



November 13, 2020

Ref: 12815.00

New Bedford Conservation Commission
133 William Street - Rm 304
New Bedford, MA 02740

Re: Requests for Extension of Order of Conditions - DEP File #'s SE49-0777; SE49-0805 & SE49-0828
South Coast Rail
Massachusetts Department of Transportation

Dear Commissioners,

On behalf of the Applicant, the Massachusetts Department of Transportation, Vanasse Hangen Brustlin, Inc. (VHB) respectfully requests three (3) year Extensions of the Order of Conditions for the South Coast Rail (SCR) Projects in New Bedford, MA. The projects will extend Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (MBTA) commuter rail service to Fall River and New Bedford. The rail line is currently an active freight line operated by the Massachusetts Coastal Railroad, LLC. The projects, listed below, were approved under three separate Orders of Conditions (OOCs):

- ~~DEP File # SE49-0777: OOC issued 12/29/2017 - Construction of the Wamsutta Layover as an overnight commuter rail layover facility situated at 217 Herman Melville Boulevard along the New Bedford Main Line; (Recorded at Book 12378, Page 222)~~
- ~~DEP File # SE49-0805: OOC issued 8/24/2018 - Phase 1 of the New Bedford Main Line work; including construction of the New Bedford Station (formerly Whale's Tooth Station) and railroad track improvements along the New Bedford Main Line (Recorded at Book 12652, Page 158), and~~
- DEP File # SE49-0828: OOC issued 9/13/2019 – construction of the Church Street Station (formerly North New Bedford Station) at 355 and 378 Church Street along the New Bedford Main Line (Recorded at Book 12932, Page 68.)

The SCR projects in New Bedford include construction of the Wamsutta Layover; construction of the New Bedford and North New Bedford Stations, and approximately 7 miles of construction on the NBML railroad right-of-way in New Bedford, including approximately 3.7 miles of second track. Track work includes track improvements, grade crossing improvements, track drainage, and installing signals



and communication systems. The project also involved culvert reconstruction at several locations, which were covered under a DEP Water Quality Certificate issued pursuant to the 2017 Footprint Bridge Exemption and are now complete. We are requesting extension of these three OOCs to continue progress on improvements along the main line track corridors.

If you have questions, need any additional information, or would like us to attend an upcoming Conservation Commission Meeting, please feel free to contact me at (617)-607-6237 or by email at LCarlson@vhb.com.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Lars Carlson", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Lars Carlson

Senior Project Manager
LCarlson@vhb.com

cc: Holly Palmgren, MBTA
Jean Fox, MassDOT
MassDEP, Southeast Regional Office, Attn. M. Bartow