

4/28/08 (9)

**Christine Joyce**

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**From:** Roland Bartl  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 23, 2008 4:55 PM  
**To:** Steve Ledoux  
**Cc:** Manager Department  
**Subject:** MEPA Notice of Project Change for Concord Rotary - comment

I looked over the NPC for the Concord Rotary project. What I read makes sense and seems to be responsive indeed to the various bits and pieces of comments that I have heard. That MassHighway has agreed to include the BFRT crossing into the rotary project should be welcome news.

Curiously, the project limits now also include the Wetherbee Street/School Street intersection with Route 2. I am not sure if that was included before. But, it begs this question: If the crossing of the BFRT should by any chance be accomplished with a bridge over Route 2, would it make sense to revisit a cross connection for vehicles at School and Wetherbee and to route the BFRT that way. Maintaining eastbound Route 2 egress and access at School Street remains important for the Craig Road industrial park. Westbound egress/access may be nice, too, but could be perhaps be sacrificed for a cross connection.

*Roland Bartl, AICP  
Planning Director, Town of Acton  
472 Main Street  
Acton, MA 01720  
978-264-9636*

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Roland Bartl  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 26, 2008 1:19 PM  
**To:** Board of Selectmen  
**Cc:** Planning Board; Transportation Advisory Committee; 'Tom Michelman'  
**Subject:** MEPA Notice of Project Change for Concord Rotary

FYI

# FILE COPY

Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
Executive Office of Environmental Affairs ■ MEPA Office

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| For Office Use Only<br>Executive Office of Environmental Affairs<br>MEPA Analyst: <i>Nick ZAVOLAS</i><br>Phone: 617-626- <i>1030</i> |
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## NPC

### Notice of Project Change

The information requested on this form must be completed to begin MEPA Review of a NPC in accordance with the provisions of the Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act and its implementing regulations (see 301 CMR 11.10(1)).

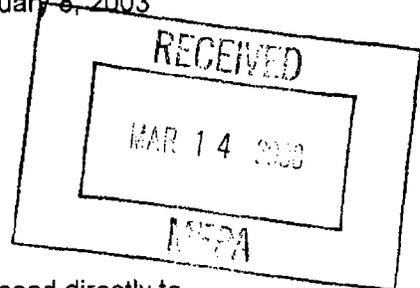
|   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| Project Name: Route 2 Reconstruction at Concord Rotary                                |   | EOEA #: 12961                           |
| Street: Route 2 at Concord Rotary   |   |   |
| Municipality: Concord   | Watershed: Sudbury/Assabet/Concord  |   |
| Universal Tranverse Mercator Coordinates:<br>Z19 302010E 4704476N to 303777E 4703277N | Latitude: 42° 46'93"N to 42° 46'40"N<br>Longitude: 71° 40'83"W to 71° 38'80"N |   |
| Status of project construction: 0 %complete   |   |   |
| Proponent: Massachusetts Highway Department   |   |   |
| Street: 10 Park Plaza   |   |   |
| Municipality: Boston  | State: MA   | Zip Code: 02116                         |
| Name of Contact Person From Whom Copies of this NPC May Be Obtained:<br>Grace Arthur  |   |   |
| Firm/Agency: MassHighway  | Street: 10 Park Plaza, Room 4260  |   |
| Municipality: Boston  | State: MA   | Zip Code: 02116                         |
| Phone: 617-973-8251   | Fax: 617-973-8879   | E-mail:<br>grace.arthur@mhd.state.ma.us |

In 25 words or less, what is the project change? The project change involves . . .  
Lapse in time (Certificate nearly 5 years old) and minor study area modifications to address Certificate scope and comment letters.

See full project change description beginning on page 3.

Date of ENF filing or publication in the Environmental Monitor: February 8, 2003

Was an EIR required?  Yes  No; if yes,  
 was a Draft EIR filed?  Yes (Date: ) x No  
 was a Final EIR filed?  Yes (Date: ) x No  
 was a Single EIR filed?  Yes (Date: ) x No  
 Have other NPCs been filed?  Yes (Date(s): ) x No



If this is a NPC solely for lapse of time (see 301 CMR 11.10(2)) proceed directly to "ATTACHMENTS & SIGNATURES" on page 4.

**PERMITS / FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE / LAND TRANSFER**

List or describe all new or modified state permits, financial assistance, or land transfers not previously reviewed: none

Are you requesting a finding that this project change is insignificant? (see 301 CMR 11.10(6))

Yes     No; if yes, attach justification.

Are you requesting that a Scope in a previously issued Certificate be rescinded?

Yes     No; if yes, attach the Certificate

Are you requesting a change to a Scope in a previously issued Certificate?  Yes     No; if yes, attach Certificate and describe the change you are requesting:

| Summary of Project Size & Environmental Impacts            | Previously reviewed                     | Net Change   | Currently Proposed                      |
|--|---|--------------|---|
| <b>LAND</b>  |   |              |   |
| Total site acreage   | 32.1 acres                              | +11.76 acres | 43.86 acres                             |
| Acres of land altered                                      | +8.6 to 12.3 acres                      | +3.16* acres | +11.76 to 15.46 acres                   |
| Acres of impervious area                                   | +0.6 to 5.3 acres                       | +1.26* acres | +1.86 to 7.16 acres                     |
| Square feet of bordering vegetated wetlands alteration     | 1,250 to 6,100 sf                       | 0            | 1,250 to 6,100 sf                       |
| Square feet of other wetland alteration                    | 34,000 to 38,500 sf Riverfront Area     | 0            | 34,000 to 38,500 sf Riverfront Area     |
| Acres of non-water dependent use of tidelands or waterways | none                                    | none         | none                                    |
| <b>STRUCTURES</b>  |   |              |   |
| Gross square footage                                       | Not Applicable (NA)                     | NA           | NA                                      |
| Number of housing units                                    | NA                                      | NA           | NA                                      |
| Maximum height (in feet)                                   | NA                                      | NA           | NA                                      |
| <b>TRANSPORTATION</b>                                      |   |              |   |
| Vehicle trips per day                                      | Route 2 at Concord Rotary<br>50,000 vpd | 0 vpd        | Route 2 at Concord Rotary<br>50,000 vpd |
| Parking spaces   | NA                                      | NA           | NA                                      |
| <b>WATER/WASTEWATER</b>                                    |   |              |   |
| Gallons/day (GPD) of water use                             | NA                                      | NA           | NA                                      |
| GPD water withdrawal                                       | NA                                      | NA           | NA                                      |
| GPD wastewater generation/ treatment                       | NA                                      | NA           | NA                                      |
| Length of water/sewer mains (in miles)                     | NA                                      | NA           | NA                                      |

\* - the changes in land altered and impervious area reflect the inclusion of 5,500' of the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail as part of the Route 2 Reconstruction of the Concord Rotary project.

Does the project change involve any new or modified:

1. conversion of public parkland or other Article 97 public natural resources to any purpose not in accordance with Article 97? Yes x No

2. release of any conservation restriction, preservation restriction, agricultural preservation restriction, or watershed preservation restriction? Yes x No

3. impacts on Estimated Habitat of Rare Species, Vernal Pools, Priority Sites of Rare Species, or Exemplary Natural Communities? Yes x No

4. impact on 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 x No; if yes, does the project involve any demolition or destruction of any listed or inventoried historic or archaeological resources? Yes No

5. impact upon an Area of Critical Environmental Concern? Yes x No  
If you answered 'Yes' to any of these 5 questions, explain below:

**PROJECT CHANGE DESCRIPTION** (attach additional pages as necessary). The project change description should include:

(a) a brief description of the project as most recently reviewed

(b) a description of material changes to the project as previously reviewed,

(c) the significance of the proposed changes, with specific reference to the factors listed 301 CMR 11.10(6), and

(d) measures that the project is taking to avoid damage to the environment or to minimize and mitigate unavoidable environmental impacts. If the change will involve modification of any previously issued Section 61 Finding, include a proposed modification of the Section 61 Finding (or it will be required in a Supplemental EIR).

See attached project description.

**ATTACHMENTS & SIGNATURES**

Attachments:

1. Secretary's most recent Certificate on this project
2. Plan showing most recent previously-reviewed proposed build condition
3. Plan showing currently proposed build condition
4. Original U.S.G.S. map or good quality color copy (8-1/2 x 11 inches or larger) indicating the project location and boundaries
5. List of all agencies and persons to whom the proponent circulated the NPC, in accordance with 301 CMR 11.10(7)

Signatures:

|  |  |
|--|--|
| <p><u>3/13/08</u><br/>Date</p> <p><u>Grace Arthur</u><br/>Signature of Responsible Officer<br/>or Proponent</p>  | <p><u>3/12/08</u><br/>Date</p> <p><u>David Derrig</u><br/>Signature of person preparing<br/>NPC (if different from above)</p>  |
| <p>Grace Arthur<br/>Name (print or type)</p> <hr/> <p>MassHighway<br/>Firm/Agency</p> <hr/> <p>10 Park Plaza<br/>Street</p> <hr/> <p>Boston, MA 02116<br/>Municipality/State/Zip</p> <hr/> <p>(617) 973-8251<br/>Phone</p> | <p>David Derrig<br/>Name (print or type)</p> <hr/> <p>Earth Tech. Inc.<br/>Firm/Agency</p> <hr/> <p>300 Baker Avenue, Suite 290<br/>Street</p> <hr/> <p>Concord, MA 01742<br/>Municipality/State/Zip</p> <hr/> <p>(978) 371-4354<br/>Phone</p> |

## **Route 2 Reconstruction at Concord Rotary NPC Narrative**

### **Background**

The Massachusetts Highway Department (MassHighway) is proposing transportation improvements to Route 2 at the Concord Rotary in Concord. The Concord Rotary is at the confluence of Route 2, Route 2A/119, Barrett's Mill Road and Commonwealth Avenue. The purpose of the project is to improve the operating efficiency and safety of Route 2 within the project area. In order to address existing deficiencies, the proposed transportation improvement project involves grade separating the local and regional traffic movements that currently feed into the Concord Rotary. The intent of the proposed grade separation is to reduce delays and improve air quality by reducing congestion, enhance safety by reducing conflicting movements, improve local access by separating regional and local traffic flows, and provide for pedestrian and bicycle traffic.

An ENF was filed by MassHighway in February, 2003. The ENF identified three alternative designs (see attachments) that the Route 2 Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) and MassHighway agreed provided the most effective traffic operations with the least disturbance of natural and cultural resources. The Route 2 CAC is comprised of representatives of the Concord, Acton and Lincoln Boards of Selectmen, State Senators and State Representatives representing study area communities, representatives from the Massachusetts State Police, Massachusetts Correctional Institute, Executive Office of Public Safety, and local citizens.

The Secretary's Certificate on the ENF was issued on April 14, 2003. The Certificate acknowledged a mandatory requirement for the preparation of an Environmental Impact Report (EIR), and directed further analysis of the three alternatives presented in the ENF to determine a preferred alternative. The Scope contained within the Secretary's Certificate identified wetlands, drainage/water quality, traffic, air quality, growth/regional planning, land takings, agricultural land, open space and recreation, vegetation, historic resources, visual and aesthetic impacts, hazardous waste, construction period impacts and noise as specific resource areas requiring further analysis, in addition to requiring that mitigation for unavoidable impacts be identified and comments submitted by interested parties be formally addressed as part of the draft EIR.

### **Activity Since Issuance of the Secretary's Certificate**

During the period between, April, 2003, and February, 2006, the Concord Rotary project appeared as an agenda item for each Route 2 CAC meeting. During that period, MassHighway provided status updates on the project.

In February, 2006, a Request for Response (RFR) was issued for the project, with responses due by the end of March, 2006. After review of the RFRs, finalists were asked to submit technical proposals by May 25, with consultant interviews held at the end of June, 2006. The project was awarded at the end of September, 2006. Scope and fee

negotiations occurred during 2007, and the project approval and notice to proceed were given by MassHighway in December, 2007.

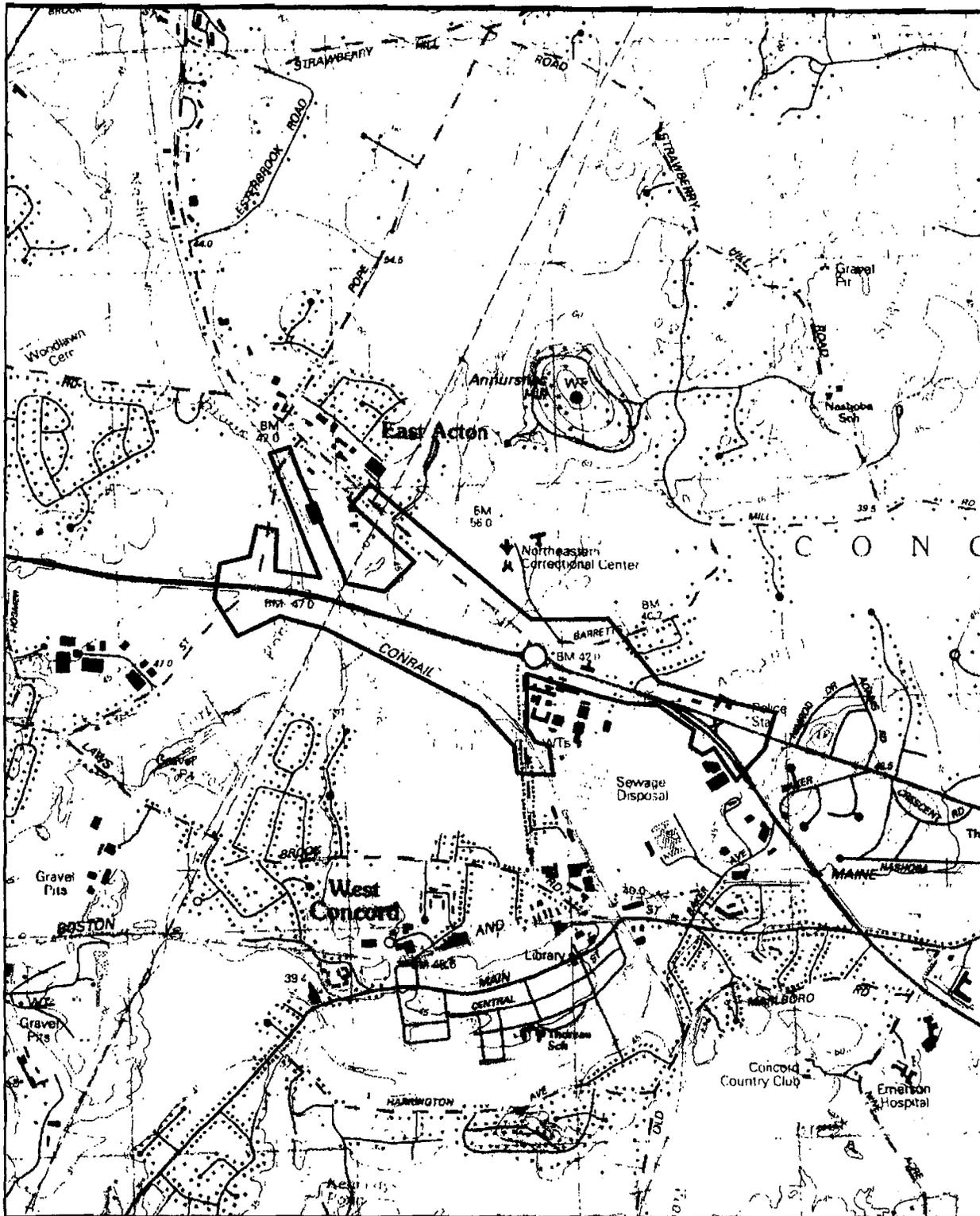
Over the course of the 18 Route 2 CAC meetings held since the issuance of the Secretary's Certificate, comments from CAC members and interested parties continued to inform the discussion and eventual scope of the Route 2 Reconstruction at the Concord Rotary. Items associated with intersections adjacent to the study area, compatibility of the Route 2 Rotary project with the design of the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail, alternatives analysis and explanations of the MEPA process were regular discussion points at the quarterly meetings.

### **Current Project Status**

The current project study area limits (see attached figure) have not changed significantly since the filing of the ENF and issuance of the Secretary's Certificate. The following items will now be addressed as a result of the scope contained in the Secretary's Certificate, comment letters, or subsequent coordination and cooperation through the Route 2 CAC process:

- In response to the Secretary's Certificate, analysis of a wildlife crossing at Route 2 near Nashoba Brook has been incorporated into the scope of the project;
- As a result of discussions initiated at the Route 2 CAC meetings, MassHighway has agreed to design the segment of the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail from Commonwealth Avenue to Wetherbee Street as part of the Route 2 Reconstruction of the Concord Rotary. The Route 2 crossing near Nashoba Brook will be compatible with the design of the wildlife crossing noted above;
- As a result of discussions initiated at the Route 2 CAC meetings, the project limits have been extended to include the Baker Avenue/Elm Street intersection to the east and the School Street intersection to the west;
- As a result of discussions initiated at the Route 2 CAC meetings, there will be a secondary study area from Baker Avenue to Walden Pond (Route 126) on Route 2. The study will review the signal coordination to identify timing and interconnection improvements to be considered. This work is outside of the EIR/EA process.

A robust public participation component has been planned and is underway as part of the MassHighway Early Environmental Coordination and Project Development process. It is expected that a Draft EIR will be submitted to MEPA by the end of 2008 or early 2009 in order to accommodate the 18-month EIR/EA and 25% Design schedule envisioned by MassHighway.



Data provided by MassGIS.  
 Portion of Maynard and Concord USGS 7.5  
 quadrangles. Date of maps: 1987

0 1,000 2,000  
 Feet



Route 2 Reconstruction at the Concord Rotary

Figure 1  
 Site Locus

 Project Limits

February 22, 2008