

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.: 14325
 MEPA Analyst: Holly Johnson
 Phone: 617-626-1623

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: Milford Upper Charles Trail		
Street: Main St. to Hopkinton Town Line & Veterans Memorial Drive to Holliston Town Line		
Municipality: Milford, MA	Watershed: Charles River	
Universal Transverse Mercator Coordinates: 15319399N 962857 E	Latitude: 42°08'57"N Longitude: 71°29'58"W	
Estimated commencement date: Spring 2009	Estimated completion date: Fall 2010	
Approximate cost: \$4,500,000.00	Status of project design: 75% Design	
Proponent: MassHighway/Town of Milford		
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: Michael Trepanier		
Firm/Agency: MassHighway	Street: 10 Park Plaza, Room 4260	
Municipality: Boston	State: MA	Zip Code: 02116
Phone: 617-973-8250	Fax: 617-973-8879	E-mail: michael.trepanier@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): The Massachusetts Highway Department is funding 20% and the Federal Highway Administration is funding 80% of the construction 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: Wetlands Protection Act Order of Conditions, Section 404 Programmatic General Permit, National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) General Permit for Construction Activities, National Environmental Policy Act Categorical Exclusion, Section 401 Water Quality Certificate

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 checked="" 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 (including Legislative Approvals) – Specify:
Total site acreage	14.5			
New acres of land altered		10.8		
Acres of impervious area	0.5	8.1	8.6	
Square feet of new bordering vegetated wetlands alteration		3,873		
Square feet of new other wetland alteration		34,434		
Acres of new non-water dependent use of tidelands or waterways		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	N/A	N/A	N/A	
Parking spaces	57	45	102	
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	

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 Priority Habitat 957 and Estimated Habitat 7403 (see Figure 2)) 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

The MassHighway Cultural Resources Unit (CRU) has reviewed the project under the terms of the 2004 Massachusetts Statewide Programmatic Agreement for Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended [36 CFR Part 800.3(a)(2)]. The CRU staff has determined that the project satisfies the conditions outlined in Stipulation V.B "No Historic Properties Affected" of the amended Section 106 Programmatic Agreement. No further Section 106 review is required, and the documentation in support of this finding has been placed on file at MassHighway.

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 (MassHighway) and the Town of Milford are proposing to complete the Milford Upper Charles Trail. The Milford Upper Charles Trail in its entirety will be approximately 5.6 miles long extending through Milford from the Holliston town line to the Hopkinton town line. Phase 1 of the trail, 2.8-miles, has already been built. This project consists of the construction of Phase 2; an additional 2.8-miles of trail (see Figure 1).

The Milford Upper Charles Trail is a portion of the proposed Upper Charles Trail. The conceptual plan for the Upper Charles Trail is for it to run through Sherborn, Holliston, Milford, Hopkinton, and Ashland with a potential connection to the Downtown Framingham Commuter Rail Station, a distance approximately 27 miles. Currently, each town is at a different stage in the planning process and some segments of the trail may not be constructed for many years. In a meeting with the MEPA office on June 26, 2008, it was determined that it was appropriate for each town involved in the Upper Charles Trail Project to file appropriate MEPA documents separately.

The Milford Upper Charles Trail presents a marvelous opportunity to reclaim the abandoned railroad right-of-way through the Town of Milford and transform it into a valuable community transportation, recreational, and educational resource. In addition to providing safe and convenient transportation, the project will offer families, seniors, walkers, bicyclists, joggers, and others a range of recreational and educational opportunities, while protecting and preserving the town's available open space, scenic vistas, and wildlife.

Phase 1 of the Milford Upper Charles Trail, a 2.8-mile bituminous concrete paved multi-use trail, is already constructed and provides access to Louisa Lake, Milford Pond and adjacent open space, as well as to the Town Forest. Phase 1 begins at the intersection of existing abandoned rail bed and Main Street and continues north along the existing abandoned rail bed. The trail crosses Dilla Street and enters "Louisa Lake" park and continues from the park to the north-east until connects to Cedar Street (Rte 85)(see Figure 1). The trail travels adjacent to Rte 85, crossing I-495 exit and entrance ramps, crossing under I-495 and finally connecting to Deer Street, east of Wildcat Pond. An Order of Conditions was issued for Phase 1 of the Milford Upper Charles Trail in February 19, 2004.

Phase 2 of the Milford Upper Charles Trail is at the 75% Design Stage and consists of the construction of approximately 2.8 ± miles of a multiple use trail (see Figure 1). Phase 2 is divided into two segments, Phase 2A (which includes the Senior Center Spur) and Phase 2B.

Phase 2A of the project extends Phase 1 of the Milford Upper Charles Trail north from Deer Street along an abandoned railroad right-of-way, crosses the Charles River and Route 85 and continues parallel to Route 85 on an abandoned railroad right-of-way to the Hopkinton Town Line. The trail crosses the Charles River on the east side of Route 85 twice before reaching the Hopkinton Town Line. A small parking lot with 23 parking spaces will be constructed near the end of Phase 2A. Phase 2 also consists of a Spur which extends Phase 1 from Main Street south to the rear of the Senior Center on North Bow Street for approximately 0.2-miles.

Phase 2B begins at the rear of the Plains Mall parking lot off Veterans Memorial Drive south of Route 109. A small parking lot with 22 parking spaces will be constructed near the beginning of the Phase 2B trail. The trail will run westerly, adjacent to Veterans Memorial Drive, and cross Route 109 and Beaver Street before crossing under I-495. The trail continues north-west along an abandoned railroad right-of-way and crosses a small stream. The Phase 2B of the trail ends at the Holliston Town Line and may eventually connect to the future Holliston Upper Charles Trail Phase H-2.

The Town of Milford is planning to construct a new roadway as an alternate route to Route 16 to relieve traffic congestion in downtown Milford. This alternate route, if constructed, will run north from Mt. Pleasant Street and connect to Veterans Memorial Drive and will include a two lane multi use trail along the roadway. This multi use path will effectively connect Phase 1 to Phase 2B. If the alternate route project does not go forward, Phase 3 will be constructed along the same route.

Public involvement has been a very important aspect of this project. On September 19, 2007, a Design Public Hearing was held in Milford to provide the public an opportunity to become fully acquainted with the design of the project and make comments concerning the project.

The trail is a 12-foot wide paved pathway with 2-foot gravel shoulders. Improvements for this project shall include:

- Removal of debris including track ties and rail;
- Construction of new hot mix asphalt trail;
- Construction of fences along the trail;
- Design of drainage and improvement of existing drainage systems including but not limited to culvert relocation and/or reinforcement;
- Construction of two deck structures;
- Construction of a parking lot (including landscape features) at the Route 85 trail head in

- the vicinity of the Hopkinton Town Line;
- Involvement of the public through private screening for residents and businesses located adjacent to the trail;
 - Construction of scenic overlooks and rest areas;
 - Traffic signs, traffic beacons, pavement markings; and
 - Erosion control and bank stabilization.

Approximately 3,873 square feet of wetlands will be impacted by the construction of Phase 2 of the Milford Upper Charles Trail. Approximately 4,253 square feet of wetlands replication have been proposed. A site walk with the Conservation Commission was conducted to review the areas of wetland impact and proposed replication. A Notice of Intent for Phase 2 of the Milford Upper Charles Trail was filed on September 6, 2007 and the Order of Conditions was issued on June 19, 2008.

According to the Massachusetts Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program (NHESP), Phase 2A of the Milford Upper Charles Trail intersects Priority Habitat 957 (PH 957) and Estimated Habitat 265 (WH7265), and PH 957 and Estimated Habitat 7403 (WH 7403). *Clemmys guttata* (spotted turtle) was identified as a reptile of special concern in PH 957 and WH 265. *Clemmys guttata* (spotted turtle) and *Clemmys insculpta* (wood turtle) were identified as reptiles of special concern in PH 957 and WH 7403. The spotted turtle has since been delisted from the MA Natural Heritage's list of "Species of Special Concern".

The Milford Upper Charles Trail is being designed to meet the DEP's Stormwater Management Policy using appropriate stormwater Best Management Practices included in MassHighway's Stormwater Handbook. Measures to comply with this policy include drainage channels, filter strips, and other BMPs appropriate for linear corridors.

The proposed project exceeds MEPA review thresholds for Land and Wetlands. In accordance with the MEPA regulations (301 CMR 11.03 (1)(b)(2) and 301 CMR 11.03 (3)(b)(f)) an ENF required because the project requires creation of five or more acres of impervious area and alteration of ½ or more acres of any other wetland, in this case Riverfront Area.