

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

Environmental Notification Form

For Office Use Only

EEA#: 15944

MEPA Analyst: Eve Schluter

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: Cape Cod Rail Trail Extension

Street Address DCR ROW - LeCount Hollow Road Parking Lot to Route 6

Municipality: Wellfleet

Watershed: Cape Cod

Universal Transverse Mercator Coordinates:

Latitude: **41°54'58.73"N**

Longitude: **69°59'16.84"W**

Estimated commencement date: **Spring 2019**

Estimated completion date: **Summer 2020**

Project Type: Multi-Use Pathway/Greenway

Status of project design: **75 %complete**

Proponent: Department of Conservation and Recreation

Street Address: 251 Causeway Street, 9th Floor

Municipality: Boston

State: MA

Zip Code: 02114

Name of Contact Person: Brian Madden

Firm/Agency: LEC Environmental

Street Address: 12 Resnik Road, Suite 1

Municipality: Plymouth

State: MA

Zip Code: 02360

Phone: 508-746-9491

Fax: 508-746-9492

E-mail:

bmadden@lecenvironmental.com

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))

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

(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)?

Rare Species 301 CMR 11.03 (2)(b)2.

Which State Agency Permits will the project require?

MESA Conservation and Management Permit / State Highway Access Permit

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: **DCR Capital Funds**

12974
for Schlotter

Summary of Project Size & Environmental Impacts	Existing	Change	Total
LAND			
Total site acreage	19.95±		
New acres of land altered		6.91±	
Acres of impervious area	0.4±	3.0±	3.4±
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	0	0	0
Number of housing units	0	0	0
Maximum height (feet)	0	0	0
TRANSPORTATION			
Vehicle trips per day	100±	100±	200±
Parking spaces	32	33	65
WASTEWATER			
Water Use (Gallons per day)	0	0	0
Water withdrawal (GPD)	0	0	0
Wastewater generation/treatment (GPD)	0	0	0
Length of water mains (miles)	0	0	0
Length of sewer mains (miles)	0	0	0
<p>Has this project been filed with MEPA before? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes (EEA # _____) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No</p>			
<p>Has any project on this site been filed with MEPA before? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes (EEA #6348) <input type="checkbox"/> No LeCount Hollow Road parking lot was part of the original 22 mile CCRT: Dennis-Wellfleet</p>			

GENERAL PROJECT INFORMATION – all proponents must fill out this section

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

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

The Department of Conservation & Recreation (DCR) owned Right-of-Way (ROW) is a former railroad bed extending in an arc for approximately 2.131± miles between LeCount Hollow Road and Route 6. Old Kings Highway crosses the ROW approximately 0.25± miles east of Route 6. Variably dense residential development and Paines Campground exists to the west and south of the ROW amongst forested upland habitat and scattered isolated wetlands. The Cape Cod National Seashore (CCNS) occurs to the east and north. Additional residential and commercial development abuts the corridor on either side proximate to the respective LeCount Hollow Road and Route 6 intersections. An 125± linear foot wide electric easement primarily occurs in between the ROW and the CCNS. A parking lot for the existing Cape Cod Rail Trail (CCRT) is located to the south, off LeCount Hollow Road. Existing Bordering Vegetated Wetlands (BVW) occur adjacent to the parking lot.

Under existing conditions, an 8-10± foot wide dirt driveway extends for approximately 0.3± miles off LeCount Hollow Road, providing access to a few single-family dwellings west of the trail (via an easement). North of the driveway, the dirt trail narrows to 6-8± feet wide. Only one Isolated Vegetated Wetland (IVW), protected by the Wellfleet Wetlands Protection Regulations, occurs within 100 feet of the trail between LeCount Hollow Road and Route 6. Early to mid-successional habitat conditions abut the driveway and trail with overhanging pitch pine and oak trees and saplings. The trail is situated on either an elevated topographic ridge (raised former railroad bed) or “in cut” with moderately descending or ascending vegetated side slopes. Various sandy paths crisscross the ROW. The trail is currently subject to unauthorized off-road vehicular use.

According to the 14th edition of the *Massachusetts Natural Atlas* (effective August 1, 2017), portions of the DCR ROW are located within a Priority Habitat of Rare Species/Estimated Habitat of Rare Wildlife mapped for Common’s Panic-Grass, Barrens Buckmoth, Eastern Spadefoot, and Eastern Box Turtle, state-listed species protected under the *Massachusetts Endangered Species Act* (MESA, M.G.L. c. 131A) and its implementing *Regulations* (321 CMR 10.00). To date, the Project Proponent has undergone preliminary review with the Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program (NHESP) to review performance standards for issuance of a Conservation and Management Permit under MESA.

Describe the proposed project and its programmatic and physical elements:

The proposed CCRT Extension involves a 10-foot wide paved, multi-use trail between LeCount Hollow Road and Route 6. In order to provide access to the abutting single-family homes, a 12-foot wide gravel driveway will extend parallel to the 10-foot wide paved path for 1,600± linear feet north of LeCount Hollow Road. A 5-foot wide revegetated shoulder containing a cedar rail fence will separate the driveway from the path. Two-foot wide grassed shoulders will abut the driveway and path. Work limits have been minimized in consideration of grades extending along the existing trail. Wooden guard rails are necessary in a few locations where grades moderately descend. Coir logs and/or biodegradable jute mesh will be utilized in select locations in combination with revegetation efforts to stabilize denuded side slopes. Native trees and shrubs are proposed along the trail.

A new access and parking lot is proposed off Route 6 to contain 33 parking spots, including 2 van accessible handicap spots. The proposed trailhead and associated amenities are depicted on the site plans.

Minimal improvements are proposed at the existing LeCount Hollow Road parking lot, including a new trailhead reconfiguration to facilitate bike/pedestrian flow along the eastern extent of parking lot before connecting to a new path extension and crossing at LeCount Hollow Road. The existing entrance to the parking lot will be shifted and expanded to provide greater separation between vehicles and bikes/pedestrians. The paved parking spots will be minimally shifted and expanded as well. Erosion control barriers will be installed along the Limits of Work upgradient of the BVW. The proposed Limit of Work is depicted on the site plans, including storage/staging areas. The abutting Paines Campground recently acquired by DCR will be utilized for access, in addition to the end points and the crossing at Old Kings Highway.

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:

See Attachment A.

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

See Attachment A.

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

AREAS OF CRITICAL ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERN:

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

Yes (Specify:) No (*Wellfleet Harbor ACEC is approximately 1,000± feet from the Rt 6 access*)

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/nhesp/regulatory_review/priority_habitat/priority_habitat_home.htm)

Yes (Specify:) No **Priority/Estimated Habitat, mapped for the Common's Panic-Grass, Barrens Buckmoth, Eastern Spadefoot, & Eastern Box Turtle**

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

WATER RESOURCES:

Is there an Outstanding Resource Water (ORW) on or within a half-mile radius of the project site? Yes ___ No; if yes, identify the ORW and its location. **Wellfleet Harbor, Duck Creek, Blackfish Creek, Duck Pond, and several Certified Vernal Pools (#'s 1977, 2657, 5223, & 5225) occur within 0.5 miles of the Project.**

Are there any impaired water bodies on or within a half-mile radius of the project site? Yes ___ No; if yes, identify the water body and pollutant(s) causing the impairment: **Wellfleet Harbor/Duck Creek (Pathogens)**