



**For immediate release
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DCR AND TOWN OF NATICK SCHEDULE PUBLIC MEETING TO DISCUSS SPEEN STREET CULVERT REPLACEMENT PROJECT

WHAT: The Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) and the town of Natick are holding a public meeting to present the final design, construction plans, and a traffic management plan for the Speen Street culvert replacement project.

The culvert, which is believed to be more than 100 years old, connects Settlement Pond to Fiske Pond and supports two lanes of traffic above. After a severe rainstorm in March, the culvert became partially collapsed and partially blocked with debris. A large void also formed under the southbound lane of the roadway. Several utilities, including sewer, water, gas, and communications, are located beneath Speen Street above the culvert. The culvert now presents a public safety hazard involving concerns of flooding, emergency access, and sewer and gas line collapse. These concerns necessitate an immediate replacement of the culvert.

Construction is expected to cost about \$3 million and will be funded through the state's Accelerated Bridge Program. Work is planned to start in mid-August and be completed by the end of December. During construction, the section of Speen Street between Roche Bros. market and Route 135 will be closed in both directions. Traffic will be detoured.

WHEN: Wednesday
August 4, 2010
7 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

WHERE: Morse Institute Library
14 East Central St.
Natick

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The Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR), an agency of the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs, oversees 450,000 acres of parks and forests, beaches, bike trails, watersheds, dams, and parkways. Led by Commissioner Richard K. Sullivan Jr., the agency's mission is to protect, promote, and enhance our common wealth

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of natural, cultural, and recreational resources. To learn more about DCR, our facilities, and our programs, please visit www.mass.gov/dcr. Contact us at mass.parks@state.ma.us.