



**Environmental
 Notification Form**

For Office Use Only
 Executive Office of Environmental Affairs
 EOE No.: 12898
 MEPA Analyst: Bill GAGE
 Phone: 617-626-1025

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: Arborway CNG Bus Maintenance and Storage Facility		
Street: 500 Arborway		
Municipality: Boston	Watershed: Boston Harbor	
Universal Tranverse Mercator Coordinates: 326140 mE 4685240 mN	Latitude: N 42° - 18' - 5.60" Longitude: W 71° - 06' - 33.2"	
Estimated commencement date: 5-03	Estimated completion date: 5-05	
Approximate cost: \$65,000,000	Status of project design: 60	%complete
Proponent: Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority		
Street: 500 Arborway		
Municipality: Boston	State: MA	Zip Code: 02130
Name of Contact Person From Whom Copies of this ENF May Be Obtained: Andrew D. Brennan - Director of Environmental Affairs		
Firm/Agency: MBTA	Street: 10 Park Plaza	
Municipality: Boston	State: MA	Zip Code: 02116
Phone: 617-222-3126	Fax: 617-222-1557	E-mail: ABrennan@MBTA.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. 1628) No
- Has any project on this site been filed with MEPA before?
 Yes (EOEA No. 1628) 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 301 CMR 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 project is being funded through MBTA revenue bonds. The MBTA will transfer 8 acres of land (to be determined) to the City of Boston for proposed parkland.

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

List Local or Federal Permits and Approvals:

See attached sheet.

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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> MHD or MDC Access Permit <input type="checkbox"/> Water Management Act Permit <input type="checkbox"/> New Source Approval <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DEP or MWRA Sewer Connection/ Extension Permit <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other Permits <i>(including Legislative Approvals) – Specify:</i> Massachusetts Executive Office of Environmental Affairs - Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act (MEPA) Certificate
Total site acreage	19.02			
New acres of land altered		13.80		
Acres of impervious area	14.52	(-) 6.83	7.69	
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	72,747	342,470	415,217	
Number of housing units	0	0	0	
Maximum height (in feet)	28	24	52	
TRANSPORTATION				
Vehicle trips per day	1,337	1028	2,365	
Parking spaces	361	32	393	
WATER/WASTEWATER				
Gallons/day (GPD) of water use	4,500	8,350	12,850	
GPD water withdrawal	0	0	0	
GPD wastewater generation/ treatment	4,060	7,581	11,650	
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 _____) 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 proposed project will redevelop the existing MBTA Arborway Yard facility located next to the existing MBTA administration building at 500 Arborway. A new bus storage and repair facility is proposed and will include storage and maintenance for 118 compressed natural gas (CNG) buses. The service components of the facility will include: CNG fueling equipment, bus washing operations, service bays and shop facilities. Also included will be support areas for MBTA operations, drivers and maintenance staff.

Off-site alternatives considered renovating the existing MBTA bus storage and maintenance facility near Bartlett Street. This site is approximately 2.5 miles north of the MBTA's Forest Hills Station, located at the southwest corner of the Washington Street/Arborway intersection. The station is the termination point of the Orange Line Rapid Transit and the focal point for many bus feeder routes. Upon initiation or termination of these bus routes, buses travel along Washington Street to and from the Bartlett Street facility producing a considerable number of empty bus trips on this section of Washington Street. Relocation of the bus facility closer to the Forest Hills Station, decreases the total traffic volume and number of non-revenue bus trips on Washington Street.

On-site alternatives considered during development of the proposed project involved locating the proposed facility along Washington Street. This alternative originally proposed a facility to accommodate 184 buses with access from and egress to Washington Street. After extensive review and input by the community and the City of Boston, the proposed project is a downsized program and is the result of an agreement between the MBTA, the City of Boston and Community Planning Committee for the Arborway Yard (CPCAY).

The on-site mitigation program provides significant allowance for enhanced parkland. An 8-acre parcel of the site will be developed as parkland connecting Forest Hills and Washington Streets for access by the public. This parkland will be designated the Greenway Connector and will be turned over to the City upon completion of the project.



Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority

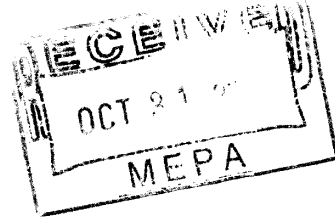
Jane Swift
Governor

James H. Scanlan
Secretary and MBTA Chairman

Michael H. Mulhern
General Manager

October 31, 2002

Secretary Bob Durand
Executive Office of Environmental Affairs
259 Causeway Street
9th Floor
Boston, MA 02110



RE: Arborway Compressed Natural Gas Bus Storage and Repair Facility
Jamaica Plain, Boston
Environmental Notification Form

Dear Secretary Durand:

The MBTA is pleased to submit the attached Environmental Notification Form (ENF) for the proposed MBTA Compressed Natural Gas Bus (CNG) Storage and Repair Facility at the Arborway in Jamaica Plain Boston. The development of this maintenance facility represents a significant step forward in the MBTA's program to convert the existing diesel bus fleet to cleaner burning fuels, and to build newer, state-of-the-art maintenance facilities that have fewer impacts on the environment and the neighborhoods in which they are located.

The 118 bus facility described in this ENF is being developed so that the MBTA can house and maintain some of the new CNG buses that the MBTA has recently purchased and plans to bring online over the next 18 months. These new CNG buses will have far fewer emissions than the diesel buses that will be retired as a result of the arrival of the new CNG buses. In addition, the buses will be low floor, and as such, easily accessible to people with disabilities and the elderly.

Upon opening the new facility at the Arborway, the MBTA will close the bus facility at Bartlett Street in Roxbury. This facility at Bartlett Street is quite old and no longer serves the MBTA's bus needs. In addition, the facility is located in a residential neighborhood and poses potential impacts to the neighbors around the garage. By closing the Bartlett facility, we can greatly improve the quality of life for these neighbors.

In addition, the Bartlett facility is poorly located in relation to the routes that it services (primarily routes in and around Jamaica Plain, West Roxbury and other communities to the south.) By moving the facility closer to the origin point of most routes, the MBTA will eliminate over 7500 diesel bus vehicle miles traveled each day, thus resulting in a substantial air quality benefit to the Roxbury and Jamaica Plain neighborhoods.

As part of the project, the MBTA intends to make available over 8 acres of land to the City of Boston to be used as parkland and other community benefits.

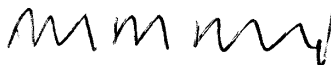
Secretary Bob Durand
RE: Arborway CNG Bus Storage and Repair Facility
Environmental Notification Form
October 31, 2002
Page 2 of 2

The MBTA has engaged in one of the most intense and interactive community involvement processes of any other MBTA project. This process, which has been going on for over four years, has resulted in significant changes to the facility to accommodate the community and also significant enhancements in the area to benefit the neighborhoods. While we have not been able to meet every request by the neighborhoods, we have made many accommodations and worked cooperatively with neighborhood groups in trying to find solutions that address the mutual interests of both the community and the MBTA. We have managed to strike a balance between the interests of the quality of life in the neighborhoods while, at the same time, addressing the needs of local neighborhoods, the MBTA and the Commonwealth to bring into service new, cleaner-burning, fully-accessible buses and to close older out-of-date facilities with greater impacts on residential communities.

We look forward to the public review of this ENF. We believe that the project meets, or exceeds, all of the requirements of MEPA. We understand a scoping session will be held on the project, with comments received by your office, prior to making a decision on the ENF. The staff at MEPA should please work with Andrew Brennan, Director of Environmental Affairs, to coordinate this scoping session. Mr. Brennan can be reached at 617-222-3126 or at abrennan@mbta.com.

We look forward to your involvement on this important project.

Sincerely,



Michael H. Mulhern
General Manager