



# The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

AUDITOR OF THE COMMONWEALTH

DIVISION OF LOCAL MANDATES

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March 15, 2011

Arthur G. Pinell, Chairman  
David A. St. Pierre, Vice Chairman  
Board of Selectmen  
Town of Southwick  
454 College Highway  
Southwick, MA 01077

**RE: Retroreflectivity Standards for Traffic Signs**

Dear Chairman Pinell and Vice Chairman St. Pierre:

Auditor Bump asked that I write to acknowledge receipt of the copy of your letter to Representative Boldyga regarding retroreflectivity standards for street signage. In this letter, you express concern that compliance with this mandate will exceed \$100,000 for the Town of Southwick. As you know, the Federal Highway Administration announced the new standards with phased-in deadlines for various types of signs spanning from January 22, 2012 to January 22, 2018. See 2009 revisions to the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices, Section 2A.09.

Although we share your concern for this additional expense, please be aware that the Massachusetts Local Mandate Law does not apply to federal mandates. I am enclosing a copy of *Frequently Asked Questions* about the Local Mandate Law for your reference. Nonetheless, we thank you for bringing this matter to our attention, and encourage you to contact us with issues that may arise in the future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Emily D. Cousens".

Emily D. Cousens, Esq.  
Director, Division of Local Mandates

Enclosure

cc.: The Honorable Nicholas A. Boldyga  
Deputy Auditor Gerald A. McDonough