

Environmental Justice Screening Form

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| Project Name | Intersection Improvements on Edgell Road at Central Street |
| Anticipated Date of MEPA Filing | November 30, 2022 |
| Proponent Name | Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT), Highway Division, in conjunction with the City of Framingham |
| Contact Information (e.g., consultant) | Tracie Lenhardt VHB 101 Walnut Street Watertown MA 02472-4026 TLenhardt@VHB.com 617-607-2961 |
| Public website for project or other physical location where project materials can be obtained (if available) | N/A |
| Municipality and Zip Code for Project (if known) | Framingham, MA 01701 |
| Project Type* (list all that apply) | Transportation: Roadways/Transit |
| Is the project site within a mapped 100-year FEMA flood plain? Y/N/unknown | No. |
| Estimated GHG emissions of conditioned spaces (click here for GHG Estimation tool) | This is an intersection improvements project and would not create any new conditioned spaces. |

Project Description

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| <p>1. Provide a brief project description, including overall size of the project site and square footage of proposed buildings and structures if known.</p> <p>In conjunction with MassDOT, the City of Framingham is proposing roadway improvements at the intersection of Edgell Road and Central Street. The Project scope is centered around improving vehicle operations and safety by relieving congestion issues on Central Street and addressing existing sight distance deficiencies. This includes geometric improvements to the intersection and installation of a traffic signal at the intersection. The Project will also improve pedestrian mobility and safety by providing an exclusive pedestrian phase, and will improve accessibility with Americans with Disabilities Act/Architectural Access Board (ADA/AAB) compliant sidewalks. The total Project area is 1.86 acres.</p> |
| <p>2. List anticipated MEPA review thresholds (301 CMR 11.03) (if known)</p> <p>11.03(1)(b)3 – Conversion of land held for natural resources purposes in accordance with the Amendments to the Constitution of the Commonwealth Article 97 to any purpose not in accordance with Article 97.</p> |
| <p>3. List all anticipated state, local and federal permits needed for the project (if known)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act – Notice of Intent (Order of Conditions from Framingham Conservation Commission) |

4. Identify EJ populations and characteristics (Minority, Income, English Isolation) within 5 miles of project site (can attach map identifying 5-mile radius from [EJ Maps Viewer](#) in lieu of narrative)

Refer to attached figure.

EJ block groups within 1 mile of the Project include minority (10 block groups), minority and income (1 block group), and minority and English isolation (1 block group). Languages spoken by at least 5 percent of the census tract population within 1 mile of the Project site include:

- Portuguese or Portuguese Creole
- Hindi
- Other Indic language

EJ block groups within 5 miles of the Project include minority (27 block groups), minority and income (4 block groups), minority and English isolation (3 block groups), minority, income, and English isolation (3 block groups), and English isolation (1 block group). Languages spoken by at least 5 percent of the census tract population within 5 miles of the Project site include:

- Portuguese or Portuguese Creole
- Spanish or Spanish Creole
- Hindi
- Other Indic language

5. Identify any municipality or census tract meeting the definition of “vulnerable health EJ criteria” in the [DPH EJ Tool](#) located in whole or in part within a 1 mile radius of the project site

There are no census tracts within 1 mile of the Project with statistically significant elevated blood lead presence or low birth weight rates.

Childhood asthma and heart attack are presented at the community level within the DPH EJ Tool. The Vulnerable Health Criteria for the City of Framingham is located in the table below.

| Vulnerable Health Criteria | Finding |
|---|---|
| Low Birth Weight Rate per 1,000 | Framingham does not meet the Vulnerable Health EJ criterion for low birth weight. |
| Elevated Blood Lead Prevalence per 1,000 | Framingham does not meet the Vulnerable Health EJ criterion for childhood blood lead. |
| Pediatric Asthma ED Visits Rater per 10,000 | Framingham meets the Vulnerable Health EJ criterion for childhood asthma. |
| Heart Attack Rate per 10,000 | Framingham does not meet the Vulnerable Health EJ criterion for heart attack. |

6. Identify potential short-term and long-term environmental and public health impacts that may affect EJ Populations and any anticipated mitigation

The Project is not likely to create negative impacts to EJ populations for the following reasons:

- It will not exacerbate pre-existing conditions related to air, water, or soil pollution.
- It will not create additional traffic or result in any new vehicular emissions as compared to existing conditions. It will improve traffic operations.
- Construction activities would conform to MassDOT standards and guidelines. The Contractor would be required to abide by the Massachusetts 5-minute idle law for any equipment not actively engaged in construction activities. Furthermore, MassDOT requires that contractors install emission control devices in all off-road vehicles. MassDOT’s Revised Diesel Retrofit Specification states emissions control standards must be met, or technology must be used for non-road diesel powered construction equipment in excess of 50 horsepower on MassDOT job sites.

7. Identify project benefits, including “Environmental Benefits” as defined in 301 CMR 11.02, that may improve environmental conditions or public health of the EJ population

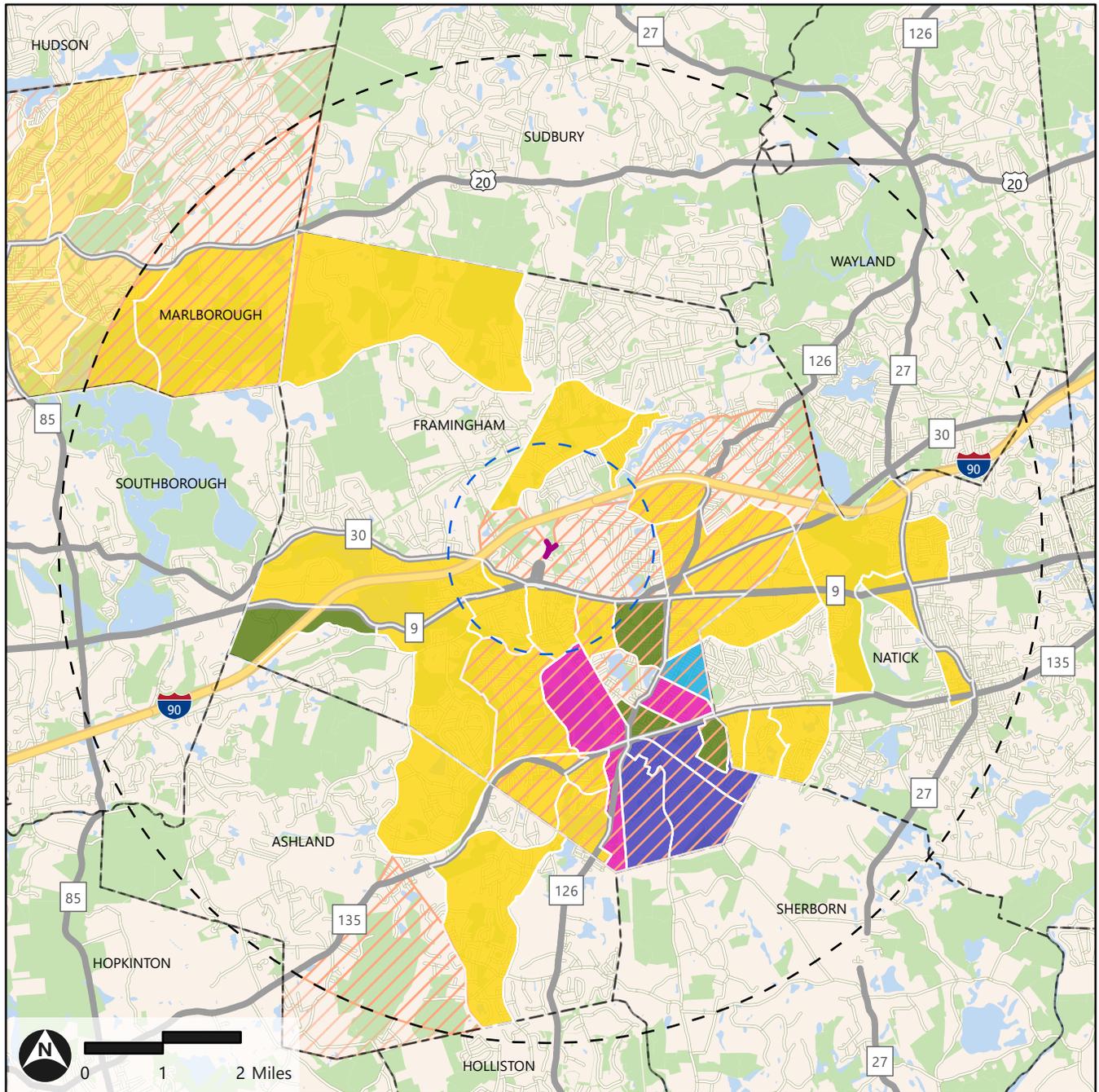
Project benefits include:

- Improved pedestrian mobility by providing Americans with Disabilities Act/Architectural Access Board (ADA/AAB)-compliant sidewalks.
- Improved pedestrian safety by providing crosswalks at the intersection where none exist today.
- Improved pedestrian safety by providing an exclusive pedestrian phase for the proposed traffic signal.
- Reduced vehicle queueing by improving traffic operations.
- Increased safety within intersection.

8. Describe how the community can request a meeting to discuss the project, and how the community can request oral language interpretation services at the meeting. Specify how to request other accommodations, including meetings after business hours and at locations near public transportation.

Community members can request additional Project information, interpretation services, or other accommodations, by contacting Tracie Lenhardt (TLenhardt@VHB.com or 617-607-2961).

Figure 1: Environmental Justice Populations within 5 miles of the Project Area
 Intersection Improvements on Edgell Road at Central Street | Framingham, MA



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- Within 5 Miles of Project Area
- Within 1 Mile of Project Area
- Project Area
- Languages Spoken by >5% of Census Tract
- Town Boundaries

- 2020 Environmental Justice Block Group Criteria**
- Minority
 - Minority and Low-Income
 - Minority and English Isolation
 - English Isolation
 - Minority, Low-Income, and English Isolation

Source: ESRI, EEA GIS 2020 Environmental Justice, MassGIS