

THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS



Department of Agricultural Resources

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CHARLES D. BAKER
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Lt. Governor

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Secretary

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Commissioner

PUBLIC HEARINGS: VEGETATION MANAGEMENT PLAN

Pursuant to the Rights-of-Way Management Regulations (333 CMR 11.00) in order to apply pesticides to control vegetation to maintain Rights-of Ways, the Department of Agricultural Resources must approve a Vegetation Management Plan (VMP) and a Yearly Operational Plan (YOP). The VMP is intended to justify the need to control vegetation, identify target vegetation, describe the intended methods of control, describe methods for identifying sensitive areas, describe operational guidelines for applicators, outline a program of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) designed to reduce the use of herbicides, and describe alternative land use activities.

The following municipalities are advised that **Fore River Transportation Corporation** and **Keolis Commuter Services** propose to utilize herbicides to treat their Rights-of-Way.

FORE RIVER TRANSPORTATION

Braintree Quincy

KEOLIS COMMUTER SERVICES (MBTA Purple Lines)

Abington	Concord	Leominster	Norwood	Wakefield
Acton	Dedham	Lincoln	Plymouth	Walpole
Andover	E. Bridgewater	Littleton	Plympton	Waltham
Ashland	Easton	Lowell	Quincy	Wellesley
Attleboro	Everett	Lunenburg	Randolph	Wenham
Avon	Fitchburg	Lynn	Raynham	W. Bridgewater
Ayer	Framingham	Malden	Reading	Westborough
Bellingham	Franklin	Manchester	Revere	Weston
Belmont	Gloucester	Medford	Rockport	Westwood
Beverly	Grafton	Melrose	Rowley	Weymouth
Billerica	Halifax	Middleborough	Salem	Whitman
Boston	Hamilton	Millford	Salisbury	Wilmington
Boxborough	Hanson	Millbury	Saugus	Winchester
Braintree	Haverhill	Milton	Scituate	Woburn
Bridgewater	Hingham	Natick	Shirley	Worcester
Brockton	Holbrook	Needham	Somerville	
Brookline	Hopedale	Newbury	Southborough	
Cambridge	Ipswich	Newburyport	Stoughton	
Canton	Kingston	Newton	Swampscott	
Chelsea	Lakeville	Norfolk	Taunton	
Cohasset	Lawrence	North Andover	Tewksbury	

PUBLIC HEARINGS SCHEDULED:

In accordance with 333 CMR 11.05 the Department of Agricultural Resources will conduct a regional hearing to receive public comment on the proposed Vegetation Management Plan for **Fore River Transportation Corporation** and **Keolis Commuter Services** as submitted by: Fair Dermody Consulting Engineers.

To provide all interested parties an opportunity to comment on the proposed VMP, a public hearing will be held at the following location:

Friday January 8, 2016 from 11 AM until 12:30 PM @ UMass Extension Field Station located at 240 Beaver Street in the main floor conference room.

Plans Available for Review Prior to Public Hearings:

Section 11.05 (3)(d) of the ROW Management Regulations provide: "At least 21 days prior to the end of the public comment period, the applicant shall send a copy of the proposed VMP to the chief elected official, the Board of Health, and the Conservation Commission in affected communities upon their request." Such request should be made to:

Mr. Kyle Fair
Fair Dermody Consulting Engineers
18 Ocean Street, Suite 1

South Portland, Maine 04106

The proposed VMP are available for review at the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources, Crop and Pest Services web site <http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/agr/pesticides/vegetation-management-and-yearly-operation-plans.html> and also available for review at the Reference Desk of the following public libraries:

Boston Public Library, 700 Boylston Street, Boston,
Worcester Public Library, 3 Salem Square Worcester

Written Comments Requested

The public hearings listed above will give interested parties the opportunity to present data, views or arguments, orally or in writing concerning the proposed VMP. Persons giving testimony are also requested to provide written comments. Written comments in advance of the hearing dates are welcome. **The Department will accept written testimony concerning the, Fore River Transportation Corporation and Keolis Commuter Services VMP until the close of business Friday, January 22, 2016**

Commentary should be sent to:

Rights-of -Way Program
Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources
Pesticide Bureau
251 Causeway Street, Suite 500
Boston, Massachusetts 02114-2151