

Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Executive Office of Environmental Affairs ■ MEPA Office



Environmental Notification Form

<i>For Office Use Only</i>	
<i>Executive Office of Environmental Affairs</i>	
EOEA No.:	14211
MEPA Analyst:	Briony Angus
Phone: 617-626-	1029

The information requested on this form must be completed to begin MEPA Review in accordance with the provisions of the Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act, 301 CMR 11.00.

Project Name: Reservoir Road Improvements and Scenic Overlook (Mount Greylock Scenic Byway)		
Street: Reservoir Road		
Municipality: North Adams		
Universal Transverse Mercator Coordinates:		Latitude: 42 41' 44"
Zone 18	654351.17 E	4728790.08 N
Longitude: 73 06' 59"		
Estimated commencement date: 2008		Estimated completion date: 2009
Approximate cost: \$1.25 million	Status of project design: 75	%complete
Proponent: MassHighway & the City of North Adams		
Street: 10 Park Plaza		
Municipality: North Adams	State: MA	Zip Code: 01247
Name of Contact Person From Whom Copies of this ENF May Be Obtained: Michael Furlong		
Firm/Agency: MassHighway	Street: 10 Park Plaza, Room 4260	
Municipality: Boston	State: MA	Zip Code: 02116-3973
Phone: 617-973-8067	Fax: 617-973-8879	Email: Michael.furlong@mhd.state.ma.us

- Does this project meet or exceed a mandatory EIR threshold (see 301 CMR 11.03)?
 Yes No
- Has this project been filed with MEPA before?
 Yes (EOEA No. _____) No
- Has any project on this site been filed with MEPA before?
 Yes (EOEA No. _____) No
- Is this an Expanded ENF (see 301 CMR 11.05(7)) 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

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): **It is anticipated that MassHighway will fund 20% and FHWA will fund 80% of the construction costs.**

Are you requesting coordinated review with any other federal, state, regional, or local agency?
 Yes (Specify _____) Exclusion No

List Local or Federal Permits and Approvals:

North Adams Conservation Commission -Wetlands Protection Act Order of Conditions,
Army Corps of Engineers -Clean Water Act Section 404 Massachusetts Programmatic General Permit I,
Massachusetts Historical Commission - Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act,
Federal Highway Administration - National Environmental Policy Act Categorical Exclusion.

Which ENF or EIR review threshold(s) does the project meet or exceed (see 301 CMR 11.03):

- | | | |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Land | <input type="checkbox"/> Rare Species | <input type="checkbox"/> Wetlands, Waterways, & Tidelands |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Water | <input type="checkbox"/> Wastewater | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Transportation (301 CMR 11.03(6)(b)1.b. and 301 CMR 11.03 (6)(b)2.b.) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Energy | <input type="checkbox"/> Air | <input type="checkbox"/> Solid & Hazardous Waste |
| <input type="checkbox"/> ACEC | <input type="checkbox"/> Regulations | <input type="checkbox"/> Historical & Archaeological Resources |

Summary of Project Size & Environmental Impacts	Existing	Change	Total	State Permits & Approvals
LAND				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Order of Conditions <input type="checkbox"/> Superseding Order of Conditions <input type="checkbox"/> Chapter 91 License <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 401 Water Quality Certification <input type="checkbox"/> MHD or MDC Access Permit <input type="checkbox"/> Water Management Act Permit <input type="checkbox"/> New Source Approval <input type="checkbox"/> DEP or MWRA Sewer Connection/ Extension Permit <input type="checkbox"/> Other Permits <i>(including Legislative Approvals) – Specify:</i>
Total site acreage	1.65 acres			
New acres of land altered		1.88 acres		
Acres of impervious area	1.42 acres	0.33 acres	1.75 acres	
Square feet of new bordering vegetated wetlands alteration		117 Square feet		
Square feet of new other wetland alteration		N/A		
Acres of new non-water dependent use of tidelands or waterways		N/A		
STRUCTURES				
Gross square footage	N/A	N/A	N/A	
Number of housing units	N/A	N/A	N/A	
Maximum height (in feet)	N/A	N/A	N/A	
TRANSPORTATION				
Vehicle trips per day	400	0	450 (2011)	
Parking spaces	0	11	11 (overlook area)	
WATER/WASTEWATER				
Gallons/day (GPD) of water use	N/A	N/A	N/A	
GPD water withdrawal	N/A	N/A	N/A	
GPD wastewater generation/ treatment	N/A	N/A	N/A	
Length of water/sewer mains (in miles)	N/A	N/A	N/A	

CONSERVATION LAND: Will the project involve the conversion of public parkland or other Article 97 public natural resources to any purpose not in accordance with Article 97?

Yes (Specify _____) No

No transfer of ownership of town, city, county or state owned land is involved in this project. The project does not require the conversion of public parkland to any purpose in accordance with Article 97.

The Reservoir Road reconstruction project adds a scenic overlook to a city owned parcel which is currently not accessible to the public. A city water storage tank occupies a portion of the parcel where the overlook is proposed. The scenic overlook will add value as an area for people to enjoy scenic views and as a passive recreation area.

Will it involve the release of any conservation restriction, preservation restriction, agricultural preservation restriction, or watershed preservation restriction?

Yes (Specify _____) No

RARE SPECIES: Does the project site include Estimated Habitat of Rare Species, Vernal Pools, Priority Sites of Rare Species, or Exemplary Natural Communities?

Yes (Specify _____) No

According to the NHESP Atlas 12th Edition October 2006, North Adams & Williamstown Quads, the project area is not located within Estimated Habitat of Rare Species, Vernal Pools, Priority Sites of Rare Species, or Exemplary Natural Communities.

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

A review by the MassHighway Cultural Resources Unit (CRU) of the State/National Registers of Historic Places revealed no listed properties adjacent to the project area. A review of the Inventory of Historic and Archaeological Assets of the Commonwealth revealed no inventoried properties adjacent to the project area. A review of the MHC archaeological base maps revealed no recorded prehistoric sites in the vicinity of the project area. According to the CRU, there are no National Register -listed or -eligible properties in the project area. This project requires no further review under Section V.B. ("No Effect on National Register -listed or -eligible properties") of the Section 106 Programmatic Agreement. (attached CRU Project Record 4/11/07)

If yes, does the project involve any demolition or destruction of any listed or inventoried historic or archaeological resources?

Yes (Specify _____) No

AREAS OF CRITICAL ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERN: Is the project in or adjacent to an Area of Critical Environmental Concern?

Yes (Specify _____) No

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The project description should include (a) a description of the project site, (b) a description of both on-site and off-site alternatives and the impacts associated with each alternative, and (c) potential on-site and off-site mitigation measures for each alternative (You may attach one additional page, if necessary.)

MassHighway and the City of North Adams propose the reconstruction and widening of a 0.63 mile segment of Reservoir Road from its northerly terminus at the intersection of Furnace Street southerly to 220 feet north of the intersection with Richview Avenue Extension. This project also involves construction of a new scenic overlook and parking area on the easterly side of Reservoir Road approximately 1600 feet south of Furnace Street and approximately 500 feet east of # 251 Reservoir Road.

An Environmental Notification Form in accordance with the Massachusetts Environmental Protection Act was required in accordance with the MEPA Regulations 301 CMR 11.03(6)(b)1.b., and 301 CMR 11.03 (6)(b)2.b., widening of an existing roadway by 4 feet or more for one-half or more miles, and cutting five or more living public shade trees of 14 or more inches in diameter at breast height.

Existing: Reservoir Road serves as the primary connector between downtown North Adams and the Department of Conservation's Mount Greylock Reservation. The entrance to the reservation is 1.2 miles south of the project limit. There are several residences along the project route and the remainder of the land is undeveloped, consisting of forest canopy and underbrush. The roadway presently has an average width of 19 feet with a minimum width of 16 feet in several locations. Existing shoulders are minimal or non-existent and there are no provisions for bicycles or pedestrians. The existing right-of-way has a uniform width of 50 feet for the length of the road. The road is located in mountainous terrain and the existing profile ranges from gently rolling areas to sections where the existing grades are as high as 17% with steep slopes at roadside. The ADT (2005) for the project roadway is 400 VPD and the 2011 ADT is projected to be 450 VPD.

Purpose & Need:

- Improve the sub-standard roadway pavement and cross-section.
- Improve safety and visibility along the project corridor.
- Provide a scenic overlook area with public parking.
- Improve accommodations for pedestrians and bicyclists.

Proposed Improvements: The proposed work, all of which is located within the city's right-of-way, includes full depth reconstruction of the existing roadway and widening up to a maximum of 8 feet at graded roadside areas within the existing highway layout to create two uniform 10-foot wide travel lanes with 1-2 foot wide paved shoulders on either side. Existing steel beam guardrails along the easterly side of the roadway will be removed and reset at the new edge of pavement. All existing driveway aprons will be reconstructed. Drainage work involves installation of asphalt berms at certain locations to channelize stormwater where necessary. A new catch basin will be installed within the existing highway layout opposite # 118 Reservoir Road. A 5-foot wide paved waterway approximately 150 feet in length will be constructed along the westerly edge of the paved roadway at the northerly terminus of Reservoir Road to channel stormwater away from Furnace Street. Hay bales and sedimentation fences will be installed at various locations within the project area to provide erosion control and to prevent run-off from entering wetland areas.

The proposed new scenic overlook and parking area will be along the easterly side of Reservoir Road approximately 1600 feet south of Furnace Street and approximately 500 feet east of # 251 Reservoir Road. The scenic overlook is proposed for an undeveloped city owned parcel. The city will continue ownership and will maintain the site in perpetuity. The overlook will be constructed against a steep roadside slope adjacent to a former municipal water pumping station at the bottom of the slope. Proposed work will involve clearing vegetation and filling next to the slope with gravel borrow to create a level roadside area on which to construct a 150-foot long asphalt driveway leading to a 150-foot long asphalt parking area. The driveway will be 24 feet wide and will carry two travel lanes. The parking area will be 52 feet wide and will hold nine standard parking spaces and two handicap-accessible spaces. A steel

beam guardrail will be installed along the easterly side of the driveway. A six-foot wide sidewalk will be constructed along the front (easterly) side of the parking area, with a three-foot tall, galvanized steel pipe fence installed at the front edge of the sidewalk. A cemented stone retaining wall will be constructed along the back side of the parking lot at the base of the roadway embankment. The filled area around the driveway and parking lot will be covered with loam and seeded with grass. Drainage work involves construction of a grass swale along the back side of the parking lot and installation of catch basins and drain pipes.

Alternative Analysis: The alternatives examined were the no build, resurfacing and the proposed reconstruction. The no build option would only result in continued deterioration of a sub-standard roadway and thus, is not a viable choice. Resurfacing the roadway would be a short term benefit; due to the steep grades, poor drainage, inadequate design, and mountainous condition the roadway would rapidly revert to sub-standard conditions. Due to the severe deterioration of the roadway the preferred and most prudent alternative for the town is reconstruction of this residential roadway, resulting in improved operation and safety. All the widening will take place within the city's right-of-way.

Avoidance, Minimization and Mitigation Measures:

Hay bales and sedimentation fences will be installed at various locations within the project area to provide erosion control and to prevent run-off from entering wetland areas. The project has been designed to minimize impacts to the abutting area. The storm water run off is primarily sheet flow feeding local streams by channels which, at irregular intervals, cross under the road in shallow culverts. Undersized or damaged culverts will be replaced. At certain sensitive locations, where steep down-slopes at the edge of pavement make sheet flow unsafe, hot mix asphalt berm will be installed to channelize stormwater flow away from the residential properties to more agreeable locations for discharge. The Project will result in a 0.33 acre increase in impervious surface area (including widened roadway and outlook/parking areas) and a correspondingly modest increase in stormwater runoff. The Reservoir Road Project is considered to be a redevelopment project under the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection's Stormwater Management Policy. As defined in the Policy, redevelopment projects include: "maintenance and improvement of existing roadways, including widening less than a single lane, adding shoulders....and repaving." In accordance with the Policy, the project will comply with the stormwater management standards to the maximum extent practicable and stormwater management systems will be designed to improve existing conditions.

On the east side of the roadway, approximately 0.5 miles from the northern terminus of the roadway, 117 square feet of Bordering Vegetated Wetland (BVW) will be impacted due to minor widening and the four foot extension of an existing culvert. The culvert installation will have 97 square feet of impact on BVW and slope grading will effect an additional 20 square feet of wetlands. Sediment and erosion controls will be instituted to minimize impacts to the greatest extent possible. The impacted areas will be replanted with some small native bushes and a wetland seed mix. An Order of Conditions (OOC) from the North Adams Conservation Commission was issued on 2/25/08 (see attached WPA Form 5 - OOC) to authorize and condition the work included in the project under the jurisdiction of the North Adams Conservation Commission under the Massachusetts Wetland Protection Act.