



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



October 27, 2021

Mr. Jonathan Dwyer, Chair of the Select Board  
Ms. Margaret Olson, Chair of the Planning Board  
Mr. Kenneth Bassett, Chair of the Roadside Traffic Committee  
Mr. Robert Wolf, Co-Chair of the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee  
Ms. Ginger Reiner, Co-Chair of the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee  
Town of Lincoln  
16 Lincoln Road  
Lincoln, MA 01773

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 June 24<sup>th</sup> Comment Letter to MassDOT. Please see our responses to the comments below:

Comment 1: *Provide a consistent four foot shoulder throughout the corridor to enhance the safety of pedestrians and cyclists.*

Response 1: 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 construction funding of \$400,000 for this work would need to be identified and would delay the scheduled advertisement of this project. This delay would conflict with the Minute Man National Park planned 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration. A continuous widening of this magnitude would likely trigger an adverse effect during the Section 106 process as part of the environmental permitting process.

Comment 2: *Include pedestrian flashing beacons at all crosswalks.*

Response 2: MassDOT is proposing to install rapid rectangular flashing beacons (RRFB's) at all mid-block crosswalks. The color of the posts will conform to the National Parks requirements.

Comment 3: *Add a crosswalk at Brooks Road with pedestrian refuge islands.*

Response 3: A. MassDOT is evaluating a crossing at this location. Sight distance requirement will be identified and confirmed. If the sight distance demonstrates a crossing is suitable at this location, pedestrian refuge islands and advanced warning signs will be proposed.

B. The District is proposing to install pavement markings or a high-friction surface course to shorten the turning radius onto Brooks Road.

Comment 4: *Bedford Lane Crosswalk*

Response 4: The Bedford Lane crosswalk will remain at the proposed location as shown in the 25/75% submittal. Any shift closer to the driveway could put the concrete pads and concrete islands to be at risk for damage from emergency vehicles.

Comment 5: *Reinstatement of Bedford Road Crosswalk*

Response 5: The Bedford Road crosswalk was mistakenly omitted from the plan and it will be included in the 100%/PSE submittal. The roadway intersection will be narrowed using colors paint and pavement markings.

Comment 6: *Reinstatement of Mill Street Crosswalk*

Response 6: A crossing will be installed at the western side of the Mill Street intersection with concrete level landing areas and detectable warning panels. A connection to the Paul Revere parking lot will be investigated however all work will remain within the state highway layout.

The curve radius of the Mill Street intersection will be reduced with either pavement markings or a high-friction surface course.

Comment 7: *Old Mass Ave Eastbound*

Response 7: MassDOT will evaluate the addition of a left turn lane at this location. The existing roadway width at this location ranges between 32 and 35 feet. There are right-of-way restrictions on the westbound side of Route 2A, as well as existing wood guardrail and an existing Minuteman National Park trail behind the guardrail. The turn lane concept will be investigated. However if roadway widening is required, the turn lane at this location will not be considered for inclusion in this project.

Comment 8: *Guardrails*

Response 8: MassDOT considered this request and after investigation found that there were no MASH 2016 TL-2 approved steel-backed timber guardrails acceptable for use for this type of this project. MassDOT's Engineering Directive E-20-004 requires that all roadside hardware must meet the requirements of MASH 2016 or a waiver from this criterion is required. MassDOT has not granted waivers for timber guardrail since enacting this engineering directive and an exception is not expected to be

granted for aesthetic concerns. The contract is proposing to only replace the existing steel guardrail with MASH approved equipment and will not replace any existing timber guardrail.

The MassDOT understands the need consider the aesthetics of the national park setting, however the design must meet all MassDOT and Federal Highway Administration safety requirements to be eligible for funding.

Comment 9: *Island Details*

Response 9: The next submittal will have more enhanced details of the proposed splitter islands. The design is proposing four foot wide islands. Accepted design of refuge islands accommodates width between 4 to 6 feet outside width.

Comment 10: *Vegetative Clearing*

Response 10: This detail will be removed from the 25/75% plans. The contract will propose limited tree trimming and other vegetation removal at the locations of the solar powered RRFBs.

MassDOT would like to thank you for taking the time to review our proposed resurfacing 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  
MassDOT District Highway