



Charles D. Baker, Governor  
Karyn E. Polito, Lieutenant Governor  
Jamey Tesler, Secretary & CEO  
Jonathan L. Gulliver, Highway Administrator



October 27, 2021

Mr. James Malloy  
Town Manager  
Town of Lexington  
1625 Massachusetts Ave  
Lexington, MA 02420

RE: Project 608495 – Concord-Lincoln-Lexington – Resurfacing and Related Work on Route 2A

Thank you for your participation in the multiple stakeholder meetings for MassDOT Project #608495 as well as forwarding your July 1st Comment Letter to MassDOT. MassDOT's priority for this project is to make Route 2A safer for all types of travel, especially before the start of the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary festivities that will take place at Minuteman National Park. We retained Toole Design Group to evaluate Route 2A and determine what can be done to improve the safety of the roadway. The District split Toole's recommendations and split them to be featured into two phases. Phase 1 will be incorporated into this resurfacing project, and Phase 2 will be incorporated into another project in the future.

MassDOT has investigated the request for constant four foot shoulders throughout the project limits. If a four foot shoulder was proposed, the road would need to be widened a width of 1 to 4 feet for essentially the length of the project. Any widening will require wetland flagging within the project limits, surveying the wetland flags, and adding the locations to the baseplan. As a result of this widening, additional roadway design, environmental permitting, design time would be added to the project and the advertising schedule would not be met. Also if shoulders were increased to a uniform width, the traffic calming effect from the proposed pedestrian refuge islands and splitter islands would be diminished. The estimated increase in funding of \$400,000 for this work would need to be identified would likely delay the advertisement of this project. This delay would conflict with the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary and have a negative effect on the expected increased park visitor traffic.

The design includes reduced lane widths, installing rectangular rapid flashing beacons, and the use of splitter islands at the proposed pedestrian crossings. These improvements will help create traffic calming throughout the project limits. At an appropriate time after these improvements have been implemented, MassDOT will conduct a traffic speed study to determine the proper speed limit for this roadway corridor. Many of the traffic calming measures included in this design have been shown to have a positive effect of lowering driving speeds post construction and the goal is to help achieve lower targeted speed less than the current posted speed limit along the corridor.

The proposed tree trimming has been reduced to only be used in locations where the proposed rectangular rapid flashing beacons (RRFBs) do not have enough sunlight to power the beacons. This work will be coordinated with the towns and the National Park Service.

The goal with every MassDOT project is to improve the safety of the roadway. MassDOT recognizes the need to keep the aesthetics of Route 2A as a scenic byway by trying to incorporate steel-backed timber guardrails into this project. Unfortunately, there are no current MASH 16 approved steel-backed timber guardrails available, and it is unlikely that a waiver to bypass MASH standards will be granted for this project. Currently, the District is only proposed to remove the existing steel guardrail and replace it with MASH approved steel guardrail and end treatments. The project will not remove any existing timber guardrail within the project limits.

MassDOT will evaluate the recommendation of a crossing west of the Old Massachusetts Avenue Intersection. A crossing will be considered if sight distance requirements are identified and meet safety criteria.

After the comments have been responded to and the design advances, the Town of Lexington will be able to review the revised design for this project. Currently, MassDOT is anticipating a November submission for the 100%/PSE submission.

MassDOT would like to thank the Town of Lexington again for participating in the stakeholders meetings and taking the time to review this project. If you have any other comments prior to the next submission, feel free to contact Andrew Wilkins, Project Manager at 857-368-9436 or Frank Suszynski, P.E., Deputy District Highway Director at 857-369-4011

Sincerely,

Paul D. Stedman,  
District Highway Director