

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

Environmental Notification Form

For Office Use Only

EEA#: _____

MEPA Analyst: _____

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: Great Island Road Resiliency Project

Street Address: Great Island Road, West Yarmouth

Municipality: Yarmouth

Watershed:

Universal Transverse Mercator Coordinates:

Latitude: 41.623950860376944, -

Longitude: 70.25362690015818

Estimated commencement date: Fall 2021

Estimated completion date: Spring 2022

Project Type: Dune and Beach nourishment

Status of project design: 60 %complete

Proponent: Great Island Homeowners Association

Street Address: 1100 Great Island Road

Municipality: Yarmouth

State: MA

Zip Code: 02673

Name of Contact Person: Meredith Avery

Firm/Agency: VHB

Street Address: 101 Walnut Street

Municipality: Watertown

State:

Zip Code: 02118

Phone: (617)607-2604

Fax:

E-mail:

greatislandhomeowners
@gmail.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 301 CMR 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)?

Wetlands, alteration of Coastal Dune and Coastal Beach,

Which State Agency Permits will the project require?

MESA review, Chapter 91 License modification and Waterways Permit for Beach Nourishment

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:

none

Summary of Project Size & Environmental Impacts	Existing	Change	Total
LAND			
Total site acreage	5.18		
New acres of land altered		3.28	
Acres of impervious area	1.9	1.42	3.32
Square feet of new bordering vegetated wetlands alteration		0	
Square feet of new other wetland alteration		522,000 sf Coastal beach nourishment	
Acres of new non-water dependent use of tidelands or waterways		0	
STRUCTURES			
Gross square footage	-	-	-
Number of housing units	-	-	-
Maximum height (feet)	-	-	-
TRANSPORTATION			
Vehicle trips per day	-	-	-
Parking spaces	-	-	-
WASTEWATER			
Water Use (Gallons per day)	-	-	-
Water withdrawal (GPD)	-	-	-
Wastewater generation/treatment (GPD)	-	-	-
Length of water mains (miles)	-	-	-
Length of sewer mains (miles)	-	-	-
Has this project been filed with MEPA before? ☐ Yes (EEA # _____) ☒ No			
Has any project on this site been filed with MEPA before? ☐ Yes (EEA # _____) ☒ No			

GENERAL PROJECT INFORMATION – all proponents must fill out this section

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

Describe the existing conditions and land uses on the project site

Great Island is an approximately 600-acre peninsula located in West Yarmouth, Massachusetts.

Great Island Road provides the only access for the 44 homes on the island, including for emergency vehicles. The Project Area consists of the Great Island Road Causeway and bridge, as well as the shoreline extending to Fox Point. Great Island Road, the bridge, and the ecologically sensitive salt marsh are threatened by erosion of the natural dune and beach, climate change, and sea level rise. Ongoing erosion of the coastal dune along Nantucket Sound results in more frequent overtopping of the remaining dune and flooding of the roadway behind it. The erosion threatens the stability of the road, as the shoreline encroaches on the existing pavement and the low points on the causeway. In addition to the ongoing erosion, the bridge and the bridge approaches currently experience flooding several times a year during high tides and storm events. The combination of these ongoing issues results in the causeway being regularly flooded, limiting emergency vehicle access to the island and emergency egress from the entire island SEE APPENDIX B FOR ADDITIONAL DETAILS

Describe the proposed project and its programmatic and physical elements:

The Project proposes to undertake a phased approach to long term resiliency that includes near term (2021) nourishment of the dunes and beach and longer-term roadway elevation program. The initial phase of the project will provide additional natural protection to the causeway and the salt marsh by restoring some height to the coastal dunes in the most critical areas and renourishing the existing barrier beach system. This approach will allow the Great Island community to address immediate needs for the most vulnerable areas. SEE ATTACHMENT C FOR ADDITIONAL DETAILS.

NOTE: The project description should summarize both the project's direct and indirect impacts (including construction period impacts) in terms of their magnitude, geographic extent, duration and frequency, and reversibility, as applicable. It should also discuss the infrastructure requirements if the project and the capacity of the municipal and/or regional infrastructure to sustain these requirements into the future.

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

The goal of the proposed Project is to mitigate ongoing erosion along the causeway and provide a phased program to achieve long term resiliency (+/-40 years) of land-based access to the island that will include a combination of coastal beach and dune nourishment and roadway elevation. Several alternatives were considered and evaluated for effectiveness, cost, and anticipated environmental impacts. Alternatives included roadway retreat and stabilization through armoring. SEE ATTACHMENT A FOR ADDITIONAL DETAILS.

NOTE: The purpose of the alternatives analysis is to consider what effect changing the parameters and/or siting of a project, or components thereof, will have on the environment, keeping in mind that the objective of the MEPA review process is to avoid or minimize damage to the environment to the greatest extent feasible. Examples of alternative projects

include alternative site locations, alternative site uses, and alternative site configurations.

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

The preferred alternative includes additional beach nourishment as a mitigation measure to avoid an impact (a take) to piping plover habitat. Additional mitigation may be developed during the state permitting phase to address any impacts to marine invertebrates. Construction controls will also be developed to avoid all potential direct and indirect impacts to salt marsh from phase 1 and monitoring offshore eel grass beds will be conducted post construction. ADDITIONAL DETAILS ARE PROVIDED IN ATTACHMENTS A AND C.

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

Phase 1 will consist of dune and beach nourishment (anticipated 2021)

Phase 2 will consist of roadway and bridge elevation (anticipated +/-10 years)

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//www.mass.gov/dfwele/dfw/nhesp/regulatory_review/priority_habitat/priority_habitat_ho me.htm)

☒ Yes (Specify shore birds and grassland species) ☐ 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 _____) ☒ 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 __X__ No;

if yes, identify the ORW and its location.

(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?