

# PUBLIC NOTICE

US Army Corps of Engineers®

Applicant: Courtney Walker MassDOT – Highway Division Published: March 18, 2025 Expires: April 17, 2025

### New England District Permit Application No. NAE-2024-00894

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN: The New England District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) has received an application for a Department of the Army permit pursuant to Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. §1344) **and/or** Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 (33 U.S.C. §403). The purpose of this public notice is to solicit comments from the public regarding the work described below:

APPLICANT: Courtney Walker MassDOT – Highway Division 10 Park Plaza Room 7360 Boston, Massachusetts 02116

AGENT: Matthew Lundsted Comprehensive Environmental Inc. 41 Main Street Bolton, Massachusetts 01740

**WATERWAY AND LOCATION:** The project would affect waters of the United States associated with Lake Sabbatia. The project/review area is located at the bridge conveying Scadding Street over Lake Sabbatia in Taunton, Massachusetts, at Latitude 41.951389°N and Longitude -71.104472°W.

**EXISTING CONDITIONS:** The existing bridge is a single span consisting of precast concrete beams and granite block abutments supported by timber cribbing and piles. Originally constructed in 1967, the existing bridge is structurally deficient and in need of replacement due to spalling and cracking of the exposed concrete, rusting of the railings, erosion of the embankments adjacent to the abutments and wingwalls, and minor scour along the abutments. The existing crossing is also hydraulically insufficient, and there is an "S" curve as Scadding Street crosses over the bridge, which affects sight distances. The bridge carries Scadding Street over the waters of Lake Sabbatia, which is formed by the impoundment of the Snake River. Water flows predominantly southwest below the bridge. Areas of rooted aquatic vegetation (vegetated shallows) have been identified in the northeast, southeast, and southwest bridge quadrants. Wetlands are present above the water line in the northeast, southeast, and southwest bridge quadrants.

### **PROJECT PURPOSE:**

### Basic: Transportation

**Overall:** The applicant's stated project purpose is to replace the structurally deficient bridge to provide a crossing that meets current safety standards.

**PROPOSED WORK:** The applicant requests authorization to permanently discharge fill material within 10,374 square feet (0.2 acres) of waters of the United States (WOTUS), including 9,741 square feet below the Ordinary High Water (OHW) mark of Lake Sabbatia, of which 4,053 square feet is within vegetated shallows, and 633 square feet within wetlands, associated with the replacement of the bridge conveying Scadding Street over Lake Sabbatia in Taunton, Massachusetts. The existing bridge will be replaced with a new, longer and wider bridge in a slightly different alignment to address the existing "S" curve and associated poor sight distances. Scour protection consisting of rip-rap overtopped with 12 inches of natural streambed material will be placed at the abutments.

**AVOIDANCE AND MINIMIZATION:** The applicant has provided the following information in support of efforts to avoid and/or minimize impacts to the aquatic environment: The project has been designed to avoid and minimize impacts to waters of the United States through the use of various best management practices, including the installation of erosion and sedimentation controls at the project limits, conducting work behind dewatered cofferdams and turbidity barriers to minimize turbidity, and using retaining walls and 2:1 embankment slopes to limit encroachment into WOTUS.

**COMPENSATORY MITIGATION:** The applicant offered the following compensatory mitigation plan to offset unavoidable functional loss to the aquatic environment: The applicant proposes to construct a 700 square-foot wetland replication area to meet state mitigation requirements. Federal mitigation requirements are expected to be met through the Massachusetts In-lieu fee (ILF) program.

### **CULTURAL RESOURCES:**

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) is the lead federal agency responsible for evaluating the undertaking for effects to historic properties as required under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. FHWA evaluated the undertaking pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) and initially determined that:

No historic properties (i.e., properties listed in or eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places) are present within the Corps' permit area; therefore, there will be <u>no historic properties affected</u>.

The District Engineer's final eligibility and effect determination will be based upon coordination with the SHPO and/or THPO, as appropriate and required, and with full

consideration given to the proposed undertaking's potential direct and indirect effects on historic properties within the Corps-identified permit area.

**ENDANGERED SPECIES:** FHWA is the lead federal agency responsible for coordination pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act. The Corps has performed an initial review of the application, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Information for Planning and Consultation (IPaC), National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) GARFO Section 7 Mapper, and the NMFS Critical Habitat Mapper to determine if any threatened, endangered, proposed, or candidate species, as well as the proposed and final designated critical habitat may occur in the vicinity of the proposed project. Based on this initial review, the Corps has made a preliminary determination that the proposed project may affect species and critical habitat listed below. No other ESA-listed species or critical habitat will be affected by the proposed action.

Species Common Name and/or Critical Habitat		
Name	Scientific Name	Federal Status
Northern long-eared bat	Myotis septentrionalis	Endangered
Tricolored bat	Perimyotis subflavus	Proposed Endangered
Monarch butterfly	Danaus plexippus	Proposed Threatened

**Table 1:** ESA-listed species and/or critical habitat potentially present in the action area.

Pursuant to Section 7 ESA, any required consultation with the Service(s) will be conducted in accordance with 50 CFR part 402. The FHWA is the lead Federal agency for ESA consultation for the proposed action. Any required consultation will be completed by FHWA.

This notice serves as request to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for any additional information on whether any listed or proposed to be listed endangered or threatened species or critical habitat may be present in the area which would be affected by the proposed activity.

**NAVIGATION:** The proposed structure or activity is not located in the vicinity of a federal navigation channel.

**SECTION 408:** The applicant will not require permission under Section 14 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 (33 USC 408) because the activity, in whole or in part, would not alter, occupy, or use a Corps Civil Works project.

**WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION:** An Individual Water Quality Certification is required from the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) and was issued on January 28, 2025.

**NOTE:** This public notice is being issued based on information furnished by the applicant. This information has not been verified or evaluated to ensure compliance with laws and regulation governing the regulatory program. The geographic extent of aquatic resources within the proposed project area that either are, or are presumed to be, within the Corps jurisdiction has not been verified by Corps personnel.

**EVALUATION:** The decision whether to issue a permit will be based on an evaluation of the probable impact including cumulative impacts of the proposed activity on the public interest. That decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. The benefits, which reasonably may be expected to accrue from the proposal, must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. All factors which may be relevant to the proposal will be considered including cumulative impacts thereof; among these are conservation, economics, esthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, historical properties, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, floodplain values, land use, navigation, shoreline erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, food, and fiber production, mineral needs, considerations of property ownership, and in general, the needs and welfare of the people. Evaluation of the impact of the activity on the public interest will also include application of the guidelines promulgated by the Administrator, EPA, under authority of Section 404(b) of the Clean Water Act or the criteria established under authority of Section 102(a) of the Marine Protection Research and Sanctuaries Act of 1972. A permit will be granted unless its issuance is found to be contrary to the public interest.

**COMMENTS:** The Corps is soliciting comments from the public; Federal, State, and local agencies and officials; Indian Tribes; and other Interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of this proposed activity. Any comments received will be considered by the Corps to determine whether to issue, modify, condition, or deny a permit for this proposal. To make this determination, comments are used to assess impacts to endangered species, historic properties, water quality, general environmental effects, and the other public interest factors listed above. Comments are used in the preparation of an Environmental Assessment (EA) and/or an Environmental Impact Statement pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Comments are also used to determine the need for a public hearing and to determine the overall public interest of the proposed activity.

The New England District will receive written comments on the proposed work, as outlined above, until April 19, 2025. Comments should be submitted electronically via the Regulatory Request System (RRS) at <a href="https://rrs.usace.army.mil/rrs">https://rrs.usace.army.mil/rrs</a> or to Dan Vasconcelos at daniel.b.vasconcelos@usace.army.mil. Alternatively, you may submit comments in writing to the Commander, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New England District, Attention: Dan Vasconcelos, Regulatory Division, 696 Virginia Road Concord, Massachusetts 01742. Please refer to the permit application number in your comments.

Any person may request, in writing, within the comment period specified in this notice, that a public hearing be held to consider the application. Requests for public hearings shall state, with particularity, the reasons for holding a public hearing. Requests for a public hearing will be granted, unless the District Engineer determines that the issues raised are insubstantial or there is otherwise no valid interest to be served by a hearing.

# TAUNTON MASSDOT

SCADDING STREET BRIDGE REPLACEMENT: T-01-024 (C5H)

IN THE CITY/TOWN OF

## TAUNTON **BRISTOL COUNTY**

## PERMITTING PLANS



## HYDRAULIC DESIGN DATA DRAINAGE AREA: 38.7 SQUARE MILES

FLOOD OF RECORD DISCHARGE: UNKNOWN FREQUENCY: UNKNOWN MAXIMUM ELEVATION: UNKNOWN DATE: UNKNOWN

### INDEX OF DRAWINGS

#### <u>SHEET</u> TITLE

1

- KEY PLAN, LOCUS, AND PROFILES CONSTRUCTION PLAN
- ROAD PROFILE
- ROAD PROFILE
- PERMITTING PLAN
- DREDGING AREAS
- IMPERVIOUS AREA DEVELOPMENT 8
- SPECIAL AQUATIC SITES (SAS) IMPACTS WETLAND REPLICATION PLAN 9

### DESIGN:

IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE 2020 AASHTO, NINTH EDITION, LRFD BRIDGE DESIGN SPECIFICATIONS FOR HL-93 LOADING.

### SURVEY:

FIELD SURVEY PERFORMED IN JUNE 2017 BY NITSCH ENGINEERING IN ACCORDANCE WITH MASSDOT GUIDELINES.

DESIGN FLOOD DISCHARGE: 1,000 CUBIC FEET PER SECOND DESIGN FLOOD ANNUAL CHANCE (RETURN FREQUENCY): 10% (10 YEARS) DESIGN FLOOD VELOCITY: 1.07 FET PER SECOND DESIGN FLOOD ELEVATION: 60.8 FEET, NAVD

### BASE (100-YEAR) FLOOD DATA

BASE FLOOD DISCHARGE: 1,840 CUBIC FEET PER SECOND BASE FLOOD ELEVATION: 63.1 FEET, NAVD

### DESIGN AND CHECK SCOUR DATA

SCOUR DESIGN FLOOD ANNUAL CHANCE (RETURN FREQUENCY): 4% (25 YRS) DESIGN FLOOD ABUTMENT SCOUR DEPTH: 4.76 FEET SCOUR CHECK FLOOD ANNUAL CHANCE (RETURN FREQUENCY): 2% (50 YRS) CHECK FLOOD ABUTMENT SCOUR DEPTH: 5.94 FEET

HISTORY OF ICE FLOES: NONE DOCUMENTED EVIDENCE OF SCOUR & EROSION: NONE DOCUMENTED



















