



Deval L. Patrick, Governor
Richard A. Davey, Secretary & CEO



October 18, 2013

The Honorable Michael F. Rush
State House, Room 504
Boston, MA 02133

The Honorable Denise C. Garlick
State House, Room 473
Boston, MA 02133

Dear Senator Rush and Representative Garlick:

The Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) is in receipt of your letter dated September 10, 2013 regarding the stormwater management system on Interstate 95 in Needham. Our mission is to maintain a safe and reliable transportation network, so we share your concerns about a site development that could increase the risk of flooding by contributing a significant volume of stormwater to our system. While MassDOT is not in a position to comment on wetlands jurisdiction or the applicability of the DEP Stormwater Handbook, it is safe to say that the new development will generate additional runoff which will need to be managed.

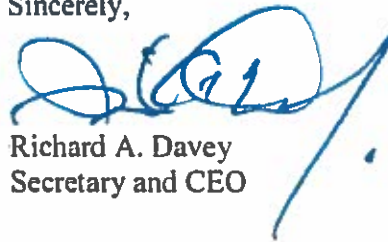
Given the site conditions, we anticipate that the developer will tie into the municipal system at Greendale Avenue. However, if MassDOT is approached with a request for a drainage "tie-in" then it will be evaluated pursuant to MassDOT's Standard Operating Procedure "Connection or Discharge to any MassDOT Drainage System" (*available upon request*). Formal application and review would occur at the district level by the state highway Permits Engineer. Generally speaking, MassDOT has prohibited drainage tie-ins from abutters, except in cases of hardship where no practicable alternatives exist on site.

MassDOT also recently advertised project #606711 which will improve Interstate 95 in the vicinity of the proposed development. In addition to resurfacing the highway, this project will add travel lanes, improve road shoulders, and will upgrade the existing highway drainage system. The I-95 improvement project has not been designed to accommodate additional runoff from adjacent parcels. However, an undeveloped site should have ample opportunity to infiltrate or retain runoff on site and not add to the state highway's drainage system.

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Thank you for taking the time to contact me and should you have any further questions, please feel free to contact Trish Foley, Legislative Liaison at 857-368-8907 or trish.foley@state.ma.us.

Sincerely,



Richard A. Davey
Secretary and CEO

cc: Needham Board of Selectmen
Kate Fitzpatrick, Needham Town Manager
Needham Zoning Board of Appeals
Trish Foley, MassDOT