



Jennifer M. Raitt  
Executive Director

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## Northern Middlesex Council of Governments

A Multi-Disciplinary Regional Planning Agency Serving:

BillERICA – ChELMSFORD – DRACUT – DUNSTABLE – LOWELL – PEPPERELL – TEWKSBURY – TYNGSBOROUGH – WESTFORD

April 9, 2024

Rebecca Tepper, Secretary  
Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs  
Attention: MEPA Office  
Amina Miliani, EOEEA #16811  
100 Cambridge Street, Suite 900  
Boston, MA 02114-2509

Re: EOEEA MEPA #16811 Rehabilitation of Boston Road – Westford, Environmental Notification Form (ENF)

Dear Secretary Tepper:

The Northern Middlesex Council of Governments (NMCOG) routinely assesses MEPA proposal notifications to identify any potential regional impacts. Our responsibility involves examining projects to ensure they align with various guiding frameworks, including Envision 2050, the Long-Range Transportation Plan for Greater Lowell, the Regional Strategic Plan for Greater Lowell, and local plans. As a regional planning agency, NMCOG promotes sustainable development and environmental stewardship.

The Rehabilitation of Boston Road in the Town of Westford, MEPA project notification #16811, aims to refurbish the aging infrastructure of Boston Road, primarily focusing on enhancing pedestrian and cyclist accessibility along this crucial corridor. Covering a 1.05-mile stretch, the project targets improved safety and accessibility by adding a 5-foot wide bicycle lane and 11-foot travel lanes in each direction. Additionally, sidewalks with vertical granite curbing will be constructed to enhance pedestrian access and ADA/AAB-compliant wheelchair ramps will be added to intersections.

Adjustments to traffic signals at the Boston Road and I-495 Southbound ramps are planned to enhance traffic flow and reduce congestion. Furthermore, a comprehensive revamp of the storm drain system and water line replacements aims to improve stormwater management and infrastructure resilience. Full-depth pavement reclamation and the installation of new markings and signage will extend the road's lifespan and improve navigation, contributing to a more efficient, accessible, and safer road environment for all users.

Notably, the project is programmed on the Northern Middlesex Metropolitan Planning Organization's Transportation Improvement Program and listed in the universe of projects in Envision 2050, because of the project's goal to improve environmental sustainability and livability by enhancing bicycle and pedestrian facilities. It also aligns with the Town of Westford's Complete Streets Policy, providing safety and accessibility for all roadways, trails, and transit system users. The proposed improvements will connect existing sidewalks and improve connectivity between Westford Town Center and the town's

commercial and retail district at Minot's Corner. The project will align with the MPO's safety performance measures and goals by improving high- to moderate-injury locations.

In summary, NMCOG endorses the Rehabilitation of Boston Road outlined in MEPA notification #16811. The project aligns with NMCOG's dedication to sustainable development and environmental stewardship, fulfills a project outlined in the NMMPO's TIP, and is consistent with regional plans and local policies. NMCOG respectfully requests that our comments be incorporated into any final communications or Certificates issued for this project. We appreciate the opportunity to provide input. Please contact Meghan Tenhoff, Sustainability Planner II, at [mtenhoff@nmcog.org](mailto:mtenhoff@nmcog.org) with any questions about our letter.

Sincerely,



Jennifer Raitt  
Executive Director

cc: Andrew Deslaurier, NMCOG Chair  
Kristen Las, Westford Town Manager