



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



March 25, 2021

District File # 1388

SUBJECT: CONSTRUCTION – CHATHAM -- Roadway Reconstruction and Related Work
along a Section of (Route 28) Main Street
Contract #104049 - Federal Aid No. CMQ-STP-TAP-003S(158)
RE: Town Concerns

Mr. Thomas P. Temple
Director of Public Works
221 Crowell Road
Chatham, MA 02633

Dear Mr. Temple:

This letter is in response to your correspondence dated February 25, 2021 restating the Towns concerns and documenting prior discussions on these matters. MassDOT and its Contractor are resuming work this spring and look forward to completing this project for the summer season. MassDOT provides the following responses to your itemized requests.

1. *Additional modifications to the following driveways to provide easier access/egress to each of the commercial properties:*
 - West Chatham Post Office/Kreme & Cone entrance*
 - State Job Lot entrance (Main Street/Rte. 28 entrance)*
 - Larry's PX/Shops Ahoy entrance*

Please note, Town officials and the Project Team have met on-site for specific recommendations. We ask that you consider expanding commercial driveway access/egress as much as possible to accommodate elderly drivers and visitors.

MassDOT staff and the project designer met with you in the field to review each location and came to an agreement on the final dimensions of the openings. This work will be completed as agreed this spring.

2. *George Ryder Road South - please have Engineers review and drive the intersection approach as drivers take a right from George Ryder Road (coming out of the roundabout and a quick left into George Ryder Road South traveling west on Rte. 28. Residents of that area have noted it is very difficult to navigate.*

MassDOT and the project designer have reviewed the area and believe the final configuration is adequate and meets the design intent of the project. Final Paving of the top course and installation of final pavement markings should alleviate this concern.

3. *Chatham Municipal Airport located at 240 George Ryder Road:*

a. A resident raised concerns about the lack of signage regarding Runway Protection Zone (RPZ). Does MassDOT intend to install RPZ signage up on each side of Rte. 28/Main Street letting motorists know they are within this zone?

b. Does MassDOT intend to install and erect signs (both sides of the road) on Rte. 28/Main Street stating, "Low Flying Aircraft"?

MassDOT has reviewed this request and determined the signage is not required. The signs are not standard MUTCD signs, nor are they included in the MassDOT Standard Signs publication. MassDOT does not intend to install these signs.

4. *Concerns were raised by residents regarding a vehicular accident just prior to the Select Board January 12, 2021 meeting) where an individual tried to enter the shared use path (which begins on George Ryder Road located just north east of the entrance of Ocean State Job Lot) instead of the driveway entrance. The slope of this embankment area where the accident occurred does not warrant the installation of guardrails at this location according to the Project Manager, however in lieu of a guard rail installation the Town is requesting split rail fencing at the top of slope with some planting adjacent to each side of the entrance of the shared use path entrance to avoid any confusion. The installation of a split rail fencing would also serve as a barrier for bicyclist and pedestrians. This will avoid either group from potentially falling into the parking lot area below while serving as a fall protection/guide for all as the slope steepens as you head towards the roundabout.*

MassDOT believes when the roadway top course, final pavement markings, and landscaping is complete this will not be an issue. Should this continue to be an issue MassDOT will consider the addition of plantings or other measures as part of the final landscaping, provided sufficient room exists in the existing State Highway Layout.

5. *A resident noted concerns regarding large puddling at Rte. 28/Main Street and the Ocean State Job Lot entrance. MassDOT representatives were asked to monitor this area to modify and/or correct this drainage issue prior to the placement of the Hot Mix Asphalt - top course.*

MassDOT will be raising all drainage basins to grade this spring and any issues with puddles will be addressed prior to final paving of the top course.

Regarding the November 13, 2019 meeting with Town of Chatham at the Statehouse in Boston, MassDOT is committed to the provisions discussed on the lighting and landscaping.

- *The Town's request to minimizing the number of streetlights called for within the 1,700' ± construction limits including but not limited to the 5 or 6 streetlights at each of the roundabouts.*
 - *It was agreed, at the meeting, to wire the streetlights so that every other light could be shut off, if determined (prior to the placement of the top course of Hot Mix Asphalt for the shared use path and the roadway) that there was sufficient/adequate lighting throughout the corridor by shutting off every other.*

- *It was recommended that MassDOT meet on site with the Director of Public Works to look at both options once lights have been erected and operational.*

MassDOT along with Chatham DPW will evaluate the lighting once activated to ensure adequate lighting without spillover is achieved for the safety of the public.

- *A request for MassDOT to provide additional landscaping of some sort to be installed on the North side in the 5' buffer between the curb and the multi-use path in lieu of just grass, if this is not possible, The Town of Chatham respectfully request MassDOT to put additional landscaping on private property with the Town of Chatham secure the necessary easement(s)/release of demands?*
 - *MassDOT agreed to look at the area in question prior to the planting schedule being performed.*

MassDOT requests you provide a list of additional landscaping along with locations for these plantings. MassDOT cannot plant on private property without the Town securing the consent of the property owner.

- *Looking towards the future, would MassDOT entertain a reprieve on the 5-year moratorium if the Town decides that there are any changes they want in the Right of Way once the project is complete - understanding the Town will bear the costs.*
 - *MassDOT was going to look into this request and get back to us. The Town of Chatham is waiting/or a response to this item.*

Future changes within the right of way will require a permit to access state highway. MassDOT would consider a waiver of the 5-year moratorium subject to certain conditions dependent upon the changes being requested.

MassDOT looks forward to working with you to complete this project in a manner that is mutually beneficial to all stakeholders. Should you have any questions concerning this matter, you may contact the District Construction Office.

Sincerely,

Mary-Joe Perry
wdt

Digitally signed by Mary-Joe Perry wdt
Date: 2021.03.25 15:48:04 -04'00'

Mary-Joe Perry
District Highway Director

MJM/wav
cc: DHD

Digitally signed by GFB
Date: 2021.03.25 08:49:00 -04'00'

Chatham Select Board
Jill Goldsmith, Chatham Town Manager
State Representative Sarah Peake
King, M.
File