

# Town of Winchendon

## Department of Planning and Development

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109 Front Street  
Winchendon, MA 01475

Phone: 1-978-297-3537

February 19, 2021

### PUBLIC NOTICE

### NOTICE OF FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT and NOTICE OF INTENT TO REQUEST RELEASE OF FUNDS

Town of Winchendon, 109 Front Street, Winchendon, MA 01475  
Contact Person: Stephen L. Delaney, Environmental Certifying Officer  
Telephone: (978) 297-0085 Fax: (978) 297-1616

These notices shall satisfy two separate but related procedural requirements for activities to be undertaken by the Town of Winchendon.

On or about March 9, 2021, the Town of Winchendon will submit a request to the Mass. Dept. of Housing & Community Development for the release of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds under Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 (PL 93-383) as amended, to undertake the following FY20 CDF project:

**RAILROAD STREET RECONSTRUCTION PROJECT:** The project will involve the reconstruction of Railroad Street in Downtown Winchendon, which meets the statutory definition of a blighted area. Work will include full-depth reconstruction of roadway; installation of monolithic concrete curb and bituminous curbs; new sidewalks with ADA ramps; improvements to the storm drainage system, including new piping, catch basins and manholes; replacement sewer pipe, manholes and services; installation of shade trees and outdoor bench.

Estimated cost: total of \$651,100 of CDBG and local funds; \$649,800, construction & engineering; and Program Delivery, \$1,300. The project also involves construction oversight, program delivery, and general administrative activities (all exempt CFR 58.34).

**FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT:** The Town of Winchendon has determined that the Railroad Street Reconstruction Project will have no significant impact on the human environment. Therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) is not required. Additional project information is contained in the Environmental Review Record (ERR) on file at Dept. of Planning & Development, 109 Front St. (Winchendon Town Hall), Winchendon, MA and may be examined or copied by appointment between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 4 p.m. Monday through Thursday.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** Any individual, group or agency may submit written comments on the ERR to the Winchendon Town Manager's Office before 4:00 p.m., March 8, 2021. All comments received by that hour will be considered by the Town of Winchendon prior to authorizing submission of a request for release of funds. Comments should specify which Notice they are addressing.

**RELEASE OF FUNDS:** The Town of Winchendon certifies to the Mass. Dept. of Housing & Community Development that Stephen L. Delaney, in his capacity as Environmental Certifying Officer, consents to accept the jurisdiction of the Federal courts if an action is brought to enforce

responsibilities in relation to the environmental review process and that these responsibilities have been satisfied. The Commonwealth's approval of the certification satisfies its responsibilities under the NEPA and related laws and authorities and allows the Town of Winchendon to use Program funds.

**OBJECTIONS TO RELEASE OF FUNDS:** The Commonwealth will accept objections to its release of funds and the Town of Winchendon's certification for a period of fifteen days following the anticipated submission date or its actual receipt of the request (whichever is later) only if they are on one of the following bases:

- a) The certification was not executed by the Certifying Officer of the Town of Winchendon;
- b) The Town of Winchendon has omitted a step or failed to make a decision or finding required by HUD regulations at 24 CFR part 58;
- c) The grant recipient or other participants in the development process have committed funds, incurred costs or undertaken activities not authorized by 24 CFR Part 58 before approval of a release of funds by the Commonwealth; or
- d) Another Federal agency acting pursuant to 40 CFR Part 1504 has submitted a written finding that the project is unsatisfactory from the standpoint of environmental quality.

Objections must be prepared and submitted in accordance with the required procedure (24 CFR Part 58.76), and shall be addressed to the Mass. Small Cities Program, Mass. Dept. of Housing and Community Development, 100 Cambridge St., Suite 300, Boston MA 02114. Potential objectors should contact DHCD to verify the actual last day of the objection period.

Signed:

Stephen L. Delaney  
Environmental Certifying Officer  
Town of Winchendon  
109 Front St.  
Winchendon, MA 01475

## RAILROAD STREET IMPROVEMENTS

**Project Description and Scope:** The Railroad Street Project will make the following infrastructure improvements on Railroad Street, a 610 LF street in Downtown Winchendon:

- Replace 610 LF of asphalt pavement
- Replace 550 LF of existing granite curb with 875 LF of new monolithic concrete curb along the proposed sidewalks, 420 linear feet of bituminous concrete curb and 170 linear feet of precast concrete curb at grass islands to be constructed at the southwest corner of the Railroad and Pleasant Street intersection and at the Central and Railroad Street intersection
- Replace 875 LF of cement sidewalks and add 5 new ADA-compliant handicapped-access ramps at the Spruce and Pleasant Street intersections
- Replace 205 LF of existing storm drain piping with HDPE pipe and install 165 LF of new pipe
- Replace 5 existing masonry catch basins, convert 1 storm drain manhole to a catch basin and convert 1 combined sewer/storm water manhole to a strictly storm water manhole.
- Replace 250 LF of vitrified clay sewer pipe with 8" PVC pipe and install 2 new pre-cast concrete manholes; replace 3 existing sewer services with PVC
- Install 9 new shade trees and 1 metal outdoor bench

**National Objective:** The project meets the National Objective of prevention or elimination of slums or blight on an area-wide basis because it will eliminate conditions contributing to blight in Downtown Winchendon

**Construction Period:** The project will have 5 months of active construction. Bidding would take place during the spring of 2021, with construction beginning in summer 2021 and completed by late fall 2021.

**Status of Design:** The project is ready for bidding. Weston & Sampson, the project's engineer, has completed bid-ready plans and construction specifications.

**Project Need:** Railroad Street is a commercial roadway located in Downtown Winchendon; its infrastructure is aged, deteriorated, and in need of replacement. The general appearance is one of blight, with an extensively worn, patched roadway and unsafe sidewalks, and no streetscape. Poor grading as well as ineffective drainage and deteriorated curbs have contributed to erosion of all paved surfaces. Storm water and sanitary sewer systems are interconnected at a combined sewer overflow manhole and need to be separated. The vitrified clay sewer main dates from the 1930s and is prone to cracking, separated joints and leaking.

**Project Budget:** \$651,100 CDBG and Town Chapter 90 funds; \$649,00 - \$649,800 for construction and engineering; \$1,300 Program Delivery.

**Who will be managing/implementing the grant:** The Town of Winchendon will procure the services of a Grant Administration Consultant to manage the grant.