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December 7, 2018

CERTIFICATE OF THE SECRETARY OF ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS
ON THE
ENVIRONMENTAL NOTIFICATION FORM

PROJECT NAME : Reconstruction of Route 187 from 425 Feet South of South
Westfield Street to Route 57
PROJECT MUNICIPALITY : Agawam
PROJECT WATERSHED : Connecticut River
EEA NUMBER : 15930
PROJECT PROPONENT : Town of Agawam
DATE NOTICED IN MONITOR : November 7, 2018

Pursuant to the Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act (MEPA; M.G. L. c. 30, ss. 61-62I) and Section 11.06 of the MEPA regulations (301 CMR 11.00), I hereby determine that this project **does not** require an Environmental Impact Report (EIR).

Project Description

As described in the Environmental Notification Form (ENF), the project involves the full-depth pavement reconstruction of a 1,800-foot (ft) section of Route 187, which is known as South Westfield Street in the northern portion of the project area and Pine Street in the southern section. The project includes the reconstruction of a 150-ft section of South Westfield Street south of its intersection with Route 187 (Pine Street). It will improve safety and traffic operations, including sight distances, and provide pedestrian and bicycle facilities along the roadway. Project components include:

- Improved horizontal and vertical alignment of the roadway;
- 5-ft wide shoulders on both sides of Route 187 to facilitate bicycle use of the roadway;
- 6-ft wide sidewalks meeting the standards of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) on both sides of Route 187 north of the Pine Street/South Westfield Street intersection and on the west side of Route 187 south of the intersection;
- New crosswalks at the northern end of the project and at the Pine Street/South Westfield Street intersection;
- One 11-ft travel lane in each direction on Route 187 and one 12-ft travel lane in each direction on South Westfield Street;
- New traffic markings and signage; and,
- A new stormwater management system.

The project will install a new stormwater management system, including hooded catch basins with deep sumps, a vegetated stormwater basin and two new outfalls with stone velocity dissipators. During the review period, the Town of Agawam (Town) provided a revised plan of one of the outfalls showing an increased buffer between its terminus and an area of Bordering Vegetated Wetlands (BVW). The project will remove an outfall located in BVW and restore the area.

Project Site

The project site is located in southern Agawam in an area with residential and agricultural uses. The roadways include one 12-ft travel lane in each direction with 1- to 2-ft shoulders. The roadways are under municipal jurisdiction and are classified as urban minor arterials or rural major collectors. There are no sidewalks, crosswalks or bicycle lanes in the project area.

A wooded wetland with BVW is located east of the houses adjacent to the northbound travel lane of Route 187. Three sites within the project area are listed in the Massachusetts Historical Commission's (MHC) *Inventory of Historic and Archaeological Assets of the Commonwealth*. Easements will be required on one of the properties, known as the Smith, Hinsdale House (AGA.218), including a 3,618-square foot (sf) temporary easement and a 1,278-sf permanent easement.

This section of Route 187 was included within a larger project reviewed by MEPA (EEA# 11790) in 1998 that was never commenced. The project included roadway improvements along a 3.3-mile long section of Route 187. The project could not be implemented because it required significant easements for stormwater management facilities that could not be secured by the Town.

Environmental Impacts and Mitigation

Environmental impacts associated with the project include increasing impervious area by approximately 0.55 acres, altering 150 sf of BVW and removing 6 public shade trees with a diameter at breast height of 14 inches or more. Measures to avoid, minimize and mitigate Damage to the Environment include restoration of altered BVW, an improved stormwater management system, and construction-period mitigation measures including sedimentation and erosion controls and the use of recycled asphalt.

Permitting and Jurisdiction

This project is subject to MEPA review and preparation of an ENF pursuant to 301 CMR 11.03(6)(b)(2)(b) because it requires a State Agency Action and will require the cutting of five or more living public shade trees of 14 or more inches in diameter at breast height (6 trees).

The project will require an Order of Conditions from the Agawam Conservation Commission, or in the case of an appeal, a Superseding Order of Conditions (SOC) from the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP). It will require a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Construction General Permit (CGP) from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and a Self-Verification Notification to the Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) pursuant to the General Permits for Massachusetts. The project may require review by MHC pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act.

Because the Town is seeking State Financial Assistance from Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT), MEPA jurisdiction is broad and extends to those aspects of the project that are likely, directly or indirectly, to cause Damage to the Environment as defined in the MEPA regulations.

Review of the ENF

The ENF provided a description of existing and proposed conditions and provided preliminary project plans. It reviewed alternatives to the project and identified measures to avoid, minimize and mitigate environmental impacts.

The ENF included an analysis of two project alternatives. The No Build alternative would avoid environmental impacts, but would not meet the project's goals of improving the safety of the roadway and providing pedestrian and bicycle facilities. The second alternative would reconstruct the roadway without improving the horizontal and vertical alignment of the roadway. This alternative would improve the condition of the roadway surface while minimizing the need for easements and the number of public shade trees that would be removed. This alternative was rejected because it would not improve sight lines or provide bicycle and pedestrian facilities.

The Preferred Alternative will provide the necessary safety improvements along the roadway, add shoulders on both sides of the road to accommodate bicyclists, and provide ADA-compliant sidewalks and crosswalks. The project will improve traffic conditions by improving sight lines and adding pavement markings and signage. It will provide ADA-compliant sidewalks and crosswalks and 5-ft shoulders to accommodate bicyclists. Project impacts will be mitigated by planting new shade trees and upgrading the stormwater management system in compliance with the Wetlands Regulations (310 CMR 10.00) Stormwater Management Standards (SMS) for redevelopment projects. I encourage the Town to consider the use of infiltration Best Management Practices (BMPs) or Low Impact Development (LID) techniques such as rain gardens or bioswales within the grassy areas adjacent to the roadway to provide additional water quality improvements.

Construction


The project will include the use of sedimentation and erosion controls to prevent water quality impacts during construction. It must comply with Solid Waste and Air Pollution Control regulations, pursuant to M.G.L. c.40, s.54. If oil and/or hazardous materials are identified during construction, notification must be provided to MassDEP pursuant to the Massachusetts Contingency Plan (310 CMR 40.0000). To reduce construction-period air emissions, I encourage the Town to require its construction contractors to use equipment manufactured to Tier 4 federal emission standards which are the most stringent emissions standards available for off-road engines. If equipment is not available in the Tier 4 configuration, the Proponent should consider equipment with after-engine emissions controls, such as oxidation catalysts or diesel particulate filters.

Conclusion

Based on a review of the ENF and comments received, and in consultation with State Agencies, I have determined that the ENF has sufficiently defined the nature and general elements of the project for the purposes of MEPA review and demonstrated that the project's environmental impacts will be avoided, minimized and/or mitigated to the extent practicable.

December 7, 2018

Date

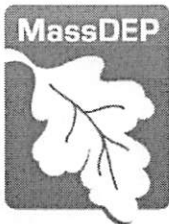


Matthew A. Beaton

Comments received:

11/27/2018 Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) – Western Regional Office (WERO)

MAB/AJS/ajs



Commonwealth of Massachusetts
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November 27, 2018

Matthew A. Beaton, Secretary
Executive Office of Energy & Environmental Affairs
Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act Office
Alex Strycky, EEA No. 15930
100 Cambridge Street, 9th Floor
Boston, MA 02114-2524

Re: Reconstruction of Rt. 187 to Rt. 57
Agawam

Dear Secretary Beaton,

The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP), Western Regional Office (WERO) appreciates the opportunity to comment on the Environmental Notification Form (ENF) submitted for the Reconstruction of Route 187 to Route 57, (EEA #15930) - Agawam. Applicable MassDEP regulatory and permitting considerations regarding wetlands, wastewater, drinking water, air pollution, hazardous waste, solid waste, and waste site cleanup are addressed.

I. Project Description

The project Proponent is the Town of Agawam; the project is being funded through MassDOT. The project is 1,800 feet long starting on South Westfield Street at the intersection of Rte., 57 proceeding south to the intersection of Pine and South Westfield Streets. The project includes full depth reconstruction, 11 feet wide travel lanes, bike lanes, sidewalks, signage and traffic marking improvement, drainage improvements and a detention basin.

The project will remove more than 5 public shade trees 14-inches or more in diameter. No new discharge points directly to resource areas are proposed; however temporary work will be conducted in a Bordering Vegetated Wetland to reconstruct and existing outfall and install a Detention Basin. A Notice of Intent is currently under review by the Conservation Commission; MassDEP issued comments and a file number for the project. There are no MassDEP permits required for this project unless there is a Superseding Order of Conditions.

Environmental impacts are as follows:

- 150 square feet of Bordering Vegetated Wetland (Temporary)

II. Required Mass DEP Permits and/or Applicable Regulations

Wetlands

310 CMR 10.000

Air Pollution

310 CMR 7.00

Solid Waste

310 CMR 19.00

Bureau of Waste Site Cleanup

310 CMR 40.0000

III. Permit Discussion

Bureau of Water Resources

Wetlands

As proposed the project will impact wetland resource areas. There are temporary impacts proposed for 159 s.f. of Bordering Vegetated Wetland area associated with reconstruction of a stormwater outlet. The existing outlet will be pulled back further from the resource area and reconstructed as the outlet for the new detention basin. Restoration is proposed in situ. A Notice of Intent was filed on November 9, 2018 for which MassDEP issued comments and a file number. The Proponent has submitted revised drawings for the proposed detention basin that are under review by the Commission.

Stormwater

The project is a redevelopment project and the Proponent has committed to complying with the *Stormwater Management Standards* to the extent practicable.

Bureau of Air and Waste

Air Pollution Control

Construction and Demolition Activities

The construction and demolition activity must conform to current Air Pollution Control Regulations. The proponent should implement measures to alleviate dust, noise, and odor nuisance conditions that may occur during the construction and demolition activities. Such measures must comply with the MassDEP's Bureau of Waste Prevention Regulations 310 CMR 7.01, 7.09, and 7.10.

Construction Period Air Quality Mitigation Measures

The Proponent has acknowledged compliance with MassDEP Diesel Retrofit Program and the use of ultra-low sulfur diesel (ULSD) with a sulfur content of 15 ppm on all non-road engines.

Solid Waste

The proponent shall properly manage and dispose of all solid waste generated by this proposed project pursuant to 310 CMR 16.00 and 310 CMR 19.000, including the regulations at 310 CMR 19.017 (waste ban).

The Proponent has stated their intent to reuse asphalt on site or recycle off site. Asphalt, brick and concrete (ABC) generated through crushing and reuse on-site must be handled in accordance with regulation and policy. Otherwise, the proponent would need to obtain a site assignment and facility permit for the crushing activity and a Beneficial Use Determination (BUD) for the reuse of the crushed material of site. More information regarding the handling of ABC, and a copy of the 30-day notification form may be found at the following website:

- <https://www.mass.gov/files/documents/2018/03/19/abc-rubble.pdf>

The BUD regulations at 310 CMR 19.060 establish levels of assessment for four categories of beneficial use. These regulations would be applicable to reuse of any materials generated by this project that would otherwise be considered solid waste.

The project proponent should be advised that construction activity at the site must comply with both Solid Waste and Air Quality Control regulations. The appropriate Solid Waste provisions addressing this include M.G.L. Chapter 40, Section 54.

Bureau of Waste Site Cleanup

Massachusetts Contingency Plan

The Massachusetts Contingency Plan (MCP) and regulation 310 CMR 40.0000 governs the cleanup of confirmed oil and hazardous material releases in Massachusetts. The Proponent has correctly identified that there are no confirmed release sites in the immediate proposed work area. However, the consultant also cautions about the potential to encounter urban fill areas during construction.

If oil/hazardous material contamination is encountered, or a release occurs during construction activities, a Licensed Site Professional (LSP) should be retained to manage the contaminated media in compliance with the provisions of the MCP. MassDEP staff will be available for consultation.

A spills contingency plan addressing prevention and management of potential releases of oil and/or hazardous materials from pre- and post-construction activities should be presented to workers at the site and enforced. The plan should include but not be limited to, refueling of machinery, storage of fuels, and potential future on-site activity releases.

IV. Other Comments/Guidance

If you have any questions regarding this comment letter, please do not hesitate to call Catherine Skiba at (413) 755-2119 or Email: catherine.skiba@state.ma.us.

Sincerely,

This final document copy is being provided to you electronically by the Department of Environmental Protection. A signed copy of this document is on file at the DEP office listed on the letterhead.

Michael Gorski
Regional Director
cc: MEPA File