



**US Army Corps
of Engineers**®
New England District

696 Virginia Road
Concord, MA 01742-2751

Public Notice

In Reply Refer to: Kevin DiRocco
Kevin.J.DiRocco@usace.army.mil

Levee Safety Program

Date: March 25, 2024

Comment Period Closes: April 09, 2024

**15 DAY PUBLIC NOTICE
ACCESS TO U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS CIVIL WORKS PROJECT
PURSUANT TO 33 USC 408
Replacement of the Water Street Bridge (F-04-018) Over North Nashua River
Fitchburg, Massachusetts.**

Interested parties are hereby notified that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New England District (USACE) is evaluating plans pursuant to 33 U.S.C. 408 (Section 408) submitted by the Massachusetts Department of Transportation – Highway Division (MassDOT) for the replacement of the structurally deficient Water Street Bridge (Bridge #F-04-018) over the North Nashua River in Fitchburg, Massachusetts. Bridge #F-04-018 is subject to review under Section 408 as the bridge abutments were constructed as part of the USACE North Nashua River Local Protection Project, a civil works project constructed along a 4.4-mile stretch of the North Nashua River in Fitchburg, Massachusetts for the purpose of flood risk management.

Replacement of bridge #F-04-018 involves rehabilitation of the existing bridge abutments and replacement of the superstructure and approach slabs. The project does not propose permanent changes to the existing local protection project but involves selective demolition and reconstruction of the bridge abutments to replace deteriorated concrete. The plan includes replacement of deteriorated concrete with precast abutment caps and backwalls and includes replacement of the existing 18-inch stormwater outfall on the southern abutment with a new 30-inch ductile iron pipe. The new bridge will include two 11-foot travel lanes with five-foot outside shoulders and a six-foot sidewalk in each direction. The new bridge will maintain the existing vertical profile of the bridge. Temporary impacts to the river bottom are anticipated for work on either bank of the river as temporary sandbag cofferdams and dewatering measures may be required to facilitate abutment concrete repairs.

This notice is being issued pursuant to 33 U.S.C. 408, USACE Engineering Circular (EC) 1165-2-220, and the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations (40 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] 1500-1508) for implementing the procedural provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) (42 U.S.C. 4321 et. seq.) and the USACE procedures for implementing NEPA (33 CFR 230). Section 408 allows USACE to grant permission for the alteration, occupation, or use of USACE civil works projects if it is determined that the activity will not be injurious to the public interest and will not impair the usefulness of the federal project.

A decision on a Section 408 request is a federal action, and therefore subject to NEPA and other environmental compliance requirements.

USACE has determined that the action is categorically excluded under NEPA, and therefore, an environmental assessment is not required for this action.

The public is invited to provide comments. To request more information contact: Kevin DiRocco, Levee Safety Program Manager, New England District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, 696 Virginia Road, Concord, MA 01742, (978) 318-8396, Kevin.J.DiRocco@usace.army.mil. The comment period will end on April 09, 2024. Letters should be postmarked by this date.

David I. Margolis, P.E., PMP
Chief, Engineering Division
Levee Safety Officer