

## Sarah Porter

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**From:** Carlson, Lars <lcarlson@VHB.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, September 9, 2019 3:58 PM  
**To:** Sarah Porter  
**Cc:** Paul Dacosta; jean.fox@state.ma.us; Dobosz, Kimberly; Caputo, Kenneth; Paganelli, Tess; Nikole.Bulger@stvinc.com  
**Subject:** SE 49-0805 - Request for Additional Clearing in the Buffer Zone at the SCR New Bedford Wetland Mitigation Area  
**Attachments:** NB\_Mitigation\_Area\_Additional\_Clearing\_Plan\_20190909.pdf

Hi Sarah-

On behalf of MassDOT and at the request of the New Bedford Police Department (see e-mails below), VHB respectfully submits in accordance with the Massachusetts Wetland Protection Act Form 5 Section C General Condition 14 of the Order of Conditions issued on August 24, 2018 (DEP File No. SE49-0805), the attached plan sheet for the proposed South Coast Rail New Bedford mitigation area, depicting two areas of additional vegetation clearing located within the 100' wetland buffer zone. The total area of additional clearing includes approximately 16,160 sf of buffer zone. No additional impact to jurisdictional resources is proposed. The revised drawing includes a relocated & extended section of proposed erosion control barrier between the clearing area and the Bordering Vegetated Wetland.

The purpose of the additional clearing is to increase visibility and safety around the railroad right-of-way and the associated wetland mitigation area, which has historically been used as an encampment by homeless people. The New Bedford Police Department and MassDOT believe that the requested additional clearing will deter repopulation of the area upon completion of mitigation area construction, which is scheduled to occur within the next few weeks.

We will plan to attend the Commission's Hearing scheduled for September 17, 2019, so that we can answer any questions that the Commission may have.

Thank you in advance for considering this request.

Sincerely,  
**Lars Carlson**  
Senior Project Manager

P 617 607.6237  
[www.vhb.com](http://www.vhb.com)

**From:** Dacosta, Paul J <Paul.Dacosta@newbedfordpd.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, September 9, 2019 11:10 AM  
**To:** jean.fox@state.ma.us  
**Cc:** Carlson, Lars <lcarlson@VHB.com>; Sarah Porter <SARHP@newbedford-ma.gov>  
**Subject:** [External] Re: South Coast Rail - Clearing

Good morning Jean,

Let me start by thanking you for inviting me to take part in the meeting as well as for requesting input from a law enforcement perspective. As you mentioned, I believe that the additional clearing of the area discussed will certainly increase the visibility and safety around the railroad tracks as well as assist in mitigating the ongoing issue of homeless encampments repopulating in this area.

I look forward to seeing this project move forward and please do not hesitate to contact me if I can be of any assistance.

Regards,

Captain Paul DaCosta

New Bedford Police Department  
Station 3 Division Commander  
781 Ashley Boulevard  
New Bedford, MA 02745  
508-991-6360 ext 79304  
[paul.dacosta@newbedfordpd.com](mailto:paul.dacosta@newbedfordpd.com)

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**From:** Fox, Jean (DOT) <[jean.fox@state.ma.us](mailto:jean.fox@state.ma.us)>  
**Sent:** Monday, September 9, 2019 10:38 AM  
**To:** Dacosta, Paul J <[Paul.Dacosta@newbedfordpd.com](mailto:Paul.Dacosta@newbedfordpd.com)>  
**Cc:** Carlson, Lars ([lcarlson@VHB.com](mailto:lcarlson@VHB.com)) <[lcarlson@VHB.com](mailto:lcarlson@VHB.com)>; Sarah Porter <[SARAH@newbedford-ma.gov](mailto:SARAH@newbedford-ma.gov)>  
**Subject:** South Coast Rail - Clearing

Captain DaCosta –

On behalf of MassDOT, the MBTA, and the South Coast Rail project team, I sincerely thank you for your recent assistance and advice with respect to the homeless encampment near our right-of-way in the Dartmouth Wye (New Bedford, off Nash Road). The meeting we (MassDOT and consultant team members) conducted Friday on the site with you and Sarah Porter, Conservation Agent, was extremely helpful.

Part of the current project workload includes creating wetland mitigation areas to offset the impacts of construction. There are two such proposed areas: One is about 500 square feet, and the work includes the removal of some invasive species (upland); the other area is 9,450 square feet, which will include grading to connect the mitigation area with the adjacent wetlands. Ideally, we would be able to complete this work before the end of the growing season.

Our original plans outlined the limits of clearing to create these wetland mitigation areas, but as a result of our discussion and your concerns with respect to the homeless population currently occupying the area, and per your suggestion, we agree to approach the New Bedford Conservation Commission and ask for authorization to conduct additional clearing.

As discussed, we recommend clearing the encampment, which is located in the 100-foot buffer, as well as areas north and south of the wetland mitigation areas, adjacent to our railroad tracks. These areas will be delineated on a graphic that Dr. Lars Carlson will be producing.

Clearcutting is not proposed.

There was consensus during our site visit that this additional clearing will open up the site of the homeless encampment for enhanced visibility and safety, and it will clearly discourage re-population of this site.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or concerns. Again, thank you for your assistance.

**Jean C. Fox**  
**Project Manager, South Coast Rail**  
**MassDOT**  
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