



# TOWN OF SOUTHBOROUGH FIRE DEPARTMENT

21 MAIN STREET  
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*John D. Mauro, Jr., Fire Chief/Emergency Management Director*  
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March 22, 2010

Karen Galligan, Superintendent  
Department of Public Works  
Town of Southborough  
147 Cordaville Road  
Southborough, MA 01772

Dear Ms. Galligan,

Please accept this letter as my comments regarding the Main Street rebuild project, specifically between 48 Main Street and Cordaville/Marlborough Road intersection.

It is my understanding that Massachusetts Department of Transportation (Mass DOT), formerly known as Mass Highway, has a design standard for safety which calls for two 11' travel lanes as well as two four foot shoulders. The four foot shoulders allow for safe bicycle passage as well as adequate snow storage. Such shoulders also allow vehicles to pull over and yield the right-of-way to public safety vehicles responding to emergency incidents. In areas requiring on-street parking, a nine foot shoulder can be substituted for the four foot shoulder.

In a letter addressed to Mr. Salvatore M. Giorlandino, Chairman of the Board of Selectmen, Town of Southborough, I expressed my professional opinion in the best interest of public safety that this area should be built to accommodate Mass DOT's safety standards of two 11' travel lanes, one four foot shoulder on the north side of the roadway, as well as a nine foot designated parking on the south side of the roadway.

Since December, Vanasse Hangen Brusilin, Inc. (VHB), the Town's contracted engineering firm has explored three potential alternatives regarding this area. In order to meet public safety standards dictated by Mass DOT, the finish design of the roadway needs to be approximately six feet wider than the current right-of-way. VHB's three alternatives included: 1, using the Town Common area for the entire expansion; 2, using the private property on the south side of the roadway for the entire expansion, and 3, using some of the common and private property to meet the safety needs.

Representatives from VHB recently provided visual aids to each of the three alternatives by placing surveying stakes in the ground on both sides of the roadway along the Town Common, demonstrating the effects of the each alternative. Each alternative has varying effects on property on both sides of the street. The building at 42 Main Street however seems to be most affected as it is in close proximity to the current roadway.

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Parking is currently allowed along the eastbound side of Main Street from Fay School to nearly Cordaville Road. Unfortunately, current parking impedes vehicular traffic traveling along Main Street, as well as pedestrians because cars must park on the sidewalk. Pedestrian traffic including Fay School students, residents, and visitors to the businesses are forced to walk into the busy street placing themselves in jeopardy and creating a public safety hazard.

For public safety reasons, it is my professional opinion that on-street parking should be maintained in this area, and the roadway be built to Mass DOT safety standards.

Thank you for considering my input on this important project with respect to public safety.

Should you have any comments or concerns, please feel free to contact me.

Very Truly Yours,



John D. Mauro, Jr.,  
Fire Chief/Emergency Management Director

cc: Jane Moran, Chief of Police

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