

Environmental Services Updates

ACEC/MA TALC
March 19, 2025

Tim Dexter
Environmental Services, MassDOT HWY
Division

Environmental Review Checklist

Environmental Review Checklist




Environmental Permits and Review Summary		
Identify if permits/approvals below are required. Ensure each permit/approval type is considered. Consultant is responsible for submitting draft permit applications/documents to MassDOT ENV by the 75% design submittal, unless otherwise noted; per the 75% submittal checklist, failure to do so will result in the 75% design submittal being rejected or put on hold. If applicable, describe impacts.		
	MassDOT ER Response - Scoping/Pre-25% OTS	Consultant Response/Action - 25%
1. Bridge Exempt (Y/N): If applicable, this exempts the replacement of bridges and culverts and its approach work with functionally equivalent structures from review under the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act (WPA), Chapter 91 of the Massachusetts Public Waterfront Act, and the Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act (MEPA).		
2. WPA (Request for Determination of Applicability [RDA], Notice of Intent [NOI], Variance) If yes, scope consultant to prepare draft application using WPA checklist.*		
3. Chapter 91 (Minor Modification, Permit, License or Amendment) If yes, scope consultant to prepare draft application.		
4. Directly within or within 1 mile of environmental justice (EJ) community? If yes, inform consultant to consider if subject to MEPA review. If directly within, scope consultant to prepare EJ analysis for National Environmental Policy (NEPA) documentation if substantial right of way or displacements are required.		
5. MEPA (Environmental Notification Form [ENF], Expanded ENF [EENF]/Rollover Environmental Impact Report [EIR], EENF/Single EIR) If yes, scope consultant to prepare draft filing. Discuss schedule. Ensure the consultant considers EJ populations in filing approach.		
6. NEPA (Programmatic or Individual Categorical Exclusion [CE]) If yes, inform consultant that MassDOT Environmental will prepare NEPA documentation, unless otherwise noted. See NEPA Classes of Action and MassDOT's Programmatic Agreement with the Federal Highway Administration [FHWA] for guidance.		
7. Section 401 (Individual Water Quality Certification [WQC] for Fill, Individual WQC for Dredge, WQC Variance) If yes, scope consultant to prepare draft application using 401/404 checklist.*		
8. Section 404 (Self Verification Notification [SVN], Pre-Construction Notification [PCN], Individual Permit) If yes, scope consultant to prepare draft application using 401/404 checklist.*		
9. U.S. Coast Guard Bridge Permit (Y/N) If yes, scope consultant to prepare draft application and potentially a navigation impact report.		

- ERC
 - Live May 2023
 - Upcoming update
 - <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/mepanepa-unit#related-resources>
- CE checklist form & instructions, MassDOT's public participation plan

Wetlands Unit Resources

- Checklists
 - Notice of Intent (WPA)
 - Joint WQC / ACOE (401/404) Application ERC
 - **NEW** Sediment Sampling Plan – 401 Dredge
- Plans
 - **NEW** Chapter 91 CAD Template Plans
 - Landscape Design and Roadside Maintenance Guidance
 - [Wetlands & Water Resources Unit | Mass.gov](#)

<p>LEAVE BLANK FOR REGISTRY USE ONLY</p>	<p>I CERTIFY THAT THIS PLAN, AS PREPARED, CONFORMS TO THE RULES AND REGULATIONS OF THE REGISTERS OF DEEDS OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS.</p> <p>IT IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE PLAN PREPARER TO ENSURE THIS CERTIFICATION IS COMPLETED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE REGISTRY STANDARDS (E.G., PE VS. PLS, SIGNED/DATED AND ADDITIONAL SEAL, SIGNATURE, DATE, AND ADDITIONAL REQUIRED LANGUAGE, ETC.)</p> <p>NAME _____ DATE _____</p>																												
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Scoping & Bankfull Width (BFW)

- 1.2x BFW – Stream Crossing Standard
- Bridge & linear projects w/ culverts
- **Project Info 2.0** schedules: BFW occurs concurrently w/wetland delineation
- Incorporate into SOW
 - Prime - experienced staff
 - Consider a sub for BFW & wetland delineation
 - MassDOT Environmental
- BFW Field Form



Rivers & Roads Training Program

- Fluvial geomorphology to compliment traditional engineering
- Tier 2 Training: classroom & field day
- Designing to MA Stream Crossing Stds
- Channel evolution
- BFW, longitudinal profile, habitat assessment, example projects



Rivers & Roads Training Program

- **June 25-26**, District 3 Worcester
- **August 20-21**, UMass Transportation Center Aviation & Research Training Facility, Chicopee
- **September 24-25**, UMass Cranberry Station, East Wareham
- Tier 1 Training & Tier 2 Registration:
[UMTC/Baystate Roads – UMTC](#)
 - Tier 2 course = 1.2 CEUs
- [MassDOT Rivers & Roads YouTube playlist](#)
- [Rivers and Roads training | Mass.gov](#)

Stormwater Management Resources

[Stormwater Management Unit Resources](#)

- Water Quality Data Form (WQDF)
- WQDF training YouTube video
- Template Stormwater Management Memo for Bridge Permitting (401 WQC)
- Template Stormwater Management Report
- Engineering Directives
- Stormwater Design Guide
- Drainage Infrastructure Inventory – GeoDOT
- Other resources



MassDEP Stream Crossing Design Guidance

- [Wetlands Information | Mass.gov](#)

The MassDEP Wetlands Program is requesting comments on a Draft Guidance for Meeting the Massachusetts Stream Crossing Standards to the Maximum Extent Practicable. The draft document and slides from the 2/19/2025 Information Session are located below. MassDEP is requesting one copy of comments per organization/agency submitted by email to David.Hilgeman@mass.gov, Lisa.Rhodes@mass.gov, and Rebecca.H.Davis@mass.gov by March 28, 2025.

- Resource for Conservation Commissions and Applicants in how cost should be analyzed for meeting MA Stream Crossing Standard (Stds) to the “Maximum Extent Practicable” (MEP)

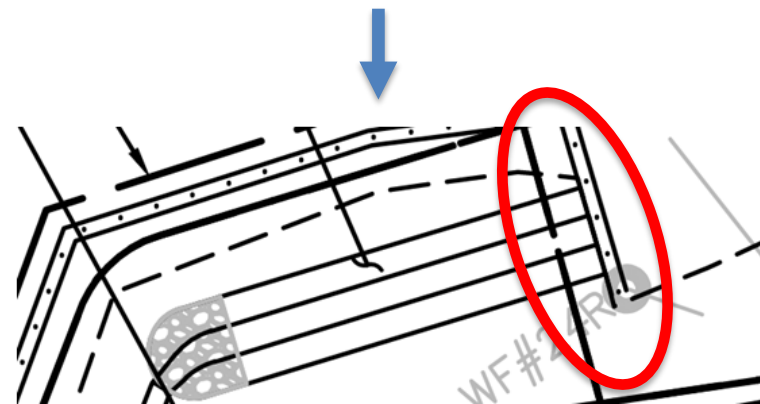
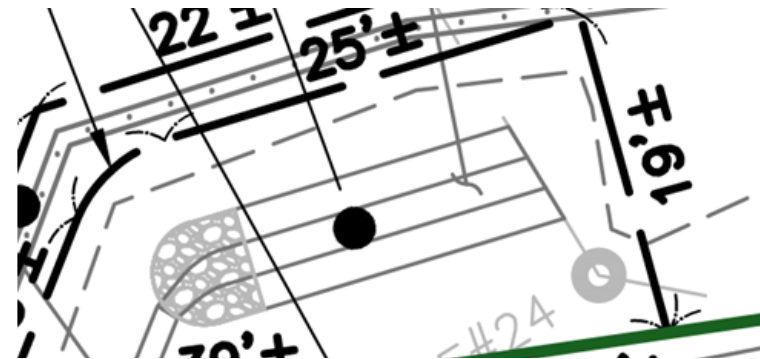
MassDEP Stream Crossing Design Guidance

Considerations for Scope of Work Development

- Establishment of minimum hydraulic standards & associated baseline cost
- Propose cost threshold above baseline for exceeding MEP, based on
 - habitat quality; and,
 - connectivity restoration potential.
- NOI alternatives analysis will include:
 - Baseline cost alternative
 - At least one full compliance w/Std's alternative
 - At least one MEP alternative with mitigation elements to maximize aquatic organism passage
 - Conceptual plans & calcs for each alternative, PE sign/stamped

Environmental Review & Right Of Way

- Permit applications and DOT checklist(s) required w/75% Sub
- **ROW coordination needed:**
 - Design changes w/in easements / Article 97 areas
 - Easement configuration
 - Change in use w/in easements
 - Changes in easement area quantities
 - Changes in ownership (including new ownership)
- Important: Early identification of stormwater control measures, wetland mitigation, compensatory flood storage, etc.



Thank you

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