissions, and (2) NPDES General Permit for Stormwater Discharges from Construction Activities.

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

- ☐ Land
- ☐ Water
- ☐ Energy
- ☐ ACEC
- ☐ Rare Species
- ☐ Wastewater
- ☐ Air
- ☐ Regulations
- ☒ Wetlands, Waterways, & Tidelands
- ☒ Transportation
- ☐ Solid & Hazardous Waste
- ☐ Historical & Archaeological Resources

Summary of Project Size & Environmental Impacts	Existing	Change	Total
LAND			
Total site acreage	12.04		
New acres of land altered		1.92	
Acres of impervious area	9.30	-0.03	9.27
Square feet of new bordering vegetated wetlands alteration		0.0	
Square feet of new other wetland alteration		337,682	
Acres of new non-water dependent use of tidelands or waterways		0.0	
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	34,000 (2029)	0	34,000 (2029)
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

State Permits & Approvals

- ☒ Order of Conditions
- ☐ Superseding Order of Conditions
- ☐ Chapter 91 License
- ☐ 401 Water Quality Certification
- ☐ MHD or MDC Access Permit
- ☐ Water Management Act Permit
- ☐ New Source Approval
- ☐ DEP or MWRA Sewer Connection/ Extension Permit
- ☐ Other Permits (*including Legislative Approvals*) – Specify:

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: Roadway is on State/National Historic Register.) ☐No

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

☒Yes (Specify: Roadway is on State/National Historic Register.) ☐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 Department of Conservation and Recreation (MA DCR) and the Massachusetts Highway Department (MassHighway) are proposing transportation safety improvements to the Nonantum Road corridor in the communities of Watertown, Newton, and Boston, Massachusetts. The project limits extend along Nonantum Road from Galen Street in Watertown to North Beacon Street in Boston, a distance of approximately 8100 feet. The project limits are shown on the USGS locus map in Attachment 3.

The purpose of this project is to improve vehicular, bicycle, and pedestrian movement and safety along Nonantum Road by improving the roadway cross-section and intersection geometry. Improvements to the existing multi-use path within the Charles River Reservation parkland are also included as part of this project. The existing 40-foot-wide, four-lane roadway (see Attachment 1) has a long history of serious collisions and fatalities. The excessive speeding coupled with minimum 10-foot travel lanes, no shoulders, lack of turning lanes, poor intersection geometry and sight distance, and dangerous curves are contributing factors. Also, bicycle and pedestrian accommodations along the roadway corridor are inadequate given the intensity of use.

Nonantum Road is currently a four-lane parkway under the jurisdiction of the MA DCR. Oriented in an east-west direction along the southern banks of the Charles River, Nonantum Road parallels the Massachusetts Turnpike (I-90) and connects Watertown to Boston. There are a total of four intersecting roadways located within the project area. Three of these roadways intersect Nonantum Road at an acute angle. This intersection geometry encourages undesirable wide turns, poor sight distance, and high speeds. These factors result in unsafe conditions for vehicles, cyclists, and pedestrians.

There is an existing multi-use path along the southern bank of the Charles River (north side of Nonantum Road) within the Charles River Reservation parkland. From Galen Street to Charlesbank Road, the path is approximately six feet wide with little to no separation from the roadway. Beyond Charlesbank Road to the project limit at North Beacon Street, the path is approximately nine feet wide, with a landscape buffer of varying width separating the path from the roadway.

The proposed safety improvements involve eliminating one travel lane in each direction, narrowing the

existing roadway width in most locations from 40 feet to 32 feet and adding and/or expanding the landscaped buffer between the roadway and adjacent multi-use path. Also included in the project are intersection realignments at Water Street, Maple Street, and Charlesbank Road to improve sight lines and facilitate turning maneuvers. A total of six pedestrian crossings along the corridor will be formalized with advanced signage and pavement markings.

The proposed work along Nonantum Road includes:

- Reconstruction and/or reclamation of existing pavements
- Narrowing the existing roadway to one through lane in each direction
- Providing turning lanes at intersections and facility driveways
- Widening the existing multi-use path typically between 1 and 4 feet
- Removing existing steel guardrail and installing new wooden guardrail
- Improving pedestrian movement at roadway crossings with signage and pavement markings
- Upgrading facilities to meet ADA accessibility requirements
- Providing on-road bicycle accommodations
- Enhancing the visual quality of the corridor through new landscape plantings
- Installing a new ornamental lighting system for the roadway and security of the multi-use path
- Providing stormwater improvements including new catch basins with deep sumps, bioswales, etc. to improve water quality and enhance groundwater recharge

The proposed Nonantum Road cross-section (see Attachment 2) consists of two 11-foot lanes (one eastbound and one westbound), designated 10-foot turn lanes at appropriate intersections, a 4-foot flush median, two 3-foot shoulders (one in each direction of travel), and a 10-foot multi-use path on the north side. Reducing the number of lanes and providing the median will do much to reduce the number of head-on collisions on this roadway. Similarly, providing separate left-turn lanes will reduce the number of rear-end collisions that occur. A landscape buffer is proposed between the multi-use path and roadway, where possible. In addition, other proposed improvements include new signs and pavement markings; drainage improvements; landscaping and streetscape amenities within the parkland; and ornamental lighting.

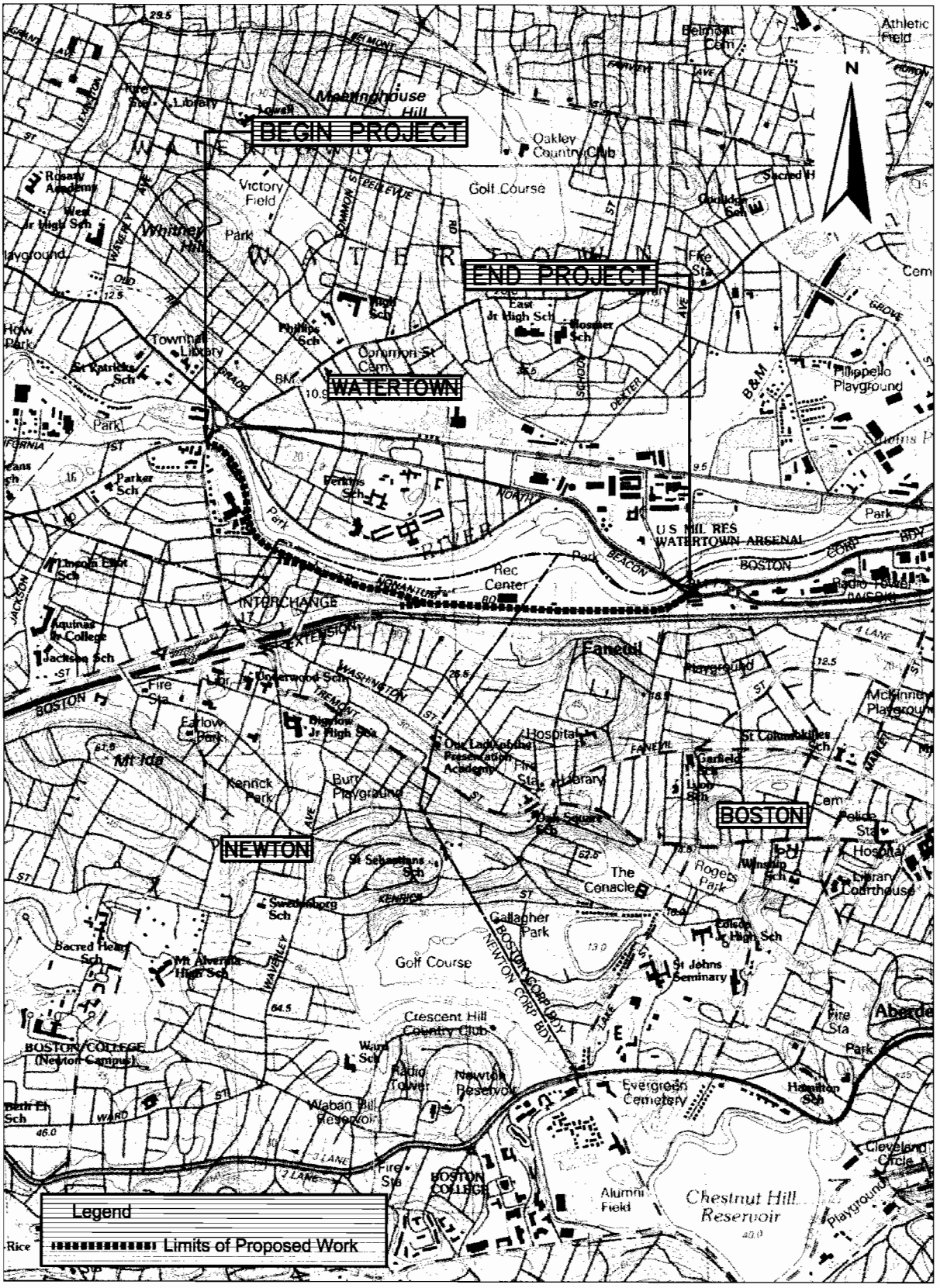
Based on an analysis of projected year 2029 No-Build and Build traffic conditions, it was determined that even with the reduction in travel lanes the project's intersections and roadway will operate at levels of service and delays similar to the No-Build condition due to the provision of mainline left-turn lanes.

It is anticipated that the proposed roadway and multi-use path improvements will be performed within the existing Nonantum Road right of way and Charles River Reservation parkland, both owned by the MA DCR.

During construction hours, the Contractor shall maintain and protect one lane of through traffic in each direction along Nonantum Road. At the conclusion of each day's operations, the entire roadway will be open and passable to traffic. This includes vehicular and pedestrian access to all intersecting streets and driveways.

Impact avoidance and minimization measures will also include the installation of filter mitt socks and silt fencing prior to construction.

See the MA DCR website at www.mass.gov/dcr for additional information about the project.



Newton USGS Quad
Scale: 1" = 2000'

Project Locus

ENGINEERS FST Since 1914

Nonantum Road Improvements
Newton / Watertown / Boston, MA
Galen Street to North Beacon Street

MASS HIGHWAY

dcr