

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>13099</u>
MEPA Analyst:	<u>Andreea Dames</u>
Phone: 617-626-	<u>1028</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: Reconstruction of Summer Street (Route 2A)		
Street: Summer Street		
Municipality: Arlington	Watershed: Mystic River	
Universal Transverse Mercator Coordinates: N 909262.4510 E 225916.7118 to N 908048.2919 E 227650.9999	Latitude: 42-25' Longitude: 71-09'	
Estimated commencement date: 3/1/04	Estimated completion date: 12/31/05	
Approximate cost: \$3.0 Million	Status of project design: 100% complete	
Proponent: Massachusetts Highway Department and the Town of Arlington		
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: Ms. Grace Arthur		
Firm/Agency: Massachusetts Highway Dept.	Street: 10 Park Plaza, Room 4260	
Municipality: Boston	State: MA	Zip Code: 02116
Phone: (617) 973-8251	Fax: (617) 973-8879	E-mail: Grace.Arthur@mhd.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 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): MassHighway – 20% and FHWA 80%

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

List Local or Federal Permits and Approvals: Categorical Exclusion (CE) Checklist, Programmatic Section 4(f) Evaluation - FHWA

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 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
Total site acreage	7.93			
New acres of land altered		.018		
Acres of impervious area	7.91	0	7.91	
Square feet of new bordering vegetated wetlands alteration		0.0		
Square feet of new other wetland alteration		0.0		
Acres of new non-water dependent use of tidelands or waterways		0.0		
STRUCTURES				<input type="checkbox"/> DEP or MWRA Sewer Connection/ Extension Permit <input type="checkbox"/> Other Permits (including Legislative Approvals) – Specify:
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				
Parking spaces	0.0	0	0.0	
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 795 square feet of parkland. _____) 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.)

The Massachusetts Highway Department, in conjunction with the Town of Arlington, proposes to reconstruct Summer Street (Route 2A) from the intersection with Brattle Street to the Lexington Town Line. The project is approximately 2,180 meters (7,150 feet) in length, and includes full depth roadway reconstruction and widening, new sidewalk construction, and upgraded intersection geometrics. Drainage system improvements, new traffic signals, traffic signs, pavement markings, landscaping, and retaining walls, where necessary, will also be provided along the corridor. The purpose of this project is to improve traffic conditions, increase roadway safety for vehicles and pedestrians, upgrade intersection geometrics, install new traffic signals and improve existing drainage systems.

Summer Street is presently a two-lane roadway through residentially developed areas and is functionally classified as an Urban Arterial. The width of the existing paved roadway varies from 7.92 m to 10.97 m (26 to 36 feet) and includes two, 3.66 m (12-foot) lanes with varying shoulders. A bituminous concrete sidewalk of varying width exists on the south side of Summer Street through most of the project, and on the north side from Arthur Road to Overlook Road (approximately one third of the total project length). The roadway layout is 50 feet (15.24 meters). The existing conditions warrant drainage, road grading and sidewalk improvements. Much of the roadway has missing sidewalks or walks that are in poor condition and with no handicap access.

The proposed Summer Street cross section calls for two 3.75-meter (12 ft) lanes, two 1.25-meter (4 ft) shoulders, two 1.12 meter (3.7 ft) buffer strips, and two 1.5-meter (5 ft) sidewalks. The buffer strip and sidewalk will be omitted from two sections on the northerly side of Summer Street, for a total distance of approximately 250 meters (820 ft) due to a substantial ledge outcrop that would require extensive blasting to remove. A 160-meter (524.96 ft) section of Summer Street, on the Lexington Town Line project limit, will have a cross section consisting of two 3.75-meter (12 ft) lanes and two 0.75-meter (2.46 ft) shoulders. Wheelchair ramps, where necessary, will be included along the entire length of the project. Bicycle accommodations will be included as part of the project, except for the tapered section of Summer Street beginning at a point approximately 80

meters (262.48 ft) east of Lexington Town Line to the town line.

New traffic signal systems are proposed for the intersections of Summer Street with Brattle Street, Overlook Road, Forest Street, and Park Avenue Extension. The Brattle Street, Overlook Road, and Park Avenue Extension intersections are currently signalized. However, new controllers, mast arms, and detectors for all approaches will be installed to improve traffic safety and operation. New signals with pedestrian accommodations will be provided at each of the four intersections.

The proposed drainage system improvements will consist of upgrading and augmenting the existing system in order to provide a closed drainage system for the entire Summer Street corridor. The drainage modifications will be tied into a recently completed drainage improvements project.

The portion of Summer Street extending from Brattle Street to the Lexington Town Line is presently a State Highway. The Town of Arlington has agreed to assume ownership of this portion of Summer Street from MassHighway provided that any deficiencies in the roadway are corrected prior to the Town assuming ownership.

The project is subject to MEPA review because it will require the conversion of public recreation land to highway use (301 CMR 11.03 1b3). The existing parkland is approximately 4.6 acres. The original taking at Summer Street Field, along the Forest Street side amounting to 1415 square feet \pm (131.45 s m) will not be fully utilized. Approximately 795 square feet (73.86 s m) (area 1) of the taking will be used to level off the top of the slope in order to install a cement concrete sidewalk. The existing fence will be removed and replaced with a new vinyl coated chain link fence along the back edge of the proposed cement concrete sidewalk. The area behind the fence will be sloped at approximately a 45-degree angle to field and loamed and seeded going northwesterly, easterly, and southeasterly from Forest Street to Summer Street, the corner will be relocated further out into Summer Street and a new area (area 2) on the map will be created containing approximately an additional 935 square feet (86.86 s m) of level area which will be loamed and seeded and be added to the park area. The cement concrete walk and new chain link fence will be continued around the corner. The exchange of approximately 145 square feet (13.47 s m) will add new seating capacity for the baseball field along Summer Street at Forest Street.

Alternatives

1. No Build

The no build alternative is not considered feasible because it would not address the traffic capacity and safety issues, and would not replace the out of date signal system equipment.

The results of the weekday AM and PM peak hour LOS analysis performed for No Build scenario indicates the intersection will operate at an overall unacceptable LOS F for the AM and PM peak hours.

2. Another Alignment

An alternate alignment was investigated that would have shifted the Forest Street alignment to the west. This alignment would involve considerable impacts and takings to a number of adjacent private properties. The work would involve blasting ledge on private property, reconstruction of existing concrete stairs, and removal of several trees having a diameter greater than 12 inches. This alignment would also require introducing a new curve to the existing Forest Street alignment, which is currently straight.

3. New Location

The construction of a new highway facility in another location would not be considered prudent or feasible for a project as this. The Summer Street corridor is primarily residential, and relocating the intersection would require substantial property acquisition.