



THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION



Victoria F. Sheehan
Commissioner

William Cass, P.E.
Assistant Commissioner

July 8, 2019

Paul Rasmussen, Chair
Town of Durham Planning Board
105 Madbury Road
Durham, NH 03824

Re: Durham 42523

RECEIVED
Town of Durham
JUL 15 2019
Planning, Assessing
and Zoning

Dear Mr. Rasmussen:

The NH Department of Transportation (DOT) is planning the subject project, involving improvements to the intersection of US Route 4 and Madbury Road in the Town of Durham. The project area will extend approximately 1000' from the intersection along all four approaches and possible right-of-way impacts are anticipated along Madbury Road. Preliminary design alternatives at this time include step box widening, full box reconstruction, and bridge and approach construction. Additional work will include traffic signal upgrades and modifications, utility relocations, and upgrades to existing drainage.

Some transportation projects require mitigation for possible wetland/stream impacts. The natural resources in this project area have not yet been identified and investigations are forthcoming. Preliminary engineering studies have begun and the Department will attempt to avoid, and minimize impacts through design before determining if there will be any stream or wetland impacts that may require mitigation. As a proactive measure the Department would like to request a list of the Town's preferred/priority mitigation efforts that the Department may evaluate and consider undertaking if it is determined that the project does in fact require mitigation. Please let us know if your Town has identified such priorities. In the absence of any Town priorities to evaluate the Department will pursue permittee responsible mitigation through the Stream Passage Improvement Program (SPIP). If it's determined that no viable options exist through the SPIP, the Department will pursue a payment into the Aquatic Resource Mitigation Fund (ARM Fund), at which time those funds will become competitively available through the ARM fund grant process.

Engineering studies have been initiated to refine the scope and limits of work necessary for this project. The Department's Bureau of Environment is in the process of evaluating the potential environmental impacts associated with the project. To assist in this evaluation, I am asking that you provide comments relative to the project's potential impacts on environmental, social, economic or cultural resources, by responding to the following questions.

1. Does the Town have a list of priority mitigation efforts (Top 10 Priority List) that the DOT may evaluate and consider undertaking if it is determined that the project does in fact require mitigation? If so, please provide the list. (e.g. problematic culvert/bridge crossings, land protection, habitat restoration, etc.)

2. Are there any existing or proposed community or regional plans that might have a bearing on this project?
3. Are there any natural resources of significance in the vicinity of the project? (e.g. prime wetlands, floodplains, rare species, etc.)
4. Are there any cultural resources of significance in the vicinity of the project? (e.g. stonewalls, cemeteries, historical or archeological resources, etc.) *Please note that Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act offers those that possess a direct interest in historical resources, including town officials, Historical Societies, and Historical Commissions, an opportunity to become more involved in an advisory role during project development as "Consulting Parties." Those interested should contact the Department.*
5. Are there any public parks, recreation areas, conservation lands, or wildlife/waterfowl refuges in the vicinity of the project? Have Land & Water Conservation Funds been used in the project area?
6. Are there any locally or regionally significant water resources or related protection areas in the project vicinity? (e.g. public water supplies, wellhead protection areas, aquifer protection districts, etc.)
7. Are there any water quality concerns that should be addressed during the development of this project? (e.g. stormwater management, NPDES Phase II, impaired waters, etc.)
8. Are you aware of any existing or potential hazardous materials or contaminants in the vicinity of the project? Are there asbestos landfills or asbestos containing utility pipes located within the project limits?
9. Do you have any environmental concerns not previously noted (e.g. noise impacts, farmland conversion, etc.) that you feel the Department should be aware of for this project?
10. Will the proposed project have a significant effect upon the surrounding area? If so, please explain.
11. Are you aware of any existing roadside populations of non-native invasive plant species (such as Japanese knotweed, phragmites, or purple loosestrife) in the project area?

This letter has been sent to the following departments, boards, and/or commissions:

- Town Councilmen
- Planning Board
- Town Administrator
- Fire Department
- Police Department
- Public Works Director
- Town Engineer
- Historic District Commission

The tentative advertising date for this project is October 1, 2022. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or require further information regarding the above referenced project. Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,



Melilotus M. Dube
Environmental Manager
NH Department of Transportation
Bureau of Environment
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CJP:mmd
Encl.

Durham 42523

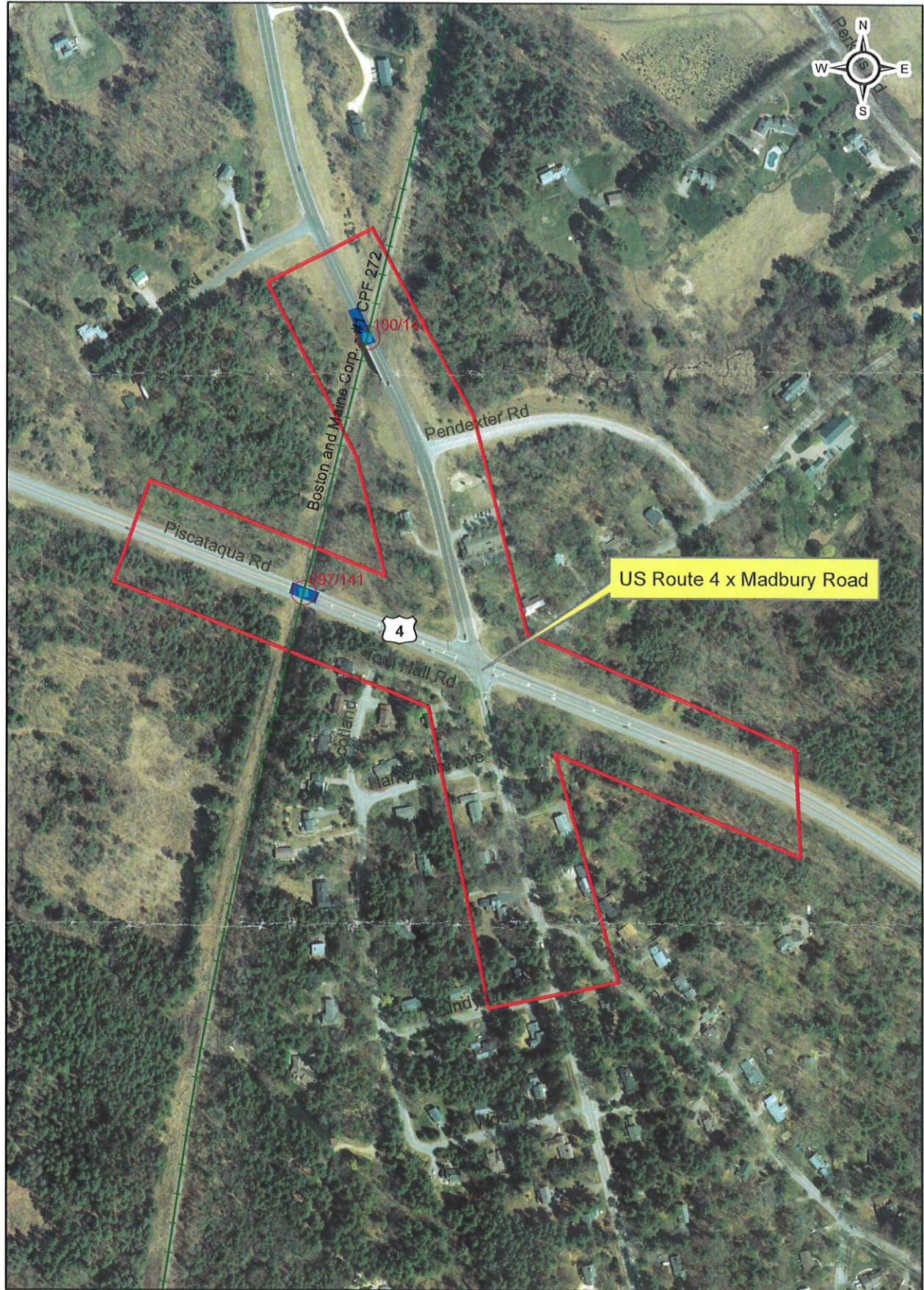


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