



Deval L. Patrick, Governor
Timothy P. Murray, Lt. Governor
Richard A. Davey, Secretary & CEC



MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT

MassDOT to hold a Neighborhood Meeting for the Ethanol Safety Study

BOSTON: The Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) will be holding a Neighborhood Meeting for the Study of the Safety Impacts of Ethanol Transportation by Rail through Boston, Cambridge, Chelsea, Everett, Somerville, & Revere.

The Neighborhood Meeting will be held on:

March 11, 2013 – 6:30 to 8:30 pm
Argenziano School – Cafetorium
290 Washington Street, Somerville, MA

The meeting will begin with presentation on the progress of the study. The presentation will include the project background, evaluation of public safety issues related to transporting ethanol by train through the cities of Boston, Cambridge, Chelsea, Everett, Somerville, & Revere, and the draft study findings. The presentation is scheduled to last approximately 45 minutes and will be followed by a question and answer period.

Background

The MassDOT Office of Transportation Planning is undertaking this safety study in response to Section 24 of Chapter 242 of the Acts of 2012, passed by the State Legislature, which charges MassDOT with executing a study on the public safety issues associated with ethanol transport by rail. The text of Section 24 is shown below.

“Section 24. Notwithstanding any general law or special law or rule or regulation to the contrary, the Massachusetts Department of Transportation shall commission a study to determine the impact on the public safety of transporting ethanol by train through the cities of Boston, Cambridge, Chelsea, Everett and Revere. Public safety issues to be studied shall include, but not be limited to, the proximity to residences, elderly housing complexes, schools, hospitals, health care facilities and other population and demographic characteristics and emergency response capabilities. The report shall be completed not later than 6 months after the effective date of this act, and copies of the report shall be provided to the house and senate committees on ways and means, the executive office of public safety and security and the department of environmental protection. The department of environmental protection shall not issue a license under chapter 91 of the General Laws for the transportation of ethanol through the cities of Boston, Cambridge, Chelsea, Everett and Revere until it has received the report.”

At the request of the City of Somerville and the study's technical advisory group, and due to the fact that it is located in the center of the other cities named in the legislation and the rail lines in question pass through it, the study area has been expanded to include the city of Somerville. The final report is due to the Legislature on March 23, 2013.

Additional Information

This meeting location is accessible to people with disabilities. Spanish interpretation services will be provided at the meeting. To request any additional language assistance, American Sign Language interpreters, assistive listening devices, handouts in alternative formats, or information on the meeting, please contact Paul Nelson by March 6th at: paul.nelson@state.ma.us or (857) 368-8867.

For further information on the Study of the Safety Impacts of Ethanol Transportation by Rail through Boston, Cambridge, Chelsea, Everett, Somerville, & Revere, please refer to the project website at <http://www.mass.gov/massdot/ethanolsafety>.

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