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After review of MHC files and the materials you submitted, it has been determined that this project is unlikely to affect significant historic or archaeological resources.

MASS. HIST. COMM

RC.55534

950.CMR: OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF THE COMMONWEALTH

3.14.14

APPENDIX A

RC.55534

Elizabeth Sherva
Preservation Planner
Massachusetts Historical Commission

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD
BOSTON, MASS. 02125
617-727-8470, FAX: 617-727-5128

PROJECT NOTIFICATION FORM

Project Name: Rehabilitation of Lawrence Street Bridge (L-15-031) over the Concord River

Location / Address: Lawrence Street over the Concord River, just west of Lowell Cemetery

City / Town: Lowell

Project Proponent

Name: City of Lowell Department of Public Works-Engineering Division

Address: 375 Merrimack Street, 3rd Floor, Room 61

City/Town/Zip/Telephone: Lowell MA 01852 Phone: 978-674-4070

Agency license or funding for the project (list all licenses, permits, approvals, grants or other entitlements being sought from state and federal agencies).

Agency Name

Type of License or funding (specify)

MassDOT-Highway Division
Mass DEP
Lowell Conservation Commission
Army Corps of Engineers

Chapter 85, Section 35 review for bridge
Notice of Intent / Order of Conditions
Notice of Intent / Order of Conditions
Category I Permit

Project Description (narrative):

The Lawrence Street Bridge (L-015-031) over the Concord River dates from 1850, with the superstructure dating from a substantial rebuilding completed in 1951. It is a six-span bridge consisting of a reinforced concrete deck supported by precast concrete girders. The superstructure is supported on dry-laid and mortared stone piers and abutments from the original construction. Among the deficiencies noted in a 3/27/2013 inspection report are: severe cracking and spalling of the deck; exposed deck rebar; substandard bridge railings; and a partially undermined beam at one of the abutments. The bridge is currently weight-restricted, with vehicles posted at 20, 23, and 40 tons for H20, Type 3, and Type 3S2 vehicles respectively.

Proposed rehabilitation of the Lawrence Street Bridge is in keeping with the historic preservation priorities of the City of Lowell; it will correct the identified engineering and structural deficiencies, and will remove the weight restrictions on the bridge. Plans call for a complete deck replacement with localized beam and substructure rehabilitation. Existing beams will be restored to provide composite action with a new high-performance, lightweight concrete deck. To minimize adverse visual effects to nearby historic structures and the historic Lowell Cemetery, the rehabilitated bridge will have interior vehicular barriers, with a lighter pedestrian rail ("Lucy Larcom" railing seen throughout the historic downtown Lowell area) for the bridge's exterior faces. There are no plans for complete pier reconstruction, further minimizing impacts to the bridge's historic appearance.

The proposed rehabilitation of the Lawrence Street Bridge has been developed with the cooperation of and full support from the City of Lowell's Historic Board. See attached letter of support from Historic Board Administrator Steve Stowell.

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Does the project include demolition? If so, specify nature of demolition and describe the building(s) which are proposed for demolition. No, the project does not include demolition of the bridge.

Does the project include rehabilitation of any existing buildings? If so, specify nature of rehabilitation and describe the building(s) which are proposed for rehabilitation. Yes, the project includes rehabilitation of the Lawrence Street Bridge.

Does the project include new construction? If so, describe (attach plans and elevations if necessary). No, the project does not include new construction.

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APPENDIX A (continued)

To the best of your knowledge, are any historic or archaeological properties known to exist within the project's area of potential impact? If so, specify. The on-line data bases of the National Park Service-National Register of Historic Places and the MHC were consulted for the National Register status (listed in the National Register, determined eligible for listing, or part of a National Register-listed historic district) of the Lawrence Street Bridge. The City of Lowell Historic Board was consulted for locations of city-designated historic landmarks.

No archeological resources are known to exist within the project's area of potential impact. The Lawrence Street Bridge over the Concord River has not been previously surveyed or evaluated for National Register eligibility. The bridge is not located within any national, state, or local historic district(s), although it is located within close proximity to two separate historic districts listed in the National and Massachusetts Historic Registers located at either end of the bridge. The east approach of the bridge is approximately 75 feet from the southwestern perimeter wall of the Lowell Cemetery, listed in the National Register and Massachusetts State Register, and a City of Lowell Historic Landmark. The west approach of the Lawrence Street Bridge is in close proximity of the Wamesit Canal/Whipple Mill Industrial Complex Historic District, situated on the western bank of the Concord River opposite 576 Lawrence Street. This historic district contains mill structures and hydroelectric power elements that date from the 1820s to the early 1900s.

What is the total acreage of the project area? Response: Not applicable (N/A) to all below.

Woodland	N/A	Productive Resources:	
Wetland	0.35 +/- acres	Agriculture	N/A
Floodplain	0.25 +/- acres	Mining/Extraction	N/A
Open space	N/A	Forestry	N/A
Developed	N/A	Total Project Acreage	0.35 +/- acres

What is the acreage of the proposed new construction? _____ N/A acres

What is the present land use of the project area? The two-lane bridge carries vehicular and pedestrian traffic over the Concord River. The area to the west is mixed residential/warehouse and the area to the east is the Lowell Cemetery.

Please attach a copy of the section of the USGS quadrangle map which clearly marks the project location. This Project Notification Form has been submitted to the MHC in compliance with 950 CMR 71.00.

Signature of Person submitting this form: Lisa E. DeMeo, P.E. Date: 1/28/2014

Name: Lisa DeMeo, P.E. – City Engineer; City of Lowell

Address: 375 Merrimack Street, 3rd Floor, Room 61

City/Town/Zip: Lowell, MA 01852

Telephone: 978-674-4070

REGULATORY AUTHORITY

950 CMR 71.00: M.G.L. c. 9, §§ 26-27C as amended by St. 1988, c. 254.

