

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.: 13402
 MEPA Analyst: Nick ZAVOLAS
 Phone: 617-626-1030

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 Old Center/Common Area		
Street: Andover Street, Osgood Street, Massachusetts Avenue and minor area streets		
Municipality: Town of North Andover	Watershed: Shawsheen River and Merrimack River	
Universal Tranverse Mercator Coordinates: X 326259 Y 4727374 X 326287 Y 4728762 X 327198 Y 4727687	Latitude: 42°40'45"N to 42°41'30"N Longitude: 71°06'33"W to 71°07'14"W	
Estimated commencement date: Spring 2005	Estimated completion date: Fall 2006	
Approximate cost: \$3,500,000	Status of project design: 75 %complete	
Proponent: MassHighway & Town of North Andover		
Street: 10 Park Plaza, Rm 4260 (MassHighway address)		
Municipality: Boston	State: MA	Zip Code: 02116
Name of Contact Person From Whom Copies of this ENF May Be Obtained: Michael Furlong		
Firm/Agency: MassHighway	Street: 10 Park Plaza	
Municipality: Boston	State: MA	Zip Code: 02116
Phone: 617-973-8067	Fax: 617-973-8879	E-mail: mi-chael.furlong@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): **Construction will be funded 80% federal / 20% state**

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

List Local or Federal Permits and Approvals: **North Andover Conservation Commission WPA Form 5 - Order of Conditions**

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 checked="" 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 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>
Total site acreage	15.9 acres			
New acres of land altered		3.0 acres		
Acres of impervious area	8.6 acres	0.6 acres	9.2 acres	
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		N/A		
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				
Massachusetts Avenue	11,250	0	11,250	
Andover Street bet. Mass Ave/Osgood	6,850	0	6,850	
Osgood St., bet. Mass. Ave/Andover	3,550	0	3,550	
Johnson St./Salem St., s. of Old Center	15,900	0	15,900	
Andover St., west of Osgood St.	10,000	0	10,000	
Osgood St., north of Mass. Ave.	5,550	0	5,550	

Parking spaces			
Osgood Street	35	-6	29
Johnson Street	19	2	21
Hayscales Restaurant	6	6	6
Great Pond Road	11	0	11
Academy Road	5	0	5
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 _____) No

A review of the Massachusetts Natural Heritage Atlas and also a response letter from NHESP regarding state-protected rare species identified no rare plants or animals or exemplary natural communities in the vicinity of the project site.

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 **The project area is located almost entirely within the Old North Andover Center National Register Historic District and the locally designated North Andover Olde Center Historic District. The boundaries of the two districts are similar and include the Town Common, the 1835 North Parish Congregational Church, two early nineteenth century commercial buildings, and numerous residential buildings constructed from the mid-eighteenth century through the early nineteenth century. Based on the nature of the proposed work, it appears that the project will not adversely affect the character-defining features of either of the historic districts, nor those of any of the contributing properties within their boundaries. In accordance with the Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, the Mass Historic Commission has concurred with MassHighway's determination that the project will have "No Adverse Affect" on archaeological or historic resources within the project area (see attached).**

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 Town of North Andover proposes to reconstruct three roadways surrounding the North Andover Old Center /Common Area - Massachusetts Avenue, Andover Street, and Osgood Street. In addition, the project includes improvements to Salem Street/Johnson Street from the intersection of Massachusetts Avenue and Andover Street (the Old Center) southeasterly a distance of approximately 350 meters, Andover Street from the intersection of Andover Street and Osgood Street southwesterly to the intersection with Carty Circle, and Osgood Street from the intersection of Massachusetts Avenue and Osgood Street northerly to the intersection with Bay State Road. This proposal for the reconstruction of the roadways resulted from meetings initiated by the town to address road and traffic inadequacies within the area.

The existing pavement condition is poor with areas of rutting, cracking, and raveling evident. Also, the lack of adequate drainage provisions along the project corridor is of significant concern as a cause of pavement stress and failure, and a safety hazard during times of inclement weather. Reconstruction of North Andover Old Center /Common Area will improve traffic and pedestrian safety and operations in the immediate project area.

Work as proposed includes earth excavation, excavation by cold planer, asphalt pavement replacement, cement concrete sidewalk construction, drainage system improvements, granite curbing installation, traffic signal installation, modern roundabout construction, bituminous concrete berm installation, pavement marking, signage installation, landscaping, and other incidental work.

More specific details relating to the improvements proposed at the significant intersections within the project area is as follows:

A signal warrant analysis was conducted for the intersection at the Old Center (Johnson Street/Salem Street/Massachusetts Avenue/Andover Street/Great Pond Road/Academy Road). This analysis indicates that a traffic signal is warranted at this location. However, this intersection is a sensitive area because of its historical significance. The project area is primarily located within the Town's Old Center Historic District. The dwellings in this area were built in the early 19th century. Significant public and town comment to date has shown virtually no support for a traffic signal system at this location. Therefore, an alternative design has been developed that will accommodate the traffic demands at this location, while remaining sensitive to the area's character.

Construction of a roundabout, which is in character with the surrounding area, is proposed at the Old Center intersection instead of a signal. Some of the significant traffic features of this roundabout will include closing off the Academy Road access to the intersection, realigning all Johnson Street/Salem Street traffic to the west side of the existing island, and controlling each entrance to the roundabout by yield signs. The design incorporates proper deflection and speed reduction for all approaching traffic.

A signal warrant analysis was conducted for the intersection of Massachusetts Ave-

nue/Osgood Street. A traffic signal is warranted at this location and has been proposed. The signal will include an exclusive pedestrian phase to improve the safety for pedestrians crossing the street. Overhead signal heads will be incorporated into the design of this signal to provide optimal visibility of the signal. The signal mast, post and base were chosen after considerable input from North Andover's "Olde Center Historical District Commission", to be in keeping with the surrounding area. The mast and post are to be fluted shafts, coupled with the base in a satin black finish.

The intersection of Andover Street/Osgood Street will be realigned such that Andover Street is the major street, with the Osgood Street approach controlled by a stop sign. This proposed alignment assigns the right of way to the heaviest traffic approaches (Andover Street eastbound and westbound), and it slows the vehicles traveling between Osgood Street and Andover Street to the west.

ALTERNATIVES ANALYSIS

On-site and off-site alternatives for reconstruction of North Andover Old Center/Common Area would not be practical. According to DEP guidelines on the scope of alternatives to be considered for a redevelopment project, alternatives are limited to the existing right-of-way and adjacent areas. Adjacent areas consist of private property. It would be cost prohibitive to purchase the adjacent land to bypass impacts to wetland buffer zone areas. The proposed design bypasses all Bordering Vegetated Wetland (BVW) area impacts. Furthermore, intermittent streams generally run perpendicular to the roadway and shifting the existing roadway would significantly impact wetland resource areas associated with these streams. Pavement overlay was also considered as an option. This option would allow the underlying failing pavement conditions to continue and would not correct existing drainage problems. The preferred option is to correct the sub-standard drainage problems and poor pavement conditions while minimizing potential impacts to wetlands to the greatest extent practical as proposed.

Through the length of the corridor, the minimum travel lanes and usable shoulders are included, following approval by MassHighway for a design exception for Andover Streets and Mass. Ave. The typical sections were determined from the results of an environmental impact alternative analysis.

Wetland resource areas along the project corridor run in close proximity and generally parallel to the roadway. As a result, the typical cross sections in these areas have been modified to reduce wetland impacts. The project will have no impacts to Bordering Vegetated Wetlands.

The lack of adequate drainage provisions along the current project corridor is of significant concern as a cause of pavement stress and failure, and a safety hazard during times of inclement weather. The proposed drainage system will be a closed drainage system, comprised of deep sump catch basins and vegetated swales, where applicable.

The project, as proposed, will maintain and improve the existing roadway, including widening (limited to less than a single lane width for increased shoulder width) resulting in drainage system and road safety improvements. Pursuant to the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act Regulations (310 CMR 10.53 (3)(f)) this work falls under the descrip-

tion of a "limited" project. Pursuant to the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act Regulations at 310 CMR 10.58(5) and the DEP's Stormwater Management Policy this project may be categorized as a redevelopment project. All work will conform to the general performance standards of the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act (MGL c. 131 § 40) and its implementing regulations at 310 CMR 10.00.seq.. Measures taken to avoid impacts to wetland areas include steepening of side slopes, and roadway orientation outside of BVW areas. BMP's incorporated into the construction phase of the project to prevent sediment from entering resource areas include the use of sedimentation traps, temporary sedimentation basins, and typical haybale and silt fence along resource areas.

The project as proposed requires an ENF pursuant to the Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act (MGL c. 30 § 61-62H) and its implementing regulations at 301 CMR 11.03(6)(b)2.b, for cutting "five or more living public shade trees of 14 or more inches in DBH".

LAND SECTION – all proponents must fill out this section

I. Thresholds / Permits

A. Does the project meet or exceed any review thresholds related to land (see 301 CMR 11.03(1))
 ___ Yes **X** No; if yes, specify each threshold:

II. Impacts and Permits

A. Describe, in acres, the current and proposed character of the project site, as follows:

	<u>Existing</u>	<u>Change</u>	<u>Total</u>
Footprint of buildings	_____	_____	_____
Roadways, parking, and other paved areas	8.6	0.6	9.2
Other altered areas (describe)	_____	_____	_____
Undeveloped areas	_____	_____	_____

B. Has any part of the project site been in active agricultural use in the last three years?
 ___ Yes **X** No; if yes, how many acres of land in agricultural use (with agricultural soils) will be converted to nonagricultural use?

C. Is any part of the project site currently or proposed to be in active forestry use?
 ___ Yes **X** No; if yes, please describe current and proposed forestry activities and indicate whether any part of the site is the subject of a DEM-approved forest management plan:

D. Does any part of the project involve conversion of land held for natural resources purposes in accordance with Article 97 of the Amendments to the Constitution of the Commonwealth to any purpose not in accordance with Article 97? ___ Yes **X** No; if yes, describe:

E. Is any part of the project site currently subject to a conservation restriction, preservation restriction, agricultural preservation restriction or watershed preservation restriction? ___ Yes **X** No; if yes, does the project involve the release or modification of such restriction? ___ Yes ___ No; if yes, describe:

F. Does the project require approval of a new urban redevelopment project or a fundamental change in an existing urban redevelopment project under M.G.L.c.121A? ___ Yes **X** No; if yes, describe:

G. Does the project require approval of a new urban renewal plan or a major modification of an existing urban renewal plan under M.G.L.c.121B? Yes ___ No **X**; if yes, describe:

H. Describe the project's stormwater impacts and, if applicable, measures that the project will take