



The Massachusetts Department of Transportation's Highway Division

Invites You to a

Public Meeting

for the

Whittier Bridge/I-95 Improvement Project

Wednesday, December 7, 2011

7:00 – 9:00 PM

**Amesbury Middle School, Performance Center
220 Main Street, Amesbury, MA**

The purpose of this meeting is to present the public with information on the Environmental Assessment/Draft Environmental Impact Report (EA/DEIR) for the replacement of the John Greenleaf Whittier Bridge (I-95 over the Merrimack River in Newburyport and Amesbury) and highway improvements (also in Salisbury). The EA/DEIR was prepared as part of a joint federal NEPA and state MEPA environmental review process and in accordance with the scope outlined in the Secretary's Certificate for the Environmental Notification Form. Following the presentation, MassDOT staff will lead a discussion to answer questions and gather public comment on the environmental document.

The proposed project involves as its centerpiece the replacement of the Whittier Bridge over the Merrimack River. It also includes the replacement or reconstruction of four adjacent bridges along I-95 in Amesbury and Newburyport and other highway improvements between Exit 57 and Exit 60. When completed, there will be four travel lanes, a shoulder adjacent to the high speed lane and a breakdown lane in each direction. The Whittier Bridge/I-95 Improvement Project was recently selected by the Obama Administration for expedited permitting and environmental review. It is one of the largest projects undertaken by MassDOT under the Commonwealth's \$3 billion Accelerated Bridge Program. The project includes the Whittier Trail: the first shared-use path to be constructed along a Massachusetts interstate.

Comments on this document are due by December 23, 2011 and should be sent to Pamela S. Stephenson, Division Administrator, Federal Highway Administration, 55 Broadway, 10th Floor, Cambridge, MA 02142, Attention Damaris Santiago; and to Richard K. Sullivan, Jr., Secretary, Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act (MEPA) Office, 100 Cambridge Street, 9th Floor, Boston, MA 02114, Attention: Purvi Patel; with a copy to Thomas F. Broderick, P.E., Acting Chief Engineer, MassDOT Highway Division, 10 Park Plaza, Boston, MA 02116, Attention: James Cerbone. The EA/DEIR document is available on the project website at www.mass.gov/massdot/whittierbridge and print copies and/or DVDs may be obtained by contacting James Cerbone at 617-973-7529 or James.Cerbone@state.ma.us.

To be added to the project email or US Mail distribution lists, please contact Stephanie Boundy, Public Outreach Coordinator for MassDOT's Accelerated Bridge Program, by phone at 617-973-8049 or by email at Stephanie.Boundy@state.ma.us. The Amesbury Middle School is accessible. To request language or access accommodations, please contact Stephanie Boundy at the above email address or phone number.