



TOWN OF LINCOLN
MIDDLESEX COUNTY MASSACHUSETTS

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Timothy S. Higgins
Town Administrator

January 21, 2014

Paul Stedman
Acting District Highway Director
MDOT – District #4
519 Appleton Street
Arlington, MA 02476

**Re: Route 2/Crosby's Corner
Proposed Landscape Plan Improvements**

Dear Mr. Stedman:

The Selectmen's Route 2 Oversight Committee met last Wednesday to finalize our proposal for project improvements, primarily along Service Roads 1, 2 and 5, which we are asking you to approve and to integrate into your spring construction plan. We look forward to the opportunity to meet with you this Friday to review our proposed changes and to explain our rationale. Our engineering and landscape architect consultants will help us present our proposals. It is important to note that our proposals were developed in collaboration with the most heavily impacted abutters in the Brooks Road and Oak Knoll neighborhoods. We've been working closely with Mr. Steven Durante, who volunteered to serve as the neighborhood's contact person for the project; Steve will be joining us for Friday's meeting. Your construction management team and consultants, although careful not to make commitments on behalf of your office, were instrumental in helping us work through a number of the more difficult challenges. Thank you for making them available to us.

The following is a summary of the proposed improvements we would like to discuss with you during Friday's meeting:

Proposed Town Requests

- 1) Landscape Plan Enhancements – We are proposing to augment the landscape plan with the addition of trees and shrubs to provide additional screening for the most heavily

impacted properties. We hired Blackwater Design landscape architects of Webster, New Hampshire to help us develop our plan. Blackwater is in the process of updating our proposed landscape plan. I will forward electronic copy of the plan tomorrow and will have a hard copy delivered to your people at the local MDOT office.

- 2) Brooks Road Grade Change – In our letter to you dated December 17, 2013, we summarized the consensus that was reached during a November 20th meeting attended by your project managers and consultants, Brooks Road abutters, and a number of town officials. A strong consensus emerged from this meeting in support of lowering the grade of Brooks Road, where it meets Service Road #2; this change was critically important to the nearest abutter: the Drummonds at 1 Brooks Road. MDOT asked us to put our request in writing which I submitted on the Committee's behalf on December 17th.

- 3) Brooks Road Guard Rail – Part of the plan that emerged from the November 20th meeting was an agreement in principle to include wood-faced guardrail around the Drummond property at 1 Brooks Road.

- 4) Brooks Road Additional Stone Walls - Also discussed during the November 20th meeting, three Service Road #2 abutters requested additional stone walls:
 - a. Drummonds (1 Brooks Road) – Included in the Town's December 17th letter to MDOT requesting the grade change. MDOT staff have indicated their support for this request as part of the plan to mitigate the impact of the change in grade at this location.

 - b. Mrugala (72 Cambridge Turnpike) – Included in the Town's December 27th letter to MDOT. We are proposing the addition of a stone wall in front of Mr. Mrugala's residence (along the easterly section of the property). Absent a stone retaining wall, this section of Mr. Mrugala's yard would be rendered unusable due to the severe slope and would make maintenance exceedingly difficult.

 - c. Flanagan (74 Cambridge Turnpike) – Included in the Town's December 27th letter to MDOT. The original project design assumes replacement of an existing stone wall. We are requesting that the original wall be replaced and extended across the front of the property to the westerly property bound.

- 5) Proposed Landscape Fences - The tree clearing and excavation work that was undertaken to create Service Roads 1, 2 and 5 left a number of Cambridge Turnpike, Brooks Road, Oak Knoll and Rockwood Lane properties greatly exposed. Our proposed mitigation plan includes a combination of enhanced plantings and strategically located landscape fences:
- a) Service Roads #s 1 and 2/Brooks Road – We are requesting the addition of 10' landscape fencing in front of three abutting properties (i.e., 6 Brooks Road, 1 Brooks Road, and 72 Cambridge Turnpike). In the case of 1 Brooks and 72 Cambridge we propose to locate the fences north of the service road, within the Town of Lincoln's right-of-way. In the case of 6 Brooks Road, there appears to be sufficient area south of the service road, in the vicinity of the jersey barrier.
 - b) Service Road #5/Oak Knoll – We are requesting the addition of 10' landscape fencing in front of approximately ten abutting properties. In each case, we are requesting that the proposed fencing be located south of the service road, within the Town of Lincoln's right-of-way.
 - Landscape Fence Type – I've enclosed photos and a specification sheet for the landscape fence type we are proposing. The Town installed this fence type at 117/Lincoln Road with the agreement of the property owner as part of an effort to improve sight lines at the intersection. We have calculated the linear footage and have developed cost estimates in preparation for Friday's meeting.
- 6) Jersey Barrier Height – The project design calls for a jersey barrier of 42." We are requesting that a 60" barrier be installed in the vicinity of Service Roads #s 1, 2, 3, and 5 to create better screening of headlights of taller vehicles and to provide some noise attenuation.
- 7) Emergency Gates – The project design calls for emergency access gates to allow first responders to access Service Roads #s 1, 2 and 5 from Route 2 in the event of an emergency. Our Fire Chief, who is a recognized expert in highway safety, is recommending that an automatically activated gate be installed adjacent to Service Road #2, in the location currently specified in your plan. The Chief is also recommending that an emergency access gate be installed adjacent to Service Road #5, preferably in the vicinity of Orchard Lane, where access to the area is most limited. It would be preferable but not as urgent that this gate also be automatically activated. The Town is committed to maintaining and periodically testing the gates.

We hope that this provides a reasonable overview of our proposals. We expect to receive the updated landscape, fencing and stone wall plan from our consultants tomorrow. I will forward them to you as soon as they are received.

Thank you for considering our requests.

On behalf of the Town,



Timothy S. Higgins
Town Administrator

Encls:

Landscape Fence Photos
Fence Specifications

CC: Route 2 Oversight Committee
Board of Selectmen
Steve Durante
Oak Knoll Abutters
Brooks Road Abutters
Planning Board
Chiefs Mooney and Carter
Superintendent Bibbo