

Office of Outdoor Advertising
Public Meeting

December 14, 2023

11:00 AM

State Transportation Building

10 Park Plaza

2nd Floor

Boston, MA 02116

(via Webinar)

Present:

Tim McCarthy, Executive Director

Office of Outdoor Advertising, December 14, 2023

1 P R O C E E D I N G S

2

3 TIM MCCARTHY: Good morning, everybody.

4 My name is Tim McCarthy. I am the Director of

5 Outdoor Advertising for MassDOT. We are here for our

6 December 14, 2023 Office of Outdoor Advertising

7 hearing. This meeting is being held virtually by the

8 Governor's Act, extending virtual public

9 hearings through March 2025. We are running this

10 hearing through our Zoom platform. Please note that

11 this meeting is being recorded by our stenographer,

12 who is in attendance. Thank you, David. And he will

13 provide a transcript of the meeting that be posted on

14 our website when it is available. I move to approve the

15 minutes of October 12, 2023. Any concerns, you can

16 raise your hand. If not, we will move on. (No

17 response.)

18 TIM MCCARTHY: It seems like we're

19 good to go. So those minutes are approved. Before we

20 begin, on behalf of the OOA staff, myself, I just want

21 to wish everybody a very Merry Christmas, happy

22 holidays, and a happy healthy 2024 as we approach the

23 new year. The OOA team is also present. And, again, I

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1 always like to thank Jerry, and Lydia, Jason, Marc, and
2 Chris for your continued hard work throughout the
3 season. It's been a great time to be on a great team.
4 So, I appreciate all your hard work. This meeting is
5 accessible to people with disabilities and individuals
6 with limited English proficiency. If you filed a
7 request to be available today and did not receive it,
8 please contact MassDOT's Office of Diversity and Civil
9 Rights at 857-368-8580 or you can email them
10 at massdot.civilrights@dot.state.ma.us. Jerry of our
11 team will go through the Zoom controls for this
12 meeting. So, I'll hand it off to Jerry. Jerry?

13
14 GERARD KELLEHER: Okay. Thank
15 you, sir. Just a couple of things. The microphone icon
16 is something you should check on your own computer to
17 make sure your speakers and your personal microphone
18 are working. Only panelists are on camera for
19 the meeting. And the chat and interpretation features
20 are not functional for this meeting. Let's see. What
21 else? The Webinar ID for December is 920 0761 8742. And
22 if you can't get on or if you get kicked off, you can
23 call in and listen: 301-715-8592. That's the phone
24 number. And, if you'd like to ask a question during the

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1 meeting, just raise your hand. There's a raise your
2 hand function. And then I will unmute you at the
3 appropriate time. And state your name for the
4 record. Make sure the question is pertinent to whatever
5 agenda item we're discussing at that time. There will
6 be an opportunity for general Outdoor Advertising
7 questions at the end of the meeting. You can also put
8 written questions in the Q&A feature. We'll try to
9 answer them as we go. Finally, if you're on the phone
10 and you'd like to make a comment, dial *9, and I'll
11 call out the last three digits of your phone number
12 and then you'll know it's you. Those are basically the
13 protocols for the show. Okay. Thanks. Merry Christmas.

14

15 TIM MCCARTHY: Thank you, Jerry. Please
16 note that the accessible versions of the meeting
17 materials have been previously posted to the OOA
18 website and they will be referred to in the meeting.
19 And we will post any links in the Question and Answer
20 box, if needed. I'll quickly go through the agenda. The
21 sign-in sheet obviously can't be signed. But by signing
22 up for the webinar, we have a list of those who are in
23 attendance based on that. On the screen is the agenda.
24 And we'll go through this by each item. I will ask

1 the questions of the proponents. Everybody in the
2 public is currently muted and your camera is off, as
3 Jerry stated. If you would like to speak at some point,
4 you can raise your hand or go to the Question and
5 Answer Box, as Jerry had stated. Please note that you
6 can provide comments in writing by us, to us, any time,
7 always. For anybody who may be new, we do not make any
8 decisions at this actual meeting. Every item is taken
9 under advisement, and decisions are usually made
10 within a week or two, sometimes as early as a week.
11 But if you need any write-in comments, our email
12 address is OOAInformation@dot.state.ma.us. And you can
13 send us your comments in writing there. We'll get back
14 to you quickly. Also, if you have any public
15 comments, at the end, as Jerry said, we'll have some
16 comment period at the end of the agenda if that's
17 needed. With that, Jerry, we'll start the meeting.

18

19 GERARD KELLEHER: Okay.

20

21 TIM MCCARTHY: The first agenda item
22 is Gary Rome Hyundai in Holyoke. Is there anybody
23 representing Gary Rome Hyundai, Inc.? (No
24 response.) GERARD KELLEHER: No hands. TIM MCCARTHY:

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1 Okay. All right. We'll give him a shot to come back at
2 the end just in case maybe they're having some
3 technical problems or a lost connection. We can come
4 back to that new application for license. We'll jump
5 ahead or we'll slide to New Application License Agenda
6 Item 2, which is Belmont Crossing. Is there anybody
7 here from Belmont Crossing? (No response.) GERARD
8 KELLEHER: There doesn't appear to be.

9 TIM MCCARTHY: Okay.

10 GERARD KELLEHER: They were invited.

11 TIM MCCARTHY: Yeah. Oh,
12 understood. Understood. All right. We'll go to
13 Subsection B, New Application for Transfer, Cove
14 Outdoor. Is anybody here from Cove? Nobody representing
15 Cove LLC? (No response.)

16 GERARD KELLEHER: No. TIM MCCARTHY:
17 Jason, do you want to do your little presentation
18 anyway, and they can review the notes and address the
19 issue?

20 CHRISTOPHER CHAVES: I believe that
21 one is mine. TIM MCCARTHY: What's that? CHRISTOPHER
22 CHAVES: This one is mine.

23 TIM MCCARTHY: Oh, I'm sorry, Chris.

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1 CHRISTOPHER CHAVES: That's fine. This is
2 a transfer permit from Cove to Outfront. This is the
3 2015D015 digital board. There is no issues; conforming
4 site. Nothing else to report on this.

5 TIM MCCARTHY: Okay. The paperwork seems
6 to be in order. We'll reach out and discuss it with
7 them to see -- yeah, we'll just reach out to them and
8 figure it out. I'm guessing it was a computer glitch
9 or a computer issue. So, we'll go from there. Okay.
10 Thanks. Thanks for your report, Chris.

11 CHRISTOPHER CHAVES: You're welcome.

12 TIM MCCARTHY: And new application
13 for electronic permits, J&J Outdoor Media. Is anybody
14 from J&J? (No response.)

15 TIM MCCARTHY: Nobody online from J&J?

16 GERARD KELLEHER: It doesn't appear so.

17 TIM MCCARTHY: Okay. Well, this will be
18 the quickest meeting in the history of OOA,
19 I believe. Is there any questions as we get to the end
20 here?

21 GERARD KELLEHER: Yeah, renewals?

22 TIM MCCARTHY: Yeah, we've got a
23 number of renewals, obviously. And we're processing
24 those now. We have some records that have been --

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1 well, action has been taken since, which are on the
2 agenda. There's a new application for permit that's
3 also taken under advisement. Other than that,
4 everything that's on the agenda, is there any public
5 comment? (No response.)

6 GERARD KELLEHER: No hands are raised.

7 TIM MCCARTHY: Okay. I know that we had
8 gotten some additional information that was requested
9 by us from J&J. So, you know, I'll just, I'll have to
10 table it because nobody is here to represent the
11 company at the time. We'll table it and push it to the
12 January agenda, if that's okay with everybody. GERARD
13 KELLEHER: There is one hand up. It's the phone number
14 is 774 at the end. Who is this, please?

15 BLAKE CUSTER: Hi. Can you hear me?

16 GERARD KELLEHER: Yes. Who is this?

17 TIM MCCARTHY: Yes.

18 BLAKE CUSTER: Blake Custer
19 with Interstate Outdoor. Is the location for J&J in
20 Stoughton?

21 TIM MCCARTHY: No. No.

22 BLAKE CUSTER: Okay. Then disregard
23 my request. Okay? Thank you.

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1 TIM MCCARTHY: Okay. Thank you
2 very much. Okay. I'm not sure if -- and this is my
3 first time where nobody has shown up to our hearing.
4 So, I'm not really sure what the regular procedure
5 would be. I'm just going to say that we're going to
6 move it to the January -- hold on one minute. GERARD
7 KELLEHER: Eileen is on the line.

8 EILEEN FENTON: Hi, Gerry. Can you hear
9 me?

10 GERARD KELLEHER: Yes.

11 EILEEN FENTON: Sorry. I was having some
12 technical difficulties. My apologies. So, was there an
13 issue with the application, Tim?

14 TIM MCCARTHY: So, I think what
15 we're going to do, and Lydia and I just talked
16 offline quickly, and she's right on target, is I can't
17 really move these to January, simply because
18 the notifications and deadline for January has
19 already passed.

20 EILEEN FENTON: Yes.

21 TIM MCCARTHY: So, I think we should just
22 have Chris --

23 EILEEN FENTON: You could take it
24 under advisement unless there's --

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1 TIM MCCARTHY: Take it under
2 advisement and have Chris give his -- Jason give
3 his presentation.

4 EILEEN FENTON: That's right.
5 That sounds great. And we can keep it moving. And to
6 the extent there are any issues raised during the
7 month period, we can certainly bring it up. But let's
8 hear it as an application, hear the issues, and then we
9 can take it under advisement.

10 TIM MCCARTHY: Yeah, I agree. Thank you
11 so much. EILEEN FENTON: Sorry I was --

12 TIM MCCARTHY: You sound a
13 little better, Eileen. I'm glad you're feeling
14 better.

15 EILEEN FENTON: Yeah, I'm feeling
16 a little better. Thank you.

17 TIM MCCARTHY: All right. Okay.
18 Let's roll with it. J&J Outdoor Media, 0 Joseph Quinn
19 Road, Taunton.

20 CHRISTOPHER CHAVES: So this is
21 a proposed new build monopole, two-sided
22 electronic board facing Interstate 495 in
23 Taunton. There are two businesses within 500 feet of
24 this location. The location is zoned industrial. There

1 is one permitted board to the north. It is well over
2 1,000 feet, close to 1,300 feet, which meets the
3 spacing criteria. There are no issues from a
4 field standpoint for this location.

5 TIM MCCARTHY: Okay. I know that
6 they supplied some additional information. The Highway
7 District 5 -- well, so the traffic engineer has
8 determined that the detailed traffic study will not be
9 required for this location. And District 5 engineering
10 staff reviewed the application. They did make
11 some comments. The District reviewed the
12 subject application. Tree trimming removals will
13 likely be needed to provide visibility to the board.
14 The applicant is requested to contact the District
15 to review the need for a highway access permit for
16 any tree trimming or removal proposed within the Route
17 495 highway layout. The applicant should also be made
18 aware that MassDOT will request compensation for
19 any obstructing healthy trees requiring their removal
20 in accordance with MassDOT's tree
21 trimming/removal policy. We've had no comments received
22 on this application. The applicant received a variance
23 from the municipality. It's part of the
24 application. Obviously, Chris, our field inspector, has

1 given a complete summary of the report and
2 the site. And the applicant must abide by the 15- hour
3 public policy, public service
4 announcement requirement, in addition to any
5 commitments to the municipality for PSA services. So,
6 we'll take this under advisement. It's on the record.
7 We'll try to reach out to the proponent who were --
8 I'm guess it was a computer problem. Maybe they have a
9 computer problem on their end. And we'll go from
10 there. So, thanks very much, Chris.

11 CHRISTOPHER CHAVES: You're welcome.

12 TIM MCCARTHY: And then if we could, I
13 would say that would be the only application that we
14 really need to go through. The others are new
15 applications that we'll take through the process. And
16 the application for transfer, obviously, we'll take
17 through the process as well. Is there any other
18 comments or questions?

19 GERARD KELLEHER: So, everybody usually
20 gets an immediate notice when we invite them. And they
21 also get one an hour before at 10:00. So, I mean we --

22 TIM MCCARTHY: Yeah.

23 GERARD KELLEHER: This is the first time
24 that nobody showed up.

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1 TIM MCCARTHY: Right.

2 GERARD KELLEHER: It's the same procedure
3 as always.

4 TIM MCCARTHY: Yeah. No, I agree. I
5 agree. It might be --

6 GERARD KELLEHER: 'Tis the season.

7 TIM MCCARTHY: It might be something on
8 their end. Exactly right. I'm glad we got that on the
9 record. Thanks, Eileen, for your advice. Is there any
10 other comments or questions?

11 (No response.)

12 GERARD KELLEHER: I don't see any.

13 TIM MCCARTHY: All right. So, it was a
14 pretty quick meeting, 11:15. That's a quick turnaround.

15 I appreciate everybody's time. Again,
16 happy holidays and Happy New Year. We'll be here if
17 there's any more comments or concerns with any of the
18 OOA applications for this hearing. So, the Outdoor
19 Advertising hearing, the agenda for December 14, 2023,
20 is adjourned. Thanks, everybody. Have a great day.

21 (Whereupon, the proceedings were

22 concluded on December 14, 2023 at

23 11:15a.m.)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

I, Judith Luciano, do hereby certify that the foregoing record is a true and accurate transcription of the proceedings in the above-captioned matter to the best of my skill and ability.

Judith Luciano

Judith Luciano **All names not provided were spelled phonetically to the best of my ability.