

Office of Outdoor Advertising  
Public Meeting

February 11, 2021

11:00 AM

State Transportation Building

10 Park Plaza

2<sup>nd</sup> Floor

Boston, MA 02116

(via Webinar)

Present:

John Romano, Executive Director

Office of Outdoor Advertising February 11, 2021

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

2

3 JOHN ROMANO: Good morning, everyone.

4 My name is John Romano, and I am the Director of  
5 Outdoor Advertising for MassDOT. We are here for the  
6 February 11, 2021 Office of Outdoor Advertising  
7 hearing.

8 This meeting is being held virtually by  
9 Governor's Executive Order. Due to the COVID-19  
10 pandemic, we cannot meet in person, so we are doing  
11 this virtually.

12 We are running this hearing by  
13 GoToWebinar.

14 Please note that this meeting is being  
15 recorded through GoToWebinar as I just mentioned. Our  
16 stenographer, who is typically in attendance, is  
17 having some technical difficulties. So, we will  
18 provide a recording of this hearing to him. And so we  
19 will then get a transcript of the meeting, as always,  
20 and we will post it to our web page once the meeting  
21 notes are approved at the next meeting.

22 This meeting is accessible to people  
23 with disabilities and individuals with limited English  
24 proficiency. If you filed a request for assistance

Office of Outdoor Advertising February 11, 2021

1 and did not receive it, please contact MassDOT's  
2 Office of Diversity and Civil Rights at 857-368-8580  
3 or [massdot.civilrights@dot.state.ma.us](mailto:massdot.civilrights@dot.state.ma.us).

4 Please note that accessible versions of  
5 the meeting materials have been previously posted to  
6 the OOA website and will be referred to in the  
7 meeting. The links for those documents are also in  
8 the chat box, and the materials should also be  
9 available to download through GoToWebinar.

10 We are going to run this meeting as  
11 close to our regular Outdoor Advertising hearings as  
12 possible. I will go through the agenda. While the  
13 sign-in sheet cannot physically be signed, we will  
14 have a list of those who signed up through the  
15 webinar.

16 On the screen is the agenda.

17 Gerry, could you post the agenda please  
18 at this time?

19 GERARD KELLEHER: Sure.

20 JOHN ROMANO: I'll keep reading.

21 What we will do is I will go through  
22 each item. I will ask the questions of the  
23 proponents, just like I do in the hearing at the  
24 office in-person at 10 Park Plaza.

Office of Outdoor Advertising February 11, 2021

1                   Just so you know, everybody in the  
2 public should be currently muted. In about two  
3 minutes, the organizer is going to unmute everybody,  
4 and you should mute yourself at that time. Should the  
5 organizer, who is Gerry Kelleher from MassDOT, hear  
6 excessive background noise, he will mute people  
7 individually or the whole group if needed.

8                   If you would like to speak when public  
9 comment is requested, you can unmute yourself at that  
10 time. If you have any trouble unmuting yourself to  
11 make a comment, you can use the raise the hand  
12 function in GoToWebinar in order to indicate you would  
13 like to make a comment. To raise your hand in  
14 GoToWebinar, click the hand icon in the control panel.  
15 If you are connected by phone to the audio, you can  
16 press \*9 to raise hand. On the phone, you can also  
17 press \*1 to play the features menu and \*2 to mute or  
18 unmute the audio.

19                   You can also post your comment or  
20 questions in the chat box.

21                   You will have a chance to make comments  
22 just like you do in the regular public hearing at the  
23 end of each item and then a final chance for overall  
24 comments at the end of the agenda.

Office of Outdoor Advertising February 11, 2021

1                   For anybody who may be new, we do not  
2                   make any decisions at this actual hearing. Every item  
3                   is taken under advisement and decisions are made  
4                   usually within a few weeks, sometimes as early as a  
5                   week, but we will give time for write-in comments to  
6                   our email address, which is  
7                   [OOAInformation@dot.state.ma.us](mailto:OOAInformation@dot.state.ma.us).

8                   You can send comments in writing there  
9                   as well.

10                  With that, Gerry, if you can unmute  
11                  everybody, we will start.

12                  (Participants unmuted.)

13                  JOHN ROMANO: So, going to the agenda,  
14                  obviously, we talked about the sign-in already.

15                  The first, next item, is the January  
16                  14, 2021, OOA minutes for that public hearing. Those  
17                  were previously posted. Does anybody have any  
18                  questions, comments, or concerns about the January 14,  
19                  2021 regular session minutes?

20                  (No response.)

21                  JOHN ROMANO: I am not seeing any.

22                  Gerry, do you see anything? I don't  
23                  see anybody's hand raised.

24                  GERARD KELLEHER: No, I don't.

Office of Outdoor Advertising February 11, 2021

1                   JOHN ROMANO: And I don't see anything  
2                   in the chat. So, with that, we will mark those  
3                   minutes approved.

4                   Give me one second. Okay. Great.

5                   Next up on the agenda, as you can see,  
6                   there is an application for electronic permits by  
7                   Eagle Advertising, LLC. These are located at Pleasant  
8                   Street in West Bridgewater. The Permit Numbers are  
9                   2021D006 and D007. They are to replace 2014D011 and  
10                  2014D012.

11                  Notification was sent to the  
12                  municipality by my office on January 12, 2021 to the  
13                  town administrator and the town clerk.

14                  Is the applicant present?

15                  FREDERICK CASAVANT: Yes, Mr. Romano.  
16                  I'm Attorney Frederick Casavant for the applicant,  
17                  Eagle Advertising.

18                  JOHN ROMANO: Okay, Mr. Casavant.  
19                  Thank you very much.

20                  Is anybody here representing the  
21                  municipality where the sign is being proposed?

22                  (No response.)

23                  JOHN ROMANO: I do not see or hear  
24                  anyone, so I will say no.

Office of Outdoor Advertising February 11, 2021

1 Are there any abutters present today?

2 (No response.)

3 JOHN ROMANO: I am not seeing anything.

4 Gerry, are you seeing anything?

5 GERARD KELLEHER: No, I am not.

6 JOHN ROMANO: Okay, so I will say no on  
7 that as well.

8 Okay. The MassDOT District Office, Mr.  
9 Casavant, I did get an email from Bill Travers from  
10 the District. They have no objections to the permit.  
11 They just wanted me to call out to be mindful of  
12 should you be granted the permit, the brightness  
13 requirements in the CMR in 3.17. We've had some  
14 recent complaints in the area for other digital signs  
15 in this general area, so just be mindful of the  
16 brightness requirement of that.

17 Also, MassDOT Traffic Operations, I did  
18 receive a memo from the State Traffic Engineer's  
19 Office regarding these two proposed permits. And the  
20 Traffic Engineer's memo says that no further traffic  
21 study will be required for these boards should they be  
22 permitted.

23 So, Mr. Casavant, a few questions for  
24 you. Was certified mail notice to abutters sent out

## Office of Outdoor Advertising February 11, 2021

1 by you at least 30 days prior to submitting your  
2 application to the OOA?

3 FREDERICK CASAVANT: Yes.

4 JOHN ROMANO: Okay. And you did submit  
5 a copy of the post office receipts, and you also did  
6 provide a copy of the letter, is that correct?

7 FREDERICK CASAVANT: That's correct.

8 JOHN ROMANO: And I do have those.

9 Has the applicant received any written  
10 comments in support or opposition to these  
11 applications?

12 FREDERICK CASAVANT: No, we did not.

13 JOHN ROMANO: And we have not either.

14 Also, according to the applications,  
15 and as signed off by the town, there was a special  
16 permit that was issued for these. There was an  
17 extension to that special permit given for six months.  
18 And, one note in the special permit, and as noted in  
19 your application, that the hours are restricted  
20 between 11:00 p.m. and 5:00 a.m.

21 Is that your understanding, Mr.  
22 Casavant?

23 FREDERICK CASAVANT: Yes, it is.

24 JOHN ROMANO: Okay. With that, I am



Office of Outdoor Advertising February 11, 2021

1 going to ask my inspector to give his field report.

2 MARC PLANTE: This application is for a  
3 digital two-sided board located in West Bridgewater on  
4 Route 24, one side facing north, one side facing to  
5 the south. As you can see, it's clearly marked where  
6 the monopole will be with the stake with the orange  
7 tag.

8 This area has two legitimate businesses  
9 within 500 feet, West Bridgewater Storage and  
10 D'Angelo, Incorporated Construction. There are no  
11 parks, playgrounds, recreational areas within 300 feet  
12 of this site.

13 As to spacing issue, currently, there  
14 is a monopole adjacent to this location existing. And  
15 this monopole, to satisfy the spacing rules, must be  
16 dismantled and the permit surrendered.

17 Otherwise, everything is according to  
18 regulations.

19 JOHN ROMANO: So, Marc, those are the  
20 two 2014D011 and D012 that I mentioned at the  
21 beginning of the hearing and that --

22 MARC PLANTE: Yes, just down to the --

23 JOHN ROMANO: -- they're owned by the  
24 applicant and they will be taken down should these

## Office of Outdoor Advertising February 11, 2021

1 permits be approved.

2 MARC PLANTE: Yes, sir.

3 JOHN ROMANO: And, Mr. Casavant, just a  
4 reminder, you will need to submit to us a surrender  
5 form for those two. You should get that into my  
6 office as soon as possible, and we will not --  
7 obviously, we will not surrender the existing permits  
8 unless the new permits are going to be approved. So,  
9 it will kind of be a simultaneous thing. So, you  
10 won't be in a position where you have no permits.

11 FREDERICK CASAVANT: Understood.

12 JOHN ROMANO: Okay. And should these  
13 permits not be approved, then the other ones will stay  
14 in effect and the surrender will go away.

15 Okay. Do you have anything you would  
16 like to add anything to your application at this time,  
17 Mr. Casavant?

18 FREDERICK CASAVANT: No, Mr. Romano. I  
19 think I can rely on the submissions. And thank you  
20 for taking the time.

21 JOHN ROMANO: No problem.

22 Are there any comments, questions,  
23 concerns from anybody in attendance today regarding  
24 this application?

## Office of Outdoor Advertising February 11, 2021

1 (No response.)

2 GERARD KELLEHER: I don't see anything.

3 JOHN ROMANO: And I'm not hearing  
4 anything. So, with that, Mr. Casavant, we will take  
5 your application under advisement and we will get back  
6 to you shortly.

7 FREDERICK CASAVANT: Okay. Mr. Romano,  
8 thank you. And the rest of your staff, thank you very  
9 much. I appreciate it.

10 JOHN ROMANO: No problem.

11 Okay. Give me one second. Okay. Get  
12 that out of the way here.

13 We will go on to the next item on the  
14 agenda. The next item on the agenda is a permit  
15 transfer, Permit Numbers 2005050 and 97011. And these  
16 are being transferred from Clear Channel Outdoor, LLC  
17 to Van Wagner Outdoor, LLC. And these are located at  
18 220 Porter Street in Boston.

19 Are either or both applicants,  
20 transferor and transferee, here? If you could just  
21 state your name?

22 WALID ABU-GHAZALEH: I'm here on behalf  
23 of Van Wagner. This is Walid Abu-Ghazaleh.

24 JOHN ROMANO: Okay. And I think I see

## Office of Outdoor Advertising February 11, 2021

1       Jano there. Jano, you're here representing Clear  
2       Channel?

3                   JANO MAR: Yes, John. I'm Jano Mar  
4       with Clear Channel Outdoor.

5                   JOHN ROMANO: Okay. So, we reviewed  
6       all of the paperwork, the necessary application, the  
7       fee. Everything is in place for this transfer. You  
8       know, there are no issues from a paperwork standpoint.

9                   I do have my inspector, Chris Chaves,  
10      who will give a quick report on, you know, just the  
11      field status. That's all.

12                  So, Chris, if you don't mind.

13                  CHRISTOPHER CHAVES: Thanks, John.

14                  I actually was out there yesterday as  
15      well to double-check since my last inspection was in  
16      September. But, nothing's changed in that area. That  
17      sign is a two-sided, one-structure monopole, just  
18      outside of Logan Airport, facing I-90. It is situated  
19      inside of East Boston Memorial Park, which makes it a  
20      non-conforming grandfathered sign that cannot be  
21      altered in any way.

22                  JOHN ROMANO: And, you know, the  
23      transfer doesn't change any of that. It stays as it  
24      is. And that's all we have on that.

## Office of Outdoor Advertising February 11, 2021

1                   So, unless either the transferor or the  
2                   transferee has anything you'd like to add to the  
3                   application? Anything on that, guys?

4                   JANO MAR: We have nothing at this  
5                   time.

6                   WALID ABU-GHAZALEH: Nothing from Van  
7                   Wagner. Thank you.

8                   JOHN ROMANO: Okay. Any comments,  
9                   questions, concerns from anybody in attendance  
10                  regarding this transfer?

11                  (No response.)

12                  GERARD KELLEHER: Nothing here.

13                  JOHN ROMANO: And nothing here. I'm  
14                  not hearing or seeing anything.

15                  So, gentlemen, with that, we will take  
16                  that under -- we will take this under advisement, and  
17                  we will get back to you shortly on this one.

18                  JANO MAR: Thank you.

19                  JOHN ROMANO: Thank you very much.

20                  Okay. So, next, we have Part C,  
21                  Section C of the agenda, Applications for Renewal of  
22                  Outdoor Advertising Licenses and Permits. There's a  
23                  small list this month. We're almost at the end of  
24                  that. We've got a couple of outstanding ones.

## Office of Outdoor Advertising February 11, 2021

1 Anybody have any questions on that?

2 (No response.)

3 JOHN ROMANO: I'm not hearing or seeing  
4 any.

5 Next is Item 4. For the Record -  
6 Actions Taken Since the Last Public Hearing. Does  
7 anybody have any comments or questions on that?

8 (No response.)

9 JOHN ROMANO: None. Okay.

10 And we will go to the last section,  
11 Public Comment. Does anybody have any other  
12 questions, comments, concerns, in general, about  
13 Outdoor Advertising?

14 (No response.)

15 JOHN ROMANO: Okay. Seeing none.

16 I will adjourn the meeting at 11:19.  
17 Thank you all very much for coming. Have a great rest  
18 of your day. Thank you. Appreciate your help.

19 (Whereupon, the proceedings were  
20 concluded on February 11, 2021.)

21 //

22 //

23 //

24 //

Office of Outdoor Advertising February 11, 2021

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.