

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts**  
 Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs  
 Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act (MEPA) Office

**Environmental Notification Form**

*For Office Use Only*

EEA#: 15932

MEPA Analyst: Page Czepiga

*The information requested on this form must be completed in order to submit a document electronically for review under the Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act, 301 CMR 11.00.*

Project Name: <b>Improvements &amp; Related Work on Routes 202 &amp; 21, from Turkey Hill Road to South Main Street (1.2 Miles) (MassDOT Project #608412)</b>		
Street Address: <b>State/Maple Street (Routes 202 &amp; 21)</b>		
Municipality: <b>Belchertown, MA</b>	Watershed: <b>Connecticut and Chicopee</b>	
Universal Transverse Mercator Coordinates: <b>18T 713546 m E 4683319 m N</b>	Latitude: <b>42.27286°</b> Longitude: <b>-72.41048°</b>	
Estimated commencement date: <b>Spring 2020</b>	Estimated completion date: <b>Fall 2022</b>	
Project Type: <b>Highway Reconstruction</b>	Status of project design: <b>75% complete</b>	
Proponent: <b>Town of Belchertown (Department of Public Works)</b>		
Street Address: <b>290 Jackson Street, PO Box 670</b>		
Municipality: <b>Belchertown</b>	State: <b>MA</b>	Zip Code: <b>01007</b>
Name of Contact Person: <b>Gene F. Crouch</b>		
Firm/Agency: <b>VHB</b>	Street Address: <b>101 Walnut Street</b>	
Municipality: <b>Watertown</b>	State: <b>MA</b>	Zip Code: <b>02471</b>
Phone: <b>617-607-2783</b>	Fax: <b>617-924-2286</b>	E-mail: <b>GCrouch@vhb.com</b>

  

Does this project meet or exceed a mandatory EIR threshold (see 301 CMR 11.03)?  
 Yes  No

If this is an Expanded Environmental Notification Form (ENF) (see 301 CMR 11.05(7)) or a Notice of Project Change (NPC), are you requesting:

a Single EIR? (see 301 CMR 11.06(8))	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
a Special Review Procedure? (see 301CMR 11.09)	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
a Waiver of mandatory EIR? (see 301 CMR 11.11)	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
a Phase I Waiver? (see 301 CMR 11.11)	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No

*(Note: Greenhouse Gas Emissions analysis must be included in the Expanded ENF.)*

Which MEPA review threshold(s) does the project meet or exceed (see 301 CMR 11.03)?  
**11.03(6)(b)1.b. – widening of an existing roadway by four or more feet for one-half or more miles.**

Which State Agency Permits will the project require?

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 funding from Massachusetts Department of Transportation – Highway Division

Summary of Project Size & Environmental Impacts	Existing	Change	Total
<b>LAND</b>			
Total site acreage	9.04		
New acres of land altered		0	
Acres of impervious area	5.70	1.12	6.82
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	
<b>STRUCTURES</b>			
Gross square footage	N/A	N/A	N/A
Number of housing units	N/A	N/A	N/A
Maximum height (feet)	N/A	N/A	N/A
<b>TRANSPORTATION</b>			
Vehicle trips per day	14,067	0	14,067
Parking spaces	0	0	0
<b>WASTEWATER</b>			
Water Use (Gallons per day)	N/A	N/A	N/A
Water withdrawal (GPD)	N/A	N/A	N/A
Wastewater generation/treatment (GPD)	N/A	N/A	N/A
Length of water mains (miles)	N/A	N/A	N/A
Length of sewer mains (miles)	N/A	N/A	N/A
Has this project been filed with MEPA before? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes (EEA # _____) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No			
Has any project on this site been filed with MEPA before? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes (EEA # _____) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No			

## GENERAL PROJECT INFORMATION – all proponents must fill out this section

### PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

Describe the existing conditions and land uses on the project site:

The project limits along Route 202/21 extend approximately 1,000 feet west of the Route 21 (Turkey Hill Road) intersection and continue east, terminating approximately 250 feet west of the Route 202/21 and south Main Street (Route 181) intersection. The overall project length is approximately 6,200 linear feet (1.17 miles). Route 202/21 in the project area is a two-way roadway consisting of one 12-foot travel lane in each direction, varying width shoulders, and a 3-foot to 4-foot wide sidewalk. Sidewalk is absent in the western third of the project, varies from one side of the roadway to the other side in the central third, and is present on both sides in the eastern third of the project.

Land use within the western portion of the project area is primarily municipal and consists of the Eastern Hampshire District Court, the Belchertown Police Department, the Belchertown Parks and Recreation Department, and town recreation fields. State Street (Route 202/21) also acts as the main access points to the Chestnut Hill Community School, the Swift River Elementary School, and the Belchertown High School. The Route 202/21 and Stadler Street intersection serves a variety of commercial land uses including a convenience store with gas station, a restaurant, a bank, and provides access to additional athletic fields and commercial uses. East of the New England Central Railroad crossing, land use is primarily residential. Regionally, the roadway provides connectivity between Interstate 91 (south) and Route 2 (north).

Describe the proposed project and its programmatic and physical elements:

The proposed project consists of roadway improvements along the overlap of Routes 202 and 21 in Belchertown, Massachusetts. Proposed improvements include minor roadway widening throughout the corridor, a combination of full depth pavement and micromill and overlay, geometric improvements at intersections, bicycle accommodations, along with new and reconstructed sidewalks. Route 202/21 will be widened to create one 11-foot travel lane in each direction, 5-foot outside shoulders on each side striped as bicycle lanes, and 5-foot sidewalks throughout the majority of the project limits. Sidewalk will be maintained on one side of the NECRR bridge as no structural bridge work is proposed. No sidewalk west of Turkey Hill Road, on the westbound side, will be provided to minimize wetland buffer encroachment. New sidewalk will be installed in the eastbound direction, beginning at the Eastern Hampshire District Court. New sidewalks, crosswalks, and wheelchair ramps will be constructed throughout the project area and will be compliant with ADA/AAB design standards. Additional work includes roadway side slope re-grading, utility pole relocations, installation of curbing, roadway re-striping, guardrail reconstruction, signage upgrades, drainage improvements, and landscaping.

Describe the on-site project alternatives (and alternative off-site locations, if applicable), considered by the proponent, including at least one feasible alternative that is allowed under current zoning, and the reasons(s) that they were not selected as the preferred alternative:

Insufficient shoulder width and irregular sidewalk locations along the corridor provide inadequate safety accommodations for all users of the roadway, including motorists, pedestrians, school children, handicapped persons and bicyclists. The purpose of the project is to improve safety and mobility for all users by widening the corridor and adding turning lanes and new traffic signal systems with pedestrian phasing, among other improvements. The Project was designed to comply with the Complete Streets initiative. There are no reasonable alternatives to the Project. The No-Build alternative would maintain the existing unsafe shoulder and pedestrian and bicycle conditions. Additionally, the No-Build alternative would result in continued deterioration of the roadway surface of Route 202/21 with no enhancements to motorist, pedestrian or bicycle access to schools, municipal and state buildings and residential properties within the project limits. Improvements to a roadway in another location would have no impact on the existing conditions. As designed,

the proposed Project involves permanent and temporary activities within the 100-foot Buffer Zone to Bordering Vegetated Wetlands only.

Summarize the mitigation measures proposed to offset the impacts of the preferred alternative:

During construction, there will be impacts to traffic operations from the presence of construction equipment and workers. A Traffic Management Plan will be implemented to minimize delays and control traffic movement. Signs will be installed prior to entering the construction zone to alert drivers of the ongoing work and provide direction for travel lanes. Mitigation in the form of an erosion and sedimentation control program and stormwater management plan is proposed. The project will involve permanent and temporary activities within the 100-foot Buffer Zone to Bordering Vegetated Wetlands only.

If the project is proposed to be constructed in phases, please describe each phase:

The project will not be constructed in phases.

**AREAS OF CRITICAL ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERN:**

Is the project within or adjacent to an Area of Critical Environmental Concern?

Yes (Specify: \_\_\_\_\_)

No

If yes, does the ACEC have an approved Resource Management Plan? \_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_ No;

If yes, describe how the project complies with this plan.

Will there be stormwater runoff or discharge to the designated ACEC? \_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_ No;

If yes, describe and assess the potential impacts of such stormwater runoff/discharge to the designated ACEC.

**RARE SPECIES:**

Does the project site include Estimated and/or Priority Habitat of State-Listed Rare Species? (see [http://www.mass.gov/dfwele/dfw/nhosp/regulatory\\_review/priority\\_habitat/priority\\_habitat\\_home.htm](http://www.mass.gov/dfwele/dfw/nhosp/regulatory_review/priority_habitat/priority_habitat_home.htm))

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: Purdy, Harvey House; Spears, John P. House; Dwight, Jonathan House; Burnet, William House; Towne, Mary R. House; Downing, Charles House; Mitchell, Thomas – Lawrence, Sen. Myron House; 31 Maple Street; Hoag, Henry House; Phelps, Dea. William House; Walker – Collis House; Perkins, Samuel G. Double House; Davis, David – Dearborn, Rebecca House; Joyal, Romeo House; Belchertown Center Historic District; Belchertown State School; and Maple Street)  No

If yes, does the project involve any demolition or destruction of any listed or inventoried historic or archaeological resources?  Yes (Specify \_\_\_\_\_)  No

**WATER RESOURCES:**

Is there an Outstanding Resource Water (ORW) on or within a half-mile radius of the project site? X Yes \_\_\_ No;

if yes, identify the ORW and its location. Ludlow Reservoir located in Pelham, Belchertown, Granby and Ludlow, MA

(NOTE: Outstanding Resource Waters include Class A public water supplies, their tributaries, and bordering wetlands; active and inactive reservoirs approved by MassDEP; certain waters within Areas of Critical Environmental Concern, and certified vernal pools. Outstanding resource waters are listed in the Surface Water Quality Standards, 314 CMR 4.00.)

Are there any impaired water bodies on or within a half-mile radius of the project site? X Yes \_\_\_ No; if yes, identify the water body and pollutant(s) causing the impairment: Weston Brook; Phosphorous \_\_\_\_\_