

## Attachment 2

*The Massachusetts Highway Department proposes to improve the existing truck weigh station located on Interstate 195 in the Town of Seekonk. This project is part of a statewide effort to improve the efficiency and safety of Massachusetts truck weigh stations.*

### **Proposed Work- Total Project**

The primary intent of this project is to upgrade the existing weigh station on Interstate 195. In general, the improvements include: installation of traffic signs before and within the weigh station; installation of chain link fence and gates across the access and egress ramps; pavement markings; electrical conduit along the access ramp to the weighing area; and, installation of utility poles and overhead electrical wires (to be done by utility companies).

### **Existing Site Conditions**

A paved access ramp to the weigh station leads to the paved weighing area. Signs are located just before the entrance, and within the station itself. The station is separated from the highway by a median. There is a chain link fence running along the access ramp, weighing area and egress ramp.

### *Existing Resource Areas*

Wetland resource areas were identified in the area by LEC Environmental Consultants, Inc. in December 1997. Wetlands located within 100 feet of the site include forested swamp and two intermittent streams. Vegetation within the forested swamp includes a moderately dense canopy dominated by red maple (*Acer rubrum*), weeping willow (*Salix babylonica*), Norway maple (*Acer deltoides*), and black locust. The shrub layer was composed of sweet pepperbush (*Clethra alnifolia*), northern arrowwood (*Viburnum recognitum*), and silky dogwood (*Cornus amomum*) with scattered Allegheny blackberry (*Rubus allegheniensis*), and grape (*Vitis* sp.). The ground cover included rough-stemmed goldenrod (*Solidago rugosa*), jewelweed (*Impatiens capensis*), soft rush (*Juncus effusus*), cinnamon fern (*Osmunda cinnamomea*), and royal fern (*Osmunda regalis*). One intermittent stream runs just west of the access ramp through the forested swamp. The stream channel is approximately 2-3 feet wide and 1-2 feet deep with a sand/mineral streambed. No flow was observed in the stream channel at the time of the site evaluation. The second intermittent stream with adjacent bordering vegetated wetland is located in the northern portion of the site between I-195 and the weigh station. The stream channel is approximately 4 feet wide and 2-3 feet deep. At the time of the site evaluation, standing water was observed within the channel, however no flow was observed. Vegetation associated with the stream included a shrub layer of red maple saplings, pussy willow (*Salix discolor*), silky dogwood, bayberry (*Myrica pennsylvanica*), and multiflora rose (*Rosa multiflora*). The ground cover included goldenrod, cattail, purple loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*) soft rush, royal fern and sensitive fern (*Onoclea sensibilis*).

## **Proposed Work in Resource Areas**

Specifically, the work in the resource areas identified above consists of the excavation of an underground electrical conduit which will be placed in a trench excavated to a depth of thirty-six inches. The trench will be backfilled and restored to original condition. All construction equipment required to construct the trench will be located on the shoulder of the highway and paved area of the weigh station. The proposed conduit will be within 100' of the identified wetlands, thus work will occur in the Buffer Zone. Also, a chain-link fence is proposed within the median between I-195 and the weigh station. As indicated on Attachment 3, staked hay bales will be placed at the limit of work to prevent any material from entering any of the resource areas near the work. There will be no work within any wetlands. No temporary or permanent impacts to wetlands will result from this project.

## **Performance Standards**

There will be no increase in impervious area upon completion of this project. There are no rare or endangered species habitats located within the project limits. (See attached map- Attachment 3) This project will not affect the quality or quantity of stormwater that presently flows off of the site. There will be no temporary or permanent adverse impacts to resource areas due to the electrical conduit excavation, as the trench will be backfilled and restored to its original condition. Due to the nature of this weigh station project, there is no feasible alternative for the minimal work proposed.