

## Environmental Justice Screening Form

Project Name	Safe Routes to School Program: Stratton Elementary School
Anticipated Date of MEPA Filing	JUNE 2024
Proponent Name	Town of Arlington
Contact Information (e.g., consultant)	Pare Corporation – applicant’s representative Contact: Paul Orr  <a href="mailto:porr@parecorp.com">porr@parecorp.com</a> 508-948-3567 (office phone)
Public website for project or other physical location where project materials can be obtained (if available)	<a href="https://www.arlingtonma.gov/i-want-to/learn-about/projects-around-arlington">https://www.arlingtonma.gov/i-want-to/learn-about/projects-around-arlington</a>
Municipality and Zip Code for Project (if known)	Arlington, MA 02474
Project Type* (list all that apply)	Sidewalk/ADA/intersection improvements
Is the project site within a mapped 100-year FEMA flood plain? Y/N/unknown	No
Estimated GHG emissions of conditioned spaces ( <a href="#">click here for GHG Estimation tool</a> )	N/A – consists of improvements to existing sidewalks and expansion of sidewalk network. No new emissions will result from the project. With the goal of encouraging more walking to school, emissions may be reduced within the project area.

### Project Description

<p>1. Provide a brief project description, including overall size of the project site and square footage of proposed buildings and structures if known.</p> <p><b>The project is proposed by the Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) has identified Stratton Elementary School in Arlington, Massachusetts for inclusion in their Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Program. Stratton Elementary School is located at 180 Mountain Avenue. The scope of work under the SRTS Program generally includes improving and expanding the existing pedestrian facilities to ensure safe access to the school.</b></p> <p><b>The project limits generally include approximately 0.05 miles of Mountain Avenue from Wheeler Lane to Dickson Avenue, approximately 0.05 miles of Wheeler Lane from Dickson Avenue to Mountain Avenue, 0.10 miles of Dickson Avenue from Mountain Avenue to Hemlock Street, and 0.25 miles of Hemlock Street from Dickson Avenue to Brattle Street. The proposed SRTS improvements includes the following:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Construction of 5-foot-wide concrete sidewalks along the west side of Wheeler Lane, south side of Mountain Avenue, west side of Dickson Avenue, east side of Dickson on the northern corner of Stone Road, the west side of Hemlock Street, and the east side of Hemlock Street in multiple locations (between Yerxa Road and Knowles Farm Circle, at</b></li> </ul>
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the northern corner of Janet Road, between Janet Road and Lansdowne Road, between Lansdowne Road and Brattle Street).

- Small areas of mill and overlay to remove existing crosswalks that will be relocated and to improve the pavement conditions of proposed crosswalk areas: Two crosswalks across Dickson Avenue, four crosswalks across Hemlock Street, and crosswalks across Mountain Avenue, Pheasant Avenue, Epping Steet, Governor Road, Lansdowne Road, and Pine Street.
- Modification of curb radii to reduce the extent of excessive pavement that leads to higher motorist speeds and ambiguity in right-of way (southern corner of Dickson Avenue and Wheeler Lane, corners of Dickson Avenue and Mountain Avenue, corners of Pheasant Avenue and Dickson Avenue, corners of Hemlock Street and Dickson Avenue, Southern corner of Yerxa Avenue and Hemlock Street, southern corner of Hemlock Street and Lansdowne Road, and the southern corner of Pine Street and Hemlock Street).
- Improving and installing pedestrian crosswalks and curb ramps to be ADA Compliant.
- Improvements to signage and striping.

The project does not include any new buildings or structures.

2. List anticipated MEPA review thresholds (301 CMR 11.03) (if known)

**301 CMR 11.03(6)(b)2.b.:** cut five or more living public shade trees of 14 or more inches in diameter at breast height

3. List all anticipated state, local and federal permits needed for the project (if known)

- **Town of Arlington – Early Environmental Coordination Design Submission Checklist**
- **Massachusetts Historic Commission – Federal Section 106 and State Chapter 254**
- **National Environmental Policy Act – Categorical Exclusion Checklist**

4. Identify EJ populations and characteristics (Minority, Income, English Isolation) within 5 miles of project site (can attach map identifying 5-mile radius from [EJ Maps Viewer](#) in lieu of narrative)

**There are 236 Block Groups designated as EJ Populations within a 5-mile radius of the project location. 208 meet the Minority designation; 14 meet the Minority and Income designation; 6 meet the Minority and English Isolation designation; 1 meets the Income designation; 1 meets the Income and English Isolation designation; 1 meets English Isolation designation; and 5 meet the Minority, Income, and English Isolation designation.**

**There are 17 Block Groups designated as Languages spoken by at least 5% of population in the census tract who do not speak English very well. 1 meets the African Languages designation; 6 meet the Chinese designation, 4 meet the Portuguese or Portuguese Creole designation; 5 meet the Spanish or Spanish Creole designation.**

**According to the MA DPH Environmental Justice Tool, here are 118 Block Groups designated as Vulnerable Health within a 5-mile radius of the project location. 64 meet the Low Birth Rate Per 1,000 designation, and 54 meet the Elevated Blood Lead Prevalence Per 1,000 designation.**

**See attached EJ Populations maps.**

5. Identify any municipality or census tract meeting the definition of “vulnerable health EJ criteria” in the [DPH EJ Tool](#) located in whole or in part within a 1 mile radius of the project site

**Two census tracts that meet the Low Birth Weight Per 1000 designation meet the vulnerable health EJ criteria are located in whole or in part within a 1-mile radius of the project site: Census Tracts 25017356602 & 25017356701 (2011-2015).**

6. Identify potential short-term and long-term environmental and public health impacts that may affect EJ Populations and any anticipated mitigation

**No adverse long-term environmental or public health impacts are anticipated, as the project consists of improvements to existing sidewalks and expansion of the sidewalk network.**

**Short-term impacts to the public may include the following:**

- **Noise impacts within the immediate work area during the construction period. These impacts are not expected to impact the EJ population located in the vicinity of the site.**
- **Lane closures and alternating traffic patterns to remain in place during the construction period.**

7. Identify project benefits, including “Environmental Benefits” as defined in 301 CMR 11.02, that may improve environmental conditions or public health of the EJ population

**The project will have multiple benefits to the public, including the following:**

- **Improving and expanding pedestrian sidewalks in public spaces will improve the pedestrian safety and access to and from Stratton Elementary School.**
- **Installing curb ramps and repairing deficient sidewalks to remove accessibility barriers that meet ADA compliance.**
- **Narrowing roadway intersections to slow vehicles and reduce pedestrian crossing distances.**
- **Providing safe pedestrian crossings at intersections where needed.**
- **Installing appropriate signage throughout the project corridor.**

8. Describe how the community can request a meeting to discuss the project, and how the community can request oral language interpretation services at the meeting. Specify how to request other accommodation, including meetings after business hours and at locations near public transportation.

**Previous public outreach efforts for this project include a notice and flyer for a public meeting held on January 12, 2023, and an interactive ArcGIS StoryMap that describes the project in detail.**

**Interested community members can contact Paul Orr at Pare to request additional information or coordinate a public meeting to discuss the project.**

**Email: [porr@parecorp.com](mailto:porr@parecorp.com)**

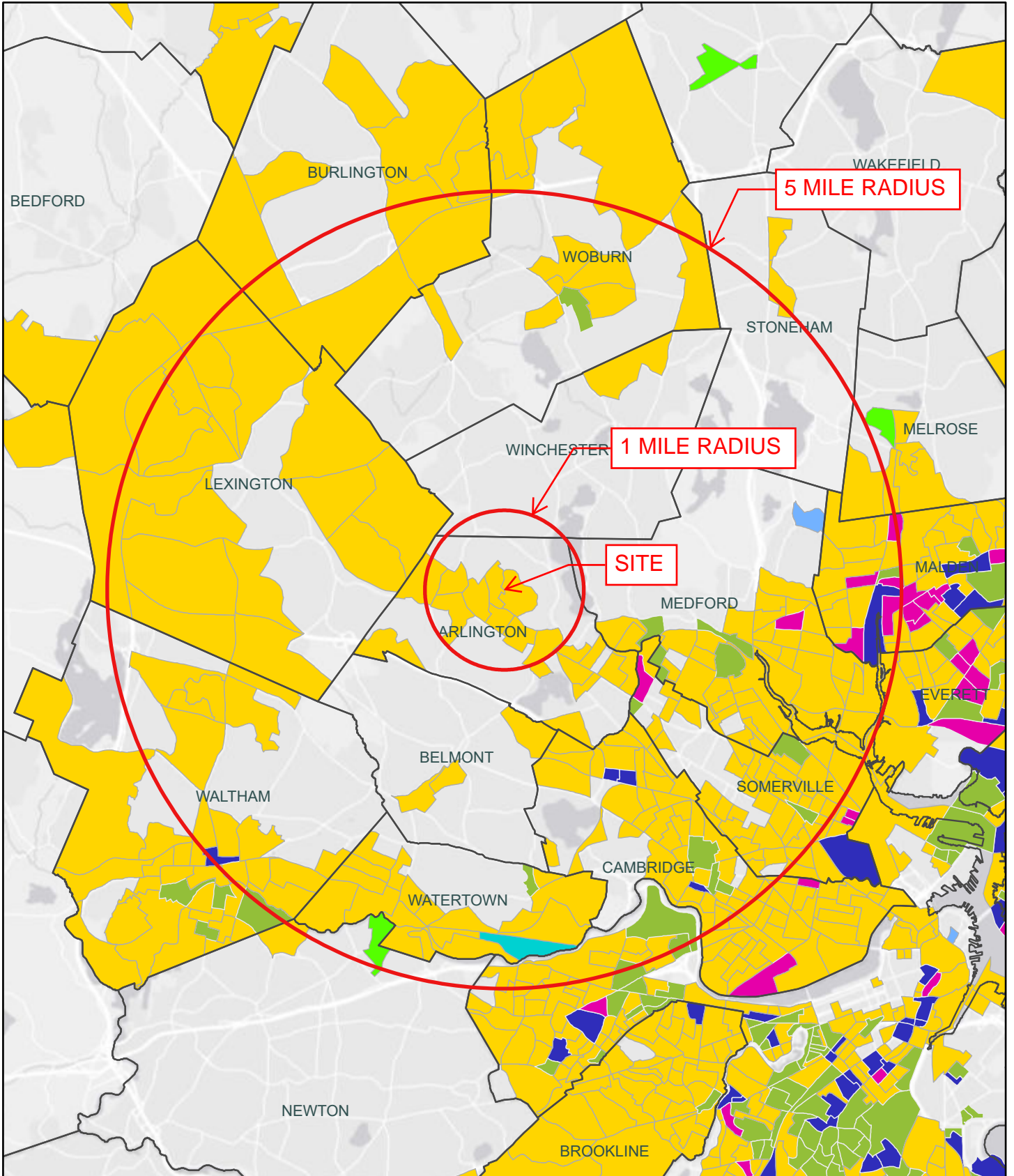
**Office phone: 508-948-3567**

*\*MEPA Project Types [Note: this list can be omitted when circulating this form.]*

Article 97	Marijuana
Agriculture	Marine Industrial
Airport	Master Plan – Development
Aquaculture/Shellfish	Master Plan – Urban Renewal Plan
Beach/Coastal Nourishment	Other (Specify)
Coastal Infrastructure	Recreation

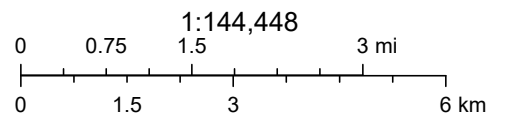
Commercial - Office/Lab/R&D	Regulations
Commercial - Hotel	Remediation
Commercial - Warehouse	Residential
Commercial- Retail	Resiliency
Dam Removal	Solid Waste
Dam Repair/Replacement	Transportation – Roadways/transit
Dredging	Transportation - Trails
Ecological Restoration	Wastewater – Treatment/conveyance
Energy Generation	Wastewater - CWMP
Energy Storage	Water Supply - New Source
Energy Transmission	Water Supply – Treatment/conveyance
Industrial	
Institutional - Educational	

# 2020 Environmental Justice Neighborhoods



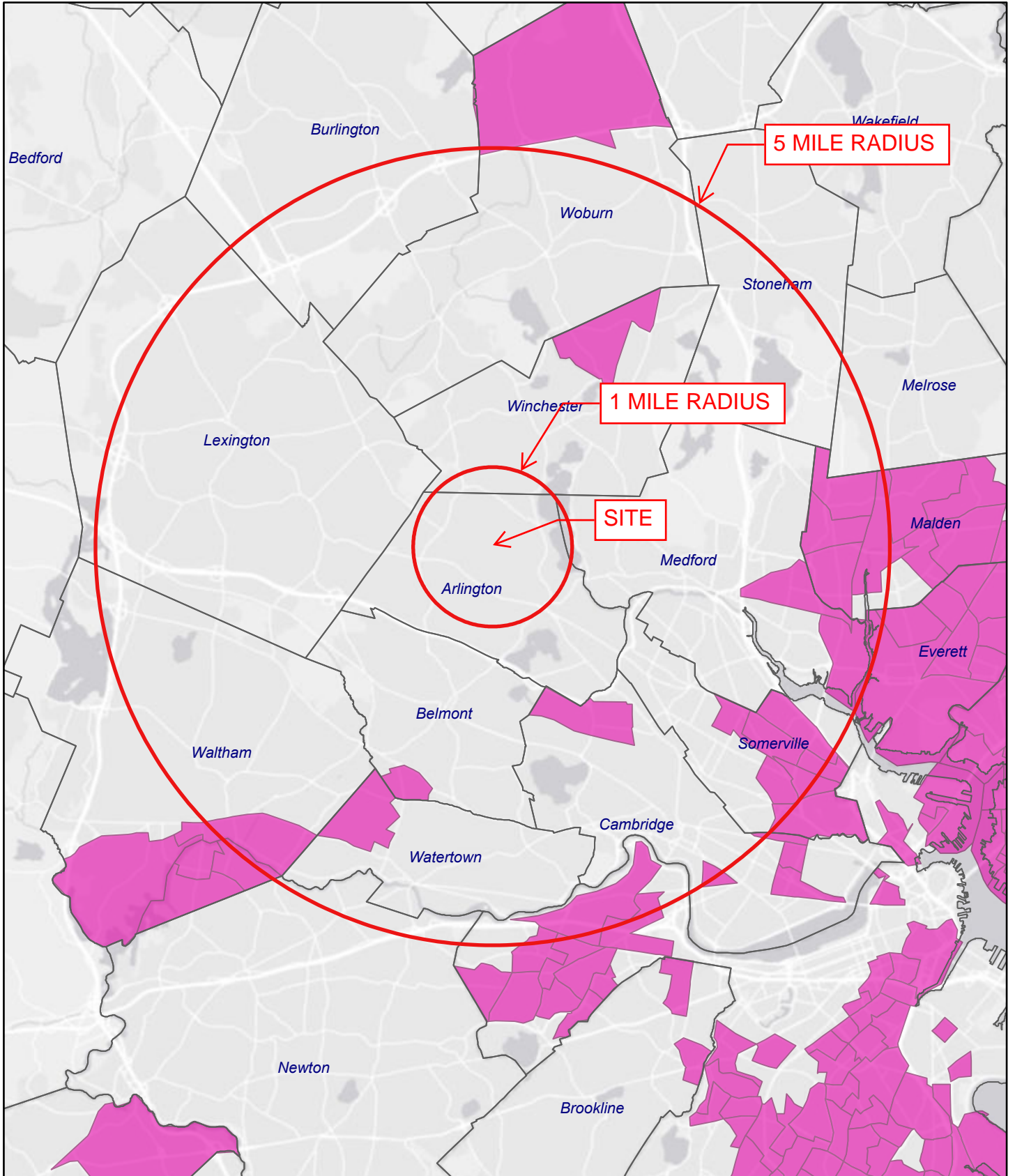
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- Override 1
- MA Municipalities
- MA 2020 Environmental Justice Block Groups
  - Minority: the block group minority population is  $\geq 40\%$ , or the block group minority population is  $\geq 25\%$  and the median household income of the municipality the block group
  - Income: at least 25% of households have a median household income 65% or less than the state median household income
  - Language isolation: 25% or more of households do not include anyone older than 14 who speaks English very well
  - Minority and Income
  - Minority and English isolation
  - Income and English isolation
  - Minority, Income and English isolation



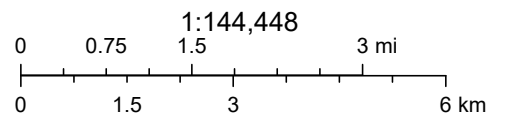
MassGIS, Esri, HERE, Garmin, USGS, EPA, NPS

# Languages spoken in Massachusetts



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- Override 1
- MA Municipalities -- multipart
- 2015 ACS: Languages spoken by at least 5% of population in the census tract who do not speak English very well, by tract



MassGIS, Esri, HERE, Garmin, USGS, EPA, NPS, Esri, HERE, NPS

# Stratton Elementary Area MassDOT Safe Routes to School Project



## Project Summary

The Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) has identified Stratton Elementary School in Arlington, Massachusetts for inclusion in their Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Program.

The roadways and sidewalks in the vicinity of Stratton Elementary School have a number of safety issues including deficient existing sidewalks, roadways lacking sidewalks, wide intersections, inadequate and inaccessible crossings, and areas of steep grades and restricting views.

The proposed sidewalk and roadway improvements includes installing improved sidewalks, improving and installing pedestrian crosswalks and curb ramps to be ADA compliant, improvements to signage and striping, narrowing roadways, and stormwater management improvements.

The project will require review under the Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act (MEPA). Anticipated state funding sources include the MassDOT Safe Routes to School Program.

## Community Benefits

- **Improving and expanding pedestrian sidewalks and crossings will improve pedestrian safety and access to and from Stratton Elementary School.**
- **Installing curb ramps and repairing deficient sidewalks to remove accessibility barriers that meet ADA compliance.**
- **Narrowing roadway intersections to slow vehicles and reduce pedestrian crossing distances.**
- **Installing appropriate signage throughout the project corridor.**

For more information, please see the attached StoryMap created by MassDOT by scanning the QR code



Or by clicking [here](#)

**\*Disclaimer: project timeline and documents in StoryMap may be subject to change.**

If you have any questions or would like more information, please contact

**Paul Orr - Pare Corporation**

**Email: [porr@parecorp.com](mailto:porr@parecorp.com)**

**Phone: 508-948-3567**

