



Date: April 25, 2013

To: Nora Loughnane, Town Planner

From: Kien Y. Ho, P.E., PTOE  
Greg E. Lucas, P.E., PTOE

BETA Project #: 4410

Subject: University Station Peer Review

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide responses to the TetraTech/VAI memorandum entitled "Response to University Station Peer Review", dated April 11, 2013. At this point in time, we can report to the Board that the technical issues raised during the traffic review have been satisfactorily addressed. This memorandum is formatted to identify items which, should the project be successfully adopted at Town Meeting, continue to be tracked by the Town as the project moves forward.

**Adaptive Signal Control**

The Proponent has indicated they are committed to providing adaptive signal control along University Avenue to the extent that such control is approved by MassDOT. As the Proponent develops final construction level Signal plans and specifications for this equipment the necessary plans and details should be provided to the Town for review.

**University Avenue Corridor Signal Coordination**

The University Avenue corridor as analyzed in traffic simulations provided to BETA provides coordination of the proposed traffic signals along University Avenue at the MBTA Garage, Blue Hill Drive/I-95 SB off-ramp, Relocated Rosemont Road, North Site Drive, and South Site Drive. The traffic signals at University Avenue/Harvard Street and University Avenue/Canton Street are left uncoordinated on account of the distance between the intersections, which is not an unusual determination. The Proponent has indicated they will evaluate addition of both intersections to the coordinated system as part of the detail design of the traffic signal system. As detailed signal plans and specifications are completed, we recommend this data be provided for Town review.

**University Avenue/Canton Street**

The Proponent has committed to working with MassDOT to extend the right-turn lanes on westbound Canton Street and the northbound University Avenue. These items will require follow up between the Town, the Proponent and MassDOT as part of the ongoing MassDOT design efforts.

**University Avenue at Harvard Street**

While we concur that the analysis of the proposed configuration of northbound University Avenue as through/through left can provide satisfactory operations under full build out, as discussed in our March 12<sup>th</sup> presentation we suggest that at such time the programming of the I-95 NB off ramp becomes clearer, the Town consider reconfirming of the base traffic and projected traffic conditions at this intersection, at that time, to verify the intersection configuration remains satisfactory and does not require expansion to two through lanes and an exclusive left.



### **University Avenue/Blue Hill Drive**

The Proponent has committed to working with MassDOT to evaluate signalized pedestrian crossing at the right turn from University Avenue. In general, the Town should continue to monitor design development of this intersection to ensure that it remains consistent with the Town's current understanding.

### **Mitigation**

The following items were addressed by the Board at the April 23 meeting and the notes below are provided to summarize the Board discussion and any action needed.

#### *Route 1A/Everett Street (Westwood)*

Analysis by the Proponent suggests additional capacity would be required to improve operations. This could be achieved by widening Route 1A and Clapboardtree Street at the intersection to provide an additional lane, but the Proponent notes that this will require the acquisition of private property. The Proponent has indicated that they are committed to preparing only design plans at this location. The Board has agreed that this is an appropriate mitigation and beyond Town meeting suggests a formal intersection study should be conducted to identify the proposed improvements in greater detail.

#### *Nahatan Street/Clapboardtree Street (Westwood)*

The Proponent proposes improvements at this location that realign the northerly connector road between the two streets. The Proponent has discussed this option with the Police and Public Works staff and both departments are in favor of the proposed improvements. The Proponent is committed to preparing design documents and funding construction for this location. The Board anticipates there may be other concepts that they would like to see evaluated as part of the finalization of the mitigation at this intersection and beyond Town meeting we would suggest a formal intersection study should be conducted to identify the proposed improvements in greater detail.

#### *Route 1/University Avenue/Everett Street (Norwood)*

At this location, the Proponent identified near-term safety improvements that can be implemented at the intersection as well as longer-term capacity improvements. The Proponent is committing to design and construction of the near term improvements, but design only for the longer term capacity improvements. Near term improvements include updating the existing traffic signal equipment to provide a protected left turn movement for University Avenue and Everett Street, improving sight lines, signage and pavement markings. Construction of longer term improvements is anticipated to be by MassDOT as part of a future project. The Board is satisfied with this mitigation approach.