

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>	
EOEA No.:	<u>13859</u>
MEPA Analyst:	<u>Bridgette Angus</u>
Phone: 617-626-	<u>X 1029</u>

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: <u>Westfield - Southwick Recreational Trail Project</u>		
Street:		
Municipality: <u>Westfield and Southwick</u>	Watershed: <u>Westfield</u>	
Universal Transverse Mercator Coordinates: <u>18 686185 E 4666609 N - Westfield to</u> <u>18 684591 E 4652532 N - Southwick</u>	Latitude/Longitude <u>42° 7.71 N/ 72°44.84' W Westfield to</u> <u>42° 0.191 N/ 72°46.27' W Southwick</u>	
Estimated commencement date: <u>2007</u>	Estimated completion date: <u>2010</u>	
Approximate cost: <u>\$15,000,000</u>	Status of project design: <u>25/75 Percent</u>	
Proponent: <u>Massachusetts Highway Department</u>		
Street: <u>10 Park Plaza</u>		
Municipality: <u>Boston</u>	State: <u>MA</u>	Zip Code: <u>02116</u>
Name of Contact Person From Whom Copies of this ENF May Be Obtained: <u>Mike Furlong</u>		
Firm/Agency: <u>Massachusetts Highway Dept.</u>	Street: <u>10 Park Plaza, Room 4260</u>	
Municipality: <u>Boston</u>	State: <u>MA</u>	Zip Code: <u>02116-3973</u>
Phone: <u>617-973-8067</u>	Fax: <u>617-973-8879</u>	E-mail: <u>michael.furlong@mhd.state.ma.us</u>

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): Projects funded by MassHighway are typically 80 percent federally funded and 20 percent state funded

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

List Local or Federal Permits and Approvals: Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, National Environmental Policy Act (Categorical Exclusion), Wetlands Protection Act - Order of Conditions, Section 404 Programmatic General Permit, Section 401 Water Quality Certificate,

NPDES Construction General Permit

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

- | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Land | <input type="checkbox"/> Rare Species | <input type="checkbox"/> Wetlands, Waterways, & Tidelands |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Water | <input type="checkbox"/> Wastewater | <input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Order of Conditions <input type="checkbox"/> Superseding Order of Conditions <input type="checkbox"/> Chapter 91 License <input checked="" 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> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
Total site acreage	22 acres			
New acres of land altered				
Acres of impervious area	0.1 acres	12.6 acres	12.7 acres	
Square feet of new bordering vegetated wetlands alteration		< 500 sf		
Square feet of new other wetland alteration		Approx. 23,000 sf Riverfront Area		
Acres of new non-water dependent use of tidelands or waterways		None		
STRUCTURES				
Gross square footage				
Number of housing units				
Maximum height (in feet)				
TRANSPORTATION				
Vehicle trips per day				
Parking spaces				
WASTEWATER				
Gallons/day (GPD) of water use				
GPD water withdrawal				
GPD wastewater generation/ treatment				
Length of water/sewer mains				

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 The project is within two areas of Priority Habitat; PH 940 in Westfield and PH 1267 in Southwick (See Attachments 1 and 4)) 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 Project includes the rehabilitation of several bridges either listed, or eligible to be listed, on the National Register of Historic Places) 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

The City of Westfield and the Town of Southwick, in conjunction with the Massachusetts Highway Department (MassHighway), are proposing to construct a recreational trail along the former Penn Central and Pioneer Valley Railroads from the Westfield River in Westfield south to the Connecticut border, a distance of approximately 9.3 miles (Figure 1). The southern terminus of the trail will provide a direct connection to the Farmington Canal Heritage Trail in Suffield, Connecticut. The northern Terminus will provide a direct connection to downtown Westfield through Women's Christian Temperance Park. The former railroad property within Southwick is owned by the Town of Southwick and the land within the Westfield portion is owned by the City of Westfield.

For construction purposes, the project has been divided into five sections. The Southwick portion of the project has two sections. Section I extends from the Southwick/Suffield, Connecticut border north to Point Grove Road and Section II extends from Point Grove Road north to the Southwick/Westfield town line. The Westfield portion of the project (known as the Columbia Greenway) has three sections; Section II extends from the Southwick/Westfield town line north to the Columbia Manufacturing Company (1,300 feet south of East Silver Street), Section I extends from the Columbia Manufacturing Company north to the Westfield River Bridge, and Section III is the rehabilitation of the Westfield River Bridge, including its conversion to a recreational trail.

The proposed work for all sections generally involves the removal of the remaining railroad ties, construction of a 10- to 12.5-foot paved path with 2- to 3-foot graded shoulders, construction of several access paths to the trail from adjacent roadways and other areas, construction of several small parking areas, replacement or the rehabilitation of numerous bridges, repair or replacement of drainage structures, installation of fences or guardrail in steeply sloped areas, installation of traffic signals (at Feeding Hills Road) and crosswalks,

landscaping, informational signs, and pavement markings. Several rest areas will be constructed along the trail having bicycle racks, benches, picnic tables, and trash receptacles.

The following provides a more detailed description of the proposed recreation trail (presented south to north).

**Southwick, Section I - Southwick/Suffield, Connecticut border to Point Grove Road
(3.1 miles)**

Section I of the Southwick recreational trail will consist of a 10-foot paved path with a 2- to 3-foot grassed shoulder on each side. Land use along the Section I corridor consists of open space owned by the Town of Southwick, agricultural land, residential development, and a golf course.

Bridge work to be done as part of Section I includes the rehabilitation of a stone arch bridge over Great Brook, the in-kind replacement of a plate girder bridge over Boyce Road (road abandoned), and the construction of a box culvert to allow passage of bicyclists and pedestrians under Point Grove Road.

Other features incorporated into Section I include the construction of a 16-space parallel parking lot adjacent to Miller Road with access ramps between the parking area and the trail, and 10-foot spur trails providing access to the trail from the area of Harvest Lane and Pauline Circle.

To provide a buffer between the trail and the Gillette Avenue neighborhood, a 1,300-foot portion of the trail will be shifted to the western side of the railroad right-of-way.

The southernmost 0.6-mile portion of Section I is within Priority Habitat of Rare Species (PH 1267). The Massachusetts Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program (MNHESP) reviewed the project during the Notice of Intent (NOI) process and determined that the proposed project will not affect rare wildlife habitat (Attachment 1). An Order of Conditions was issued by the Southwick Conservation Commission for Section I on July 14, 2004 (Attachment 2).

Southwick, Section II - Point Grove Road to Southwick/Westfield Town Line (3.1 miles)

Section II of the Southwick recreational trail will consist of a 10-foot paved path with a 2-foot grassed shoulder on each side. Land use along the project route consists of wooded areas, wetland areas, agricultural land, a golf course, and residential development. A new traffic signal will be installed at the trail's crossing of Feeding Hills Road (Route 57).

Features incorporated into Section II include the installation of timber rail fence in steeply sloped areas, construction of a pull-off area at the northwest corner of the trail's crossing of Depot Street, and an access ramp to the trail from Pinneywood Road (at Station 49+00).