

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

**Environmental Notification Form**

*For Office Use Only*

EEA#: 161-59

MEPA Analyst: Alex Steysky

*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: WILLIAMSTOWN- MOHAWK BICYCLE/PEDESTRIAN TRAIL CONSTRUCTION**

**Street Address: Approximately 2.4 miles of trail from the intersection of North Street (Route 7) with Syndicate Road in Williamstown to the Spruce Park property at Mohawk Trail (Route 2) approximately 325 feet east of Galvin Road.**

<b>Municipality: Williamstown</b>	<b>Watershed: Hudson River</b>
<b>Universal Transverse Mercator Coordinates: Start: N: 4731770.6 E: 647002.9 End: N: 4729266.1 E: 649251.7</b>	<b>Start: Latitude: 42°43'27.74"N Longitude: 73°12'16.19"W End: Latitude: 42°42'5.01"N Longitude: 73° 10'38.01"W</b>
<b>Estimated commencement date: Fall 2020 / Spring 2021</b>	<b>Estimated completion date: June 2022</b>
<b>Project Type: Bicycle/Pedestrian Trail</b>	<b>Status of project design: 100 %complete</b>

**Proponent: MassDOT Highway Division and Town of Williamstown**

**Street Address: 10 Park Plaza, Room 4260**

<b>Municipality: Boston</b>	<b>State: MA</b>	<b>Zip Code: 02116</b>
<b>Name of Contact Person: Bryan Cordeiro</b>		
<b>Firm/Agency: MassDOT Highway Division Environmental Services</b>	<b>Street Address: 10 Park Plaza, Room 4260</b>	
<b>Municipality: Boston</b>	<b>State: MA</b>	<b>Zip Code: 02116</b>
<b>Phone: (857) 368-8813</b>	<b>Fax:</b>	<b>E-mail: Bryan.Cordeiro@dot.state.ma.us</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))  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)?

**301 CMR 11.03:**

- (2)(b)(2) – Greater than 2 acres of disturbance of designated priority habitat, as defined in 321 CMF 10.02, that results in a take of a state-listed endangered or threatened species or species of special concern
- (3)(b)(1)(f) – Alteration of one half or more acres of any other wetlands
- (3)(b)(5) – Provided that a Chapter 91 License is required, New or existing unlicensed non-water dependent use of waterways or tidelands, unless the Project is an overhead utility line, a structure of 1,000 or less sf base area accessory to a single family dwelling, a temporary use in a designated port area, or an existing unlicensed structure in use prior to January 1, 1984.

Which State Agency Permits will the project require?

- MassDEP Chapter 91 Waterways License
- MassDEP Corrective Action Design Plan
- Mass. Division of Fisheries and Wildlife – Conservation Management Permit
- MassDEP Section 401 Water Quality Certification

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:

**No land transfer from an Agency of the Commonwealth will be required for the project. It is assumed that project's construction costs will be funded by MassDOT Highway Division (20%) and the Federal Highway Administration (80%).**

Summary of Project Size & Environmental Impacts	Existing	Change	Total
<b>LAND</b>			
Total site acreage	248.61 acres		
New acres of land altered		4.73 acres	
Acres of impervious area	14.23 acres	2.08 acres	16.31 acres
Square feet of new bordering vegetated wetlands alteration		<u>Williamstown:</u> 1,422 s.f. temporary 3,079 s.f. permanent	
Square feet of new other wetland alteration		<u>Williamstown :</u> <u>LUW</u> - 998 sf Temp.      5 sf Perm. <u>Bank</u> - 112 lf Temp.      65 lf Perm. <u>RA</u> *- 63,382 sf Temp.    186,867 s.f. Perm. <u>BLSF</u> *- 185,018 sf Temp. 83,891 sf Perm	
*The impacts to RA and BLSF overlap for the majority of the Project Area.			

Acres of new non-water dependent use of tidelands or waterways		2,547 square feet	
<b>STRUCTURES</b>			
Gross square footage	0	0	0
Number of housing units	0	0	0
Maximum height (feet)	0	0	0
<b>TRANSPORTATION</b>			
Vehicle trips per day	n/a	n/a	n/a
Parking spaces	0 <sup>1</sup>	+39	39
<b>WASTEWATER</b>			
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
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**

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION:**

The Mohawk Bicycle/Pedestrian Trail is a multi-modal path that will eventually connect the city center of North Adams to the town center of Williamstown. The trail will cover approximately 6.5 miles, with 2.4 miles in Williamstown and 4 miles in North Adams, and, when complete, will travel from the intersection of Syndicate Road and Route 7 in Williamstown to the future northern terminus of the Ashuwillticook Trail at Western Gateway Heritage Park in North Adams.

The "Project", MassDOT Project Number 607254, includes the entire length of the trail within Williamstown (2.4 miles) (see Attachment B.1.). The "Project Route" in Williamstown is from the Syndicate Road and Route 7 intersection to Route 2 at the former Spruces Mobile Home Park. The trail generally runs along the Hoosic River while traversing properties owned by Williams College and the Town of Williamstown, including the former Spruces Mobile Home Park. The trail crosses the Green River by way of a proposed bike/pedestrian bridge.

<sup>1</sup> The existing informal (no pavement striping) parking lot on the Spruces Park property will be reconstructed but the footprint will remain the same and the surface will be pervious per FEMA restrictions. Because it is an informal parking area, the existing number of parking spaces cannot be determined.

The goal of the Mohawk Bicycle/Pedestrian shared use path is to provide a safe and scenic pedestrian and bicycle connection between Williamstown and North Adams. The Project will provide a user friendly, ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act)-accessible shared use path which will serve as a historical, recreation and alternative transportation resource for residents and visitors of all ages and abilities. The design of the path seeks to maximize the benefits of such trails for the community while minimizing the impacts on abutters and the natural environment. The trail will connect users to the Hoosic River, commercial and retail properties, Williams College and town facilities, as well as cultural and historic resources like the Williams College Campus and the Mill Village Historic District (Attachment B, Figure 2).

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

The proposed 2.4-mile segment of the Mohawk Bicycle/Pedestrian Trail traverses institutional, residential, commercial, and undeveloped lands that include forested, shrub-dominated, and open meadow habitats, as well as recreational fields, and municipal land. The Project crosses the Green River, four intermittent streams, and is flanked by bordering vegetated wetlands in many locations. The Project also encounters Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program (NHESP) mapped Priority Habitat, a closed town-owned landfill, historic properties, and two (2) properties with recorded Activity and Use Limitations (AULs).

#### **Existing Land Use along Trail Corridor**

From Syndicate Road, the proposed Trail begins on the Williams College campus property and follows an existing sewer easement to the south then travels into a forested area along the Hoosic River which contains several informal walking paths. The trail exits the forested area and follows the northeastern edge of the Williams College recreational fields to the trail's Stetson Road crossing. The trail then enters a municipal property and follows the outer limit of a public skate park through a heavily wooded area continuing through a residential property to Cole Avenue.

After crossing Cole Avenue, the proposed trail traverses a vacant parcel containing a historic structure (town-owned, to be redeveloped) along the southwestern property boundary through existing lawn area, approximately following a sewer easement and then enters a forested area (also on town-owned land). This forested area contains several informal paths that access the Hoosic River. From there the trail generally follows the existing maintained sewer easement for approximately 2,900 feet through a forested area, shifting outside the easement when necessary to avoid extensive impacts to wetlands and endangered species populations (see below for more information).

After exiting the forested area, the trail generally follows a gravel pathway located along the eastern/northern limit of town-owned farmland for approximately 2,800 feet, where the trail enters Spruces Park (formerly the Spruces Mobile Home Park). Then the trail follows the footprint of existing gravel roads to an existing gravel parking lot where the Project terminates.

#### **Existing Conditions - Solid and Hazardous Waste**

The proposed trail crosses portions of the segmented and inactive "Cole Field Landfill" located on the Williams College property (See Attachment B, Figure 3). Subsurface investigations were conducted to determine the limits of the landfill. Four segments of the trail, totaling approximately 1,450 linear feet, are proposed over portions of the inactive landfill.

For approximately 300 feet, the Project corridor travels through an existing AUL area associated with RTN 1-10969 issued to Massachusetts Electric Company for a release from a Former Manufactured Gas Plant.

For approximately 700 feet, the Project travels through a second AUL associated with RTN 1-11635 issued to the former Phototech Imaging Sys Inc.

#### **Existing Conditions - Wildlife Habitat**

According to MassGIS and the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries & Wildlife, the Mohawk Bicycle/Pedestrian Trail will travel through NHESP Priority Habitats of Rare Species for the majority of the Project's length within the Town of Williamstown. The species mapped within the Project limits are: Wood Turtle (*Glyptemys insculpta*), Longnose Sucker (*Catostomus catostomus*) and Hairy-fruited Sedge (*Carex trichocarpa*).