

Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs ■ MEPA Office

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Executive Office of Environmental Affairs

MEPA Analyst: *Purvi Patel*

Phone: 617-626- *1029*

Notice of Project Change

The information requested on this form must be completed to begin MEPA Review of a NPC in accordance with the provisions of the Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act and its implementing regulations (see 301 CMR 11.10(1)).

EEA # 14346		
Project Name: South Coast Rail – Phase 1 Service		
Street Address: MassDOT Rail ROW, Middleborough to New Bedford and Fall River		
Municipality: South Coast Region	Watershed: Taunton, Buzzards Bay, Mt. Hope Bay	
Universal Transverse Mercator Coordinates: <small>Start: 4640034.4, 340710.1; End: 4611560.7, 339809.6; 4619188.4, 320307.</small>	Latitude: Start: 41.8962° N; End: 41.6397° N, 41.7042° N Longitude: Start: 70.9202° W; End: 70.9234° W, 71.1597° W	
Estimated commencement date: 2019	Estimated completion date: 2024	
Project Type: Transportation (rail)	Status of project design: 0 - 30 %complete	
Proponent: Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT)		
Street Address: 10 Park Plaza		
Municipality: Boston	State: MA	Zip Code: 02116
Name of Contact Person: Jean Fox		
Firm/Agency: MassDOT,	Street Address: 10 Park Plaza, Suite 3910	
Municipality: Boston	State: MA	Zip Code: 02116
Phone: 857-368-8853	Fax:	E-mail: Jean.Fox@state.ma.us
<p>With this Notice of Project Change, are you requesting:</p> <p>a Single EIR? (see 301 CMR 11.06(8)) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p> <p>a Special Review Procedure? (see 301CMR 11.09) <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No</p> <p>a Waiver of mandatory EIR? (see 301 CMR 11.11) <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No</p> <p>a Phase I Waiver? (see 301 CMR 11.11) <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No</p> <p>Which MEPA review threshold(s) does the project meet or exceed (see 301 CMR 11.03)? Complete project; Land, ACEC, Rare Species, Transportation, Historical & Archaeological Resources, and Wetlands, Waterways & Tidelands. Phase 1 new elements: potentially Rare Species, Wetlands Which State Agency Permits will the project require? DEP Wetland Variance, Water Quality Certification, Chapter 91 License (potentially), Conservation & Management Permit Identify any financial assistance or land transfer from an Agency of the Commonwealth, including the Agency name and the amount of funding or land area in acres:</p>		

PROJECT INFORMATION

In 25 words or less, what is the project change? **MassDOT would permit and construct the SCR Project in phases. Phase 1 would implement service using the Middleborough Main Line and Middleborough Secondary, not previously fully evaluated under MEPA. See full project change description provided in Attachment A.**

Date of publication of availability of the ENF in the Environmental Monitor: (Date: 11/24/08)

Was an EIR required? Yes No; if yes,
was a Draft EIR filed? Yes (Date: 2/15/11) No
was a Final EIR filed? Yes (Date: 9/16/13) No
was a Single EIR filed? Yes (Date:) No

Have other NPCs been filed? Yes (Date(s):) No

If this is a NPC solely for lapse of time (see 301 CMR 11.10(2)) proceed directly to **ATTACHMENTS & SIGNATURES**.

PERMITS / FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE / LAND TRANSFER

List or describe all new or modified state permits, financial assistance, or land transfers not previously reviewed: dd w/ list of State Agency Actions (e.g., Agency Project, Financial Assistance, Land Transfer, List of Permits)

Phase 1 of the SCR Project will require additional DEP Wetlands Variances, Water Quality Certification, and MESA Conservation and Management Permit for improvements to the Middleborough Secondary line. Phase 1 may also require additional Chapter 91 license (to be determined).

Are you requesting a finding that this project change is insignificant? A change in a Project is ordinarily insignificant if it results solely in an increase in square footage, linear footage, height, depth or other relevant measures of the physical dimensions of the Project of less than 10% over estimates previously reviewed, provided the increase does not meet or exceed any review thresholds. A change in a Project is also ordinarily insignificant if it results solely in an increase in impacts of less than 25% of the level specified in any review threshold; provided that cumulative impacts of the Project do not meet or exceed any review thresholds that were not previously met or exceeded. (see 301 CMR 11.10(6)) Yes No; if yes, provide an explanation of this request in the Project Change Description below.

FOR PROJECTS SUBJECT TO AN EIR

If the project requires the submission of an EIR, are you requesting that a Scope in a previously issued Certificate be rescinded?
 Yes No; if yes, provide an explanation of this request_____.

If the project requires the submission of an EIR, are you requesting a change to a Scope in a previously issued Certificate?

Yes No; if yes, provide an explanation of this request_MassDOT requests that the Secretary issue a Scope for Phase 1 of the SCR Project, to allow public review of potential impacts and mitigation measures associated with project phasing and new project elements (reconstruction of the Middleborough Secondary and construction of new stations).

SUMMARY OF PROJECT CHANGE PARAMETERS AND IMPACTS

Summary of Project Size & Environmental Impacts	Previously reviewed	Net Change (Phase 1)	Currently Proposed (Total)
LAND			
Total site acreage	16.4 mi new track 35.5 mi upgraded track	+7.6 mi upgraded track	16.4 mi new track 43.1 mi upgraded track
Acres of land altered (stations)	95.3 ac	+10 ac	105.3 ac (approx.)
Acres of impervious area (stations)	13.6 ac	+3 ac	16.6 ac
Square feet of bordering vegetated wetlands alteration	9.6 ac (reduced to 6.1 acres by 30% design)	10,000 sf (approx.)	6.35 ac
Square feet of other wetland alteration	Riverfront 7.9 ac BLSF 6.7 ac LUW 1.9 ac Bank 16.813 lf	TBD	TBD
Acres of non-water dependent use of tidelands or waterways	8400 lf of upgraded track	0	8400 lf of upgraded track
STRUCTURES			
Gross square footage	N/A		
Number of housing units	N/A		
Maximum height (in feet)	N/A		
TRANSPORTATION			
Vehicle trips per day	-255,932	TBD	TBD
Parking spaces (new)	3,467	+ 500 ¹	3,967
WATER/WASTEWATER			
Gallons/day (GPD) of water use	N/A		

¹ Associated with potential station for Phase 1 service

GPD water withdrawal	N/A		
GPD wastewater generation/ treatment	N/A		
Length of water/sewer mains (in miles)	N/A		

Does the project change involve any new or modified:

1. conversion of public parkland or other Article 97 public natural resources to any purpose not in accordance with Article 97? Yes No

2. release of any conservation restriction, preservation restriction, agricultural preservation restriction, or watershed preservation restriction? Yes No

3. impacts on Rare Species? Yes No

4. demolition of all or part of any structure, site or district listed in the State Register of Historic Place or the inventory of Historic and Archaeological Assets of the Commonwealth? Yes No

5. impact upon an Area of Critical Environmental Concern? Yes No

If you answered 'Yes' to any of these 5 questions, explain below:

Potential impacts to rare species habitat along Middleborough Secondary.

PROJECT CHANGE DESCRIPTION (attach additional pages as necessary). The project change description should include:

- (a) a brief description of the project as most recently reviewed
- (b) a description of material changes to the project as previously reviewed,
- (c) if applicable, the significance of the proposed changes, with specific reference to the factors listed 301 CMR 11.10(6), and
- (d) measures that the project is taking to avoid damage to the environment or to minimize and mitigate unavoidable environmental impacts. If the change will involve modification of any previously issued Section 61 Finding, include a draft of the modified Section 61 Finding (or it will be required in a Supplemental EIR).

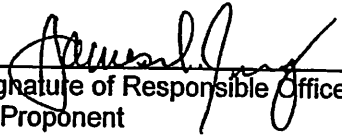
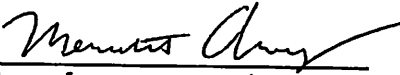
See attached narrative and figures.

ATTACHMENTS & SIGNATURES

Attachments:

1. Secretary's most recent Certificate on this project
2. Plan showing most recent previously-reviewed proposed build condition
3. Plan showing currently proposed build condition
4. Original U.S.G.S. map or good quality color copy (8-1/2 x 11 inches or larger) indicating the project location and boundaries
5. List of all agencies and persons to whom the proponent circulated the NPC, in accordance with 301 CMR 11.10(7)

Signatures:

03-15-17		3/15/17	
Date	Signature of Responsible Officer or Proponent	Date	Signature of person preparing NPC (if different from above)

<u>James Eng</u>	<u>Meredith Avery</u>
Name (print or type)	Name (print or type)
<u>MassDOT</u>	<u>VHB</u>
Firm/Agency	Firm/Agency
<u>10 Park Plaza, Suite 4160</u>	<u>101 Walnut Street</u>
Street	Street
<u>Boston, MA 02116</u>	<u>Watertown, MA 02471</u>
Municipality/State/Zip	Municipality/State/Zip
<u>857-368-8963</u>	<u>617-607-2604</u>
Phone	Phone