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October 18, 2011

Environmental Reviewer
Massachusetts Division of Fish and Wildlife
Massachusetts Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program
Route 135
Westborough, MA 01581

Subject: **State Listed or Proposed Endangered Species or Critical Habitat**
Assabet River Rail Trail (ARRT) – Acton and Maynard, MA.

Dear Environmental Reviewer:

On behalf of MassDOT and the Towns of Acton and Maynard, we are writing to you to seek information relative to a proposed rail trail segment in Acton and Maynard. The project will extend from the Stow/Maynard town line to the South Acton MBTA Commuter Rail station, a total of 16,937 feet (approx. 3.2 miles). An ENF for a separate section of the ARRT (Marlborough and Hudson) was filed with MEPA in 2002 (EEA # 12850). Current mapping indicates that there is no Estimated and Priority Habitat in the footprint of the proposed project .

MassDOT and the affected communities are requesting confirmation from NHESP that no further review is required. A U.S.G.S site locus map and GIS data layer map are attached to assist in your review. In addition to this request for information, MassDOT and the affected communities will be submitting an Environmental Notification Form (ENF) to the Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act (MEPA) Office at a later date, of which a copy will be forwarded. We request that a review of records relative to the noted location be conducted, and that any comments your office may have regarding the known presence of threatened or endangered species or critical habitat in this area be forwarded to us. If any records are found or concerns raised, please provide us with any available species or habitat specific information, so that this can be incorporated into our environmental evaluation of the project.

If you have any questions regarding this letter or require additional information, please contact me at 978-905-2181, or at david.derrig@aecom.com. Once you have made your determination, please send an official letter for our records. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Very truly yours,
AECOM

David P. Derrig, Jr., AICP
Senior Transportation Planner

Attachments:

cc: Michael Papadopoulos, MassDOT
Roland Bartl, Town of Acton
Carolyn Britt, Town of Maynard