

Town of Sandwich

THE OLDEST TOWN ON CAPE COD

130 MAIN STREET
SANDWICH, MA 02563

E-MAIL: selectmen@townofsandwich.net
E-MAIL: townhall@townofsandwich.net



BOARD OF
SELECTMEN

TOWN
MANAGER

TEL: 508-888-4910 AND 508-888-5144
FAX: 508-833-8045

August 16, 2018

Mary-Joe Perry
District Highway Director
MassDOT – District 5
1000 County Street
Taunton, MA 02780

Re: Route 6A & Merchants Road Intersection – Follow-up & Additional Requests

Dear Ms. Perry:

The Town of Sandwich would like to thank MassDOT District 5 for its follow-up to our prior request for a review of the Route 6A and Merchants Road intersection to improve any traffic and pedestrian safety concerns that may be identified. We would like to respectfully ask that MassDOT consider a few more improvements related to this intersection and corresponding public crosswalk. Over the last 30 years there have been three fatalities where motor vehicles have struck pedestrians in the crosswalk, two as recently as 2017.

Following recent improvements completed by MassDOT which we appreciate, the Town's Director of Public Works/Town Engineer and Chief of Police reviewed the intersection in detail. Following this analysis, the Town requests that MassDOT consider the following additional steps to further improve the safety of the intersection. An illustration of these recommendations is attached with this letter.

- We request a slightly longer delay on red signals on both Route 6A & Merchants Road when Merchants Road switches from green to red. Our observations show Route 6A switches to green about one second after Merchants turns from green to red which does not provide enough time for motorists to clear the intersection from Merchants. We believe even an additional two second delay would improve the safety of the intersection.
- Installation of new crosswalk warnings at the pedestrian crosswalk. We think the addition of signage would significantly improve the safety of this crosswalk and the Town would assist MassDOT in funding this effort if acceptable to the State. One relevant local example of crosswalk warnings that have proven to be very effective is at the Riverview School located at 551 Route 6A in East Sandwich, but any improved signage would be appreciated.
- Improving the connection of the sidewalk on the north side of Route 6A to the existing Merchants Road sidewalk. It appears the two are no longer connected, thereby not meeting required accessibility standards.

- Better pruning of the vegetation near and approaching the intersection. We realize this was trimmed a few months ago, but the growing season has been especially hearty this summer and it's surprising how much vegetation has filled in at this location. The Route 6A westbound approach in particular could use attention to enhance advanced visibility of the signal heads.
- Providing more clearing above and around the sidewalk on the south side of Route 6A at this intersection which connects to the public crosswalk. The vegetation is overgrown forcing pedestrians to the edge of the sidewalk & roadway.
- Review and adjust the positioning of the signal heads on the mast arms to reduce advanced line-of-sight conflicts for the Route 6A westbound approach.
- Review the existing "NO LEFT TURN" sign located on the south side of Route 6A near the Plaza Entrance (right-in, right-out) just west of the subject intersection. The sign may cause confusion for motorists approaching the Merchants Road intersection which allows left turns.
- Consider closing the driveway on the south side of Route 6A, just east of the subject intersection. Motorists from the housing complex use this access which can create unsafe turning movements. Safer access is provided through the parking further east of this driveway and further from the actual intersection.

Of these recommended additional changes, most relate to regular maintenance work and a slight change in the signal electronics to allow a few more seconds before Route 6A turns green after Merchants Road turns from green to red. The more substantive recommended changes are the requested installation of crosswalk warning signage and re-positioning the signal heads. Based on the travel speeds on Route 6A near the Merchants Road intersection, the topography changes coming from both directions, and the fact that the crosswalk is most frequently used by residents of two adjacent senior housing sites, we believe these improvements are warranted. The Town is willing to assist MassDOT in making these changes if it would help garner your approval.

Three other suggestions we would like to make come directly from our on-going Bikeways & Pedestrian Master Plan that we have been working on over the last year with Toole Design Group, LLC. The Master Plan calls for upgrading this intersection and giving consideration to improvements that may enhance pedestrian and bicyclist safety, including:

- Reducing the curb radii at the intersection corners.
- Consider a center island / pedestrian refuge on the Route 6A east leg to enhance pedestrian safety for the elderly and handicap crossing the existing crosswalk.
- Adding another pedestrian crosswalk to the western side of the intersection near Leveridge Lane. We believe this addition would improve the safety of the intersection, especially because Merchants Road and Leveridge Lane are so offset and not perpendicularly aligned.

Again, we appreciate the seriousness with which you reviewed this intersection and ask that MassDOT consider the remaining eight issues we highlighted at the beginning of this letter, most of which cost little or no money and require a minimum amount of staff work. The three additional suggestions from the on-going Bikeways & Pedestrian Master Plan are longer term initiatives which we believe merit consideration as well. If you have any questions about our additional comments, the appropriate Town staff is willing and able to meet with District 5 personnel.

In closing, Route 6A is one of the busiest roads in Sandwich and Merchants Road is used by many residents and visitors. We want to make sure that this area, which includes Sandwich's main post office, two senior residential housing complexes, and many small and large businesses, is as safe as it reasonably can be for residents and visitors. We share MassDOT's concern about not wanting to see another pedestrian / motor vehicle incident at this intersection and we believe the additional improvements we highlighted would go a long way toward minimizing this exposure.

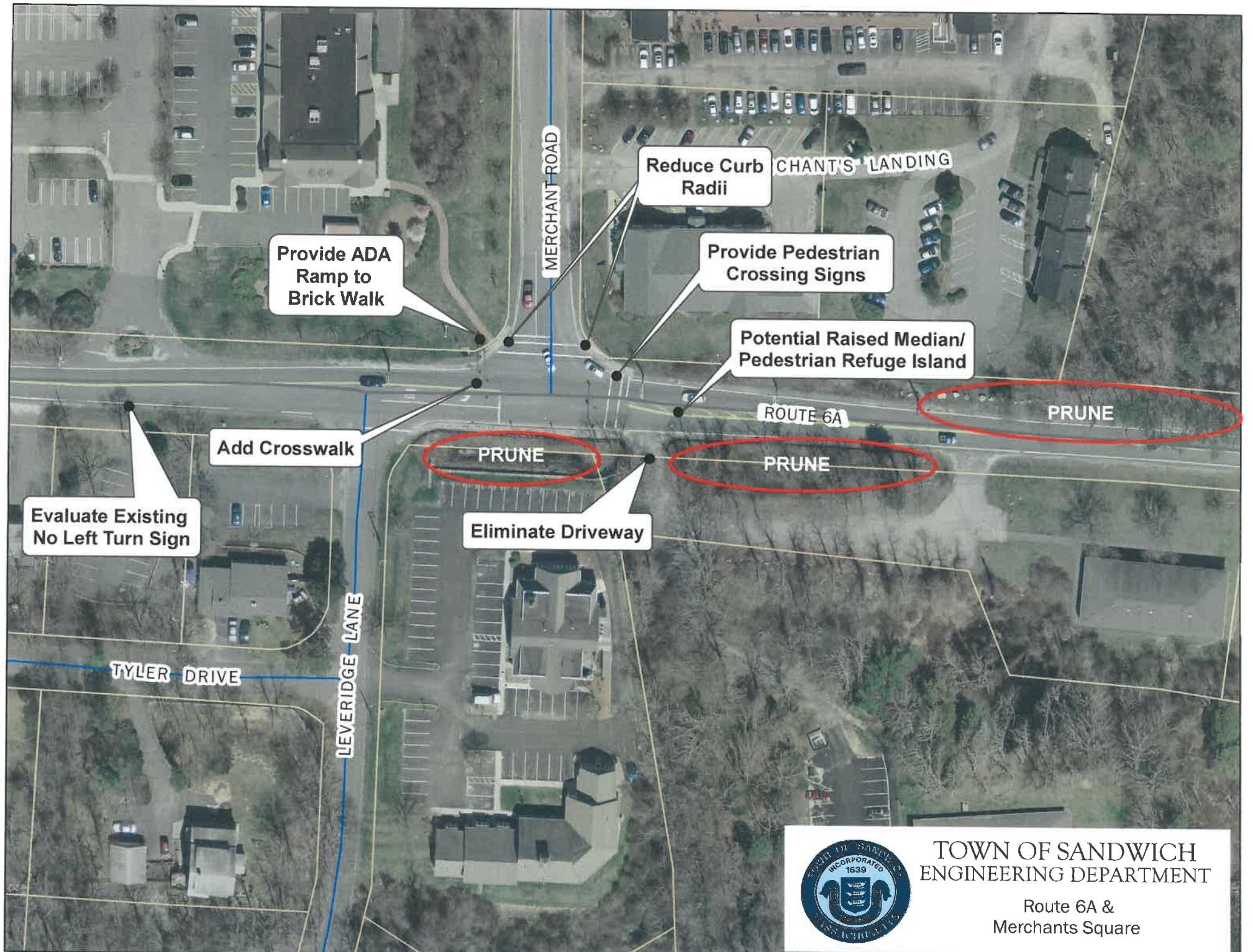
Thank you for your consideration of these additional requests and for the improvements you have already implemented. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at 508-888-5144 or gdunham@townofsandwich.net.

Sincerely yours,



George H. Dunham
Town Manager

cc: Board of Selectmen
Director of Public Works / Town Engineer
Assistant Town Engineer
Chief of Police
Fire Chief
Rep. Randy Hunt
Sen. Vinny deMacedo
Bill Travers, MassDOT



Provide ADA Ramp to Brick Walk

Evaluate Existing No Left Turn Sign

Add Crosswalk

Eliminate Driveway

Reduce Curb Radii

Provide Pedestrian Crossing Signs

Potential Raised Median/Pedestrian Refuge Island

PRUNE

PRUNE

PRUNE



TOWN OF SANDWICH
ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT

Route 6A &
Merchants Square

Town of Sandwich

THE OLDEST TOWN ON CAPE COD

130 MAIN STREET
SANDWICH, MA 02563

E-MAIL: selectmen@townofsandwich.net
E-MAIL: townhall@townofsandwich.net



BOARD OF
SELECTMEN

TOWN
MANAGER

TEL: 508-888-4910 AND 508-888-5144
FAX: 508-833-8045

July 18, 2017

Mary-Joe Perry
District Highway Director
MassDOT – District 5
1000 County Street
Taunton, MA 02780

Re: Route 6A & Merchants Road Intersection

Dear Ms. Perry:

The Town of Sandwich would like to formally request that MassDOT undertake a review of the Route 6A and Merchants Road intersection to improve any traffic and pedestrian safety concerns that may be identified. As you may be aware, there have been a few fatalities at this intersection where motor vehicles have struck pedestrians in the crosswalk over the last 30 years. The most recent of these occurred in the last two months.


In conducting this review, the Town would like to respectfully request to have its internal experts meet with MassDOT traffic engineers as part of their review. Director of Public Works / Town Engineer Paul Tilton, Assistant Town Engineer Sam Jensen, Chief of Police Peter Wack, and Fire Chief Bill Carrico would like to participate in such meeting. The Town would like the following issues reviewed as part of the traffic safety study:

- a formal speed study for the area surrounding this intersection;
- a general analysis of the functioning of the intersection, including the pedestrian crosswalk;
- a review of existing pavement markings;
- consideration of any additional signage that may be appropriate;
- an alignment review of the intersection; and
- any other issues MassDOT may identify.

Route 6A is one of the busiest roads in Sandwich and Merchants Road is used by many residents and visitors. The intersection services Sandwich's main post office, two senior residential housing complexes, and many small and large businesses located in Merchant's Square.

Thank you for your consideration of this request and if you would like me to set up a meeting with the appropriate Town staff, please contact me at 508-888-5144 or gdunham@townofsandwich.net

Sincerely yours,


George H. Dunham
Town Manager

cc: Board of Selectmen
Director of Public Works / Town Engineer
Assistant Town Engineer
Chief of Police
Fire Chief
Rep. Randy Hunt
Sen. Vinny deMacedo



Charles D. Baker, Governor
Karyn E. Polito, Lieutenant Governor
Stephanie Pollack, Secretary & CEO
Jonathan L. Gulliver, Highway Administrator



December 20, 2017

MAILED
DEC 29 2017
DISTRICT 5

George H. Dunham, Town Manager
Town of Sandwich
130 Main Street
Sandwich, MA 02563

Dear Mr. Dunham:

Thank you for sharing your concerns regarding the various intersections on Route 6A within the Town of Sandwich. MassDOT has reviewed each location and the following actions have been taken:

Route 6A at Merchants Road

Per the letter dated July 18, 2017, the Town has requested a traffic safety study be completed in order to identify and improve traffic and pedestrian safety concerns.

- A speed study was conducted in October and it was determined that the current speed limit of 40 mph is appropriate.
- The speed limit signs were checked and all of the signs were installed as required by Special Speed Regulation #7604.
- MassDOT installed a W3-3 Signal Ahead graphic sign on the WB approach in order to give motorists advanced notice of the upcoming signal. There was an existing W3-3 sign on the EB approach.
- The pavement markings were restriped so the delineation of the roadway could be better seen.
- Countdown indicators and Accessible Pedestrian Signal (APS) pushbuttons have been installed.
- The pedestrian phase timings were increased:
 - Walk changed from 4 to 7 seconds
 - Flashing Don't Walk changed from 14 to 18 seconds
 - Don't Walk (all red clearance) changed from 2 to 3 seconds
- The back plates were replaced on the overhead signal housings. The new back plates have yellow reflective tape to increase the visibility of the signals.

Route 6A at Merchants Road, Tupper Road (signalized intersection), and Jarves Road

Per the meeting on November 17, 2017, the Town expressed additional concerns at various intersections along Route 6A.

SP

- An increase in the all red clearance for the motorists at Merchants Road and at Jarves Road was requested. Clearance time calculations for both intersections have been completed and the timings will be increased.
- The Town requested the addition of a left turn lane accompanied with a R10-12 "Left Turn Yield on Green" sign (similar to the Merchants Road intersection) on the Tupper Road SB approach. This approach is currently striped as two lanes and motorists use it as a de facto left turn lane. The R10-12 sign is unnecessary because this intersection is operating in a split phase and there is no conflict with the left turn movements on the Tupper Road approaches.
- Motorists making left turns from Tupper Road are unaware that they have a protected movement and the Town would like the side street phasing to be evaluated.

MassDOT is reviewing the signal operation and lane assignments at the Tupper Road and Jarves Street intersections to determine if further changes are feasible.

During the field visit it was also noted that the pavement markings for the lane lines on Tupper Road and Jarves Street approaching and departing Route 6A are faded and need to be restriped. The pavement markings will be reapplied in the Spring. Unfortunately, the temperatures at this time of the year do not allow for the application of pavement markings.

Thank you for your feedback and commitment to keeping the roads safe. Please contact Kenneth Charlton, Assistant District Maintenance Engineer, at (508) 884 – 4279 with any questions.

Sincerely,



Mary-Joe Perry
District Highway Director



BLM/blm

cc:

MJP 

MEB 

Files

Dunham, George

From: Lapp, Doug
Sent: Friday, August 10, 2018 3:06 PM
To: Dunham, George
Subject: FW: Sandwich - Rt 6A/Merchant Rd Safety Study
Attachments: SandwichRte6A_Merchants_ResponseToTown_12-20-17.pdf

From: Tilton, Paul
Sent: Thursday, July 26, 2018 10:51 AM
To: Lapp, Doug
Subject: FW: Sandwich - Rt 6A/Merchant Rd Safety Study

Doug – Below and attached is the follow-up from MassDOT. Basically, they've studied the existing conditions and implemented safety features as needed and consistent with federal standards. They will continue to monitor the intersection and follow-up on regular maintenance (eg, pruning, striping) to maintain safe conditions.

I don't know if Bud ever got back to the BOS or the residents regarding the MassDOT response but I can if needed.

Paul

From: Travers, Bill D. (DOT) [mailto:Bill.Travers@dot.state.ma.us]
Sent: Wednesday, April 25, 2018 12:42 PM
To: Tilton, Paul
Cc: Broderick, Matthew E. (DOT); Charlton, Kenneth L. (DOT); Dunham, George; Kersten, James A. (DOT)
Subject: RE: Sandwich - Rt 6A/Merchant Rd Safety Study

Paul,

I apologize for the delayed response, but the email address you had for me was incorrect and I did not receive your initial message.

When we met with the Town on November 17, we outlined the results of our study and the several steps we had taken to make improvements at the intersection of Route 6A and Merchant's Way. These steps included;

- Checking of the sight distance on the approaches to the signal, which was found to be adequate.
- Conducting of a speed study to determine if the speed limit was appropriate, as stipulated by Mass General Laws. It was determined that the current posted speed limits are appropriate and could not be lowered.
- All signage was checked and any missing signs were replaced.
- An additional Signal Ahead sign was added on the Westbound approach.
- Pavement markings were re-applied along the corridor.
- The pedestrian signals were upgraded with the installation of countdown timers, accessible pedestrian signal pushbuttons, and new back plates were installed on the signals for increased visibility.
- The walk/don't walk/all red time for the crossing was increased by a total of eight seconds to conform with current standards which factor in additional time for impaired and elderly pedestrians.

The only outstanding item for this intersection requested by the Town at the November 17 meeting was a concern for the all red clearance for the signal, which MassDOT investigated and increased the timings were increased

accordingly. The Town also asked for MassDOT to look at concerns with two other intersections along the Route 6A corridor at Tupper Road and Jarves Street, which was done.

The District sent a letter to the Town (attached) dated December 20, 2017, outlining all of the steps taken by MassDOT to make improvements on Route 6A at Merchant's Way. In light of recent inquiries, we will again investigate the area to determine if any of the existing signage is missing after the winter. We will also monitor the pavement markings and vegetation and take appropriate action to address when needed.

Please let me know if you have any additional questions.

Bill

Bill Travers | District Five Operations Engineer
MassDOT – Highway Division
1000 County Street, Taunton, MA 02780 | 508-884-4219/508-884-4228

From: Broderick, Matthew E. (DOT)
Sent: Wednesday, April 25, 2018 7:37 AM
To: Travers, Bill D. (DOT)
Subject: FW: Sandwich - Rt 6A/Merchant Rd Safety Study

From: Tilton, Paul [<mailto:ptilton@townofsandwich.net>]
Sent: Saturday, April 21, 2018 8:46 AM
To: Bill Travers (billtravers@dot.state.ma.us); Broderick, Matthew E. (DOT)
Cc: Dunham, George; Wack, Peter M.; Hunt, Randy - Rep. (HOU); 'Liber, Matthew (HOU)'; Burke, John
Subject: Sandwich - Rt 6A/Merchant Rd Safety Study

Hello Bill,

I'm following up on our meeting of November 17, 2017 regarding vehicular and pedestrian safety issues at the intersection of Merchant Road at Route 6A in Sandwich (meeting attendance list is attached). As you know, MassDOT had agreed to further study this intersection and implement safety improvements, as warranted. We have received some correspondence from State Representative Randy Hunt's office and local residents (see attached) requesting an update of this study and recommendations for improvements. Please let us know the status of this study. The Town is available to meet if needed to discuss any recommendation.

Thank you,

Paul S. Tilton, PE
DPW Director/Town Engineer
Sandwich DPW
500 Route 130
Sandwich, MA 02563

This email has been scanned by the Symantec Email Security.cloud service.
For more information please visit <http://www.symanteccloud.com>
