

# THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS



## Department of Agricultural Resources

225 Turnpike Road, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Southborough, MA 01772  
617-626-1700 fax: 617-626-1850 [www.mass.gov/agr](http://www.mass.gov/agr)



Maura T. Healey  
GOVERNOR

Kimberley Driscoll  
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

Rebecca L. Tepper  
SECRETARY

Ashley E. Randle  
COMMISSIONER

### NOTICE: PUBLIC HEARINGS FOR VEGETATION MANAGEMENT PLAN

Pursuant to the Rights-of-Way Management Regulations (333 CMR 11.00) in order to apply pesticides to control vegetation to maintain Rights-of Ways, the Department of Agricultural Resources must approve a Vegetation Management Plan (VMP) and a Yearly Operational Plan (YOP). The VMP is intended to justify the need to control vegetation, identify target vegetation, describe the intended methods of control, describe methods for identifying sensitive areas, describe operational guidelines for applicators, outline a program of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) designed to reduce the use of herbicides, and describe alternative land use activities.

The following municipalities are advised that Keolis Commuter Rail proposes to utilize herbicides to treat their Rights-of-Way throughout Massachusetts:

Abington Dedham Lawrence Norfolk Wakefield Acton E. Bridgewater Leominster North Andover Walpole  
Andover Easton\* Lincoln Norwood Waltham Ashland Everett Littleton Plymouth Wellesley Avon Fall River  
Lowell Plympton Wenham Ayer Fitchburg Lunenburg Quincy W. Bridgewater Bellingham Foxborough Lynn  
Randolph Westborough Belmont Framingham Malden Raynham Weston Berkley Franklin Manchester Reading  
Westwood Beverly Freetown Mansfield Revere Weymouth Billerica Gloucester Medford Rockport Whitman  
Boston Grafton Melrose Rowley Wilmington  
Boxborough Halifax Middleborough Salem Winchester Braintree Hamilton Milford Saugus Woburn  
Bridgewater Hanson Millbury Scituate Worcester Brockton Haverhill Milton Shirley Brookline Hingham Natick  
Somerville Cambridge Holbrook Needham Southborough Canton Hopedale New Bedford Stoughton Chelsea  
Ipswich Newbury Swampscott Cohasset Kingston Newburyport Taunton Concord Lakeville Newton Tewksbury  
\* Indicates South Coast Rail Project - Currently out of service

#### PUBLIC HEARING SCHEDULED:

In accordance with 333 CMR 11.05 the Department of Agricultural Resources will conduct regional hearings to receive public comment on the proposed Vegetation Management Plan for the Keolis Commuter Rail Vegetation Management Plan.

To provide all interested parties an opportunity to comment on the proposed VMP, a public hearing will be held via ZOOM at the following location:

**Topic: Keolis & Fore River VMP Public Hearing**

**Time: Jan 8, 2026 09:00 AM Eastern Time (US and Canada)**

**Join Zoom Meeting**

**<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84845803002?pwd=L705jVzHy9nQjJKEsgx74KfSZ0TRXN.1>**

**Meeting ID: 848 4580 3002**

**Passcode: 972721**

**<https://us02web.zoom.us/join/84845803002/invitations?signature=44PtwXGYQSG8aGqDvZ7BCENQy8e7uETzY8WQEjd068>**

Available for Public Review Prior to Hearings:

Section 11.05 (3)(d) of the ROW Management Regulations provide: “At least 21 days prior to the end of the public comment period, the applicant shall send a copy of the proposed VMP to the chief elected official, the Board of Health, and the Conservation Commission in affected communities upon their request.” Such request should be made to:

Ana Rita Pascoal  
Director of Environment and Sustainability  
Keolis Commuter Services  
32 Cobble Hill Rd  
Somerville, MA 02143  
[ana.pascoal@keoliscs.com](mailto:ana.pascoal@keoliscs.com)

The proposed VMP is posted at <http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/agr/pesticides/vegetation-management-and-yearly-operation-plans.html> for reviewing. It is also available for review at the Reference Desk of the following public libraries:

Braintree Public Library, 798 Washington Street, Braintree, MA 02184

#### Written Comments Requested

The public hearings listed above will give interested parties the opportunity to present data, views or arguments, orally or in writing concerning the proposed VMP. Persons giving testimony are also requested to provide written comments. Written comments in advance of the hearing dates are welcome. The Department will accept written testimony concerning the Keolis Commuter Rail VMP until the close of business (5pm): January 9, 2026  
Commentary should be sent to:

Rights-of-Way Program  
Massachusetts Pesticide Bureau  
225 Turnpike Road, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor  
Southborough, MA 01772

Comments must be received by close of business (5pm): January 9, 2026