

## MEMORANDUM

TO: Carter Terenzini, Town Administrator, Town of Templeton

FROM: Nicholas Lapointe, P.E., Project Manager  
Rekha Korlipara, E.I.T, ENV SP, Project Engineer

DATE: January 30, 2019

RE: MassDOT Proj. #608424 – Reconstruction of Royalston Road (Rt. 68)  
Summary of Comments Received from DPH and Additional Action Items

---

This memo provides a brief summary of public input received at the 25% MassDOT public hearing on December 12, 2018 as well as additional information and investigation of project inquiries over the past month.

### Written Public Comments Received:

Comment from Thomas Desbois, 119 Royalston Road, Templeton MA: "I am concerned about my stone wall along Rt 68. Will this stone wall be affected by the road widening along with the pine trees along stone wall? Also how will my driveway be affected? If stone wall is affected will it be rebuilt? "

- Official Fuss and O'Neill Response: The proposed limit of work is approx. 10 to 15' away from the existing stone wall. No impacts will occur as a result of the construction activities. At this time, no trees will be removed along the frontage of 119 Royalston Road, however there will be overhead tree trimming needed for required clearances associated with Templeton Light & Water pole and wire relocations.

Comment from Mark Barrieau, 75 Royalston Road, Templeton MA: "Please reconsider the design of the Rt. 202 intersection. The current configuration results in regular stop sign violations. The stop sign requires a 120 deg. turn onto Rt. 202 when turning left. Cars do not stop at the painted line, they pull into the intersection, pause, and then turn left. The revised intersection of Patriots Rd & Rt. 202 is far better. 2) As an abutter, will I have access to any trees cut down along my frontage to use for firewood?"

- Official Fuss and O'Neill Response: We have reviewed the feasibility and costs associated with this intersection realignment. We found there are no physical, private property, or environmental resource constraints preventing this realignment, however this also resulted in no engineering justification to

Mr. Carter Terenzini, Town Administrator  
January 30, 2019  
Page 2 of 4

implement this into the design. Within the past 3 years, there have been no accidents at this intersection. Within the past 9 years there was only one accident, which did not result in any injury. Although there is no accident trends, the town could choose to incorporate this improvement into the project. There would be additional design cost associated with this, ranging from \$3,000 to \$6,000 needed to revise plan documents and complete the engineering. The increase in construction cost for this improvement would be minor compared to the overall cost, adding approximately \$20,000 to \$30,000 to overall construction cost (current cost estimate for project is \$4.9M). The town will review internally whether or not this improvement is worth the additional project costs.

- Property owners along Royalston Road that have trees removed along their frontage may recover the cut trees for firewood. The owner shall notify the contractor in advance if he/she wish to obtain aforementioned trees. The contractor shall coordinate with the property owner during the time of removal. Once the trees have been felled, it will be the responsibility of the property owner to move, cut, or log any trees from placed location onto private property.

### Verbal Feedback at Design Hearing:

Comment regarding the grass island at the intersection of Royalston Road and Old Royalston Road Intersection.

- After discussion and investigation, we will raise this grass island using sloped granite edging, making it mountable for truck and review the appropriate material to use in the center that is consistent with the Town's maintenance capabilities.

Comment regarding truck turning radius and access to Old Royalston Road.

- After further review and analysis of turning movements using a 40 ft. tractor trailer as well as a Tri-Axle 40 ton dump truck, we have confirmed that the proposed geometry at this intersection is adequate to accommodate these types of vehicles without causing disruption to traffic flow or creating a safety issue. Graphical justification can be provided if needed.

Comment regarding the concern for downstream flooding associated with culvert carrying Norcross Brook under Gavin Road if the culvert at STA 73+50 is widened.

Mr. Carter Terenzini, Town Administrator  
January 30, 2019  
Page 3 of 4

- We will conduct a hydraulic analysis, field investigation, and look at the area watershed in more detail after consultation with Army Corps. of Engineers (USACE) and during design development of the 75% plans to confirm no impact will result from this project. If improvements are needed as a result of this project, coordination will occur between the Town, F&O, and MassDOT on funding and possible inclusion into the project.

Comment regarding the placement of residential mailboxes from the Post Master General in Baldwinville.

- We will ensure all mailboxes remain on the same side of the roadway as they currently are.

Comment regarding fixing the "hill" at the approach to Route 202. Safety concern during icy conditions coming to stop at 202 intersection.

- Our current design includes lowering the profile of the roadway approximately 1.5' to 2.0' in this area to improve headlight sight distance (and stopping sight distance) as well as reduce steepness of the grade coming into the 202 intersection.

General comments regarding poor pavement condition and ponding of water on roadway throughout corridor.

- Our current design includes the full replacement of existing roadway pavement as well as the addition of roadside drainage swales and localized areas of a closed drainage system (underground) with curbing on the side of the roadway to address flooding and ponding of water.

General comments regarding project funding and the MPO process

- Town is actively working with Montachusett Regional Planning Commission (MRPC) and sub region MPO representative from Winchendon to obtain state funding on the 5-year Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for the Montachusett region. Encourage residents and town officials to obtain support from state representatives to help push this project along.

Mr. Carter Terenzini, Town Administrator  
January 30, 2019  
Page 4 of 4

### Additional Feedback from Town Officials:

- Include provisions for beaver protection at culverts for ease of maintenance,
- Invite Conservation Commission Agent to walkthrough with USACE.
- F&O shall make field investigation of condition of culvert carrying Norcross Brook under Old Royalston Road and make recommendation if improvements under Project 608424 or another future project are needed.

### Action Items:

- F&O to setup meeting with Army Corps. as soon as possible to do site walk and layout permitting and design requirements. Look to schedule site walk for early April pending availability by USACE
- Town to present project to Montachusett MPO, tentatively scheduled for February 20<sup>th</sup> at MRPC. This will significantly increase chances of the project being placed on the FY20-24 TIP.
- Current schedule is to submit 75% design package to MassDOT by June 27, 2019. Town would like to have all USACE resolutions and 75% MassDOT comments addressed by July 2020 to begin Right-of-Way negotiations.

cc.

Eric Bernardin P.E., LEED-AP, Vice President  
Bob Szocik, DPW Director, Town of Templeton