

U.S. Department of  
Homeland Security

United States  
Coast Guard



Commander  
First Coast Guard District

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16590  
October 4, 2024

Massachusetts Department of Transportation  
Highway Division  
Attn: Ms. Carrie Lavallee  
Chief Engineer  
Ten Park Plaza, Suite 4160  
Boston, MA 02116

Re: Preliminary Navigation Clearance Determination for the Replacement of the New Bedford –  
Fairhaven Route 6 Bridge over the Acushnet River

Dear Ms. Lavallee:

The Coast Guard has reviewed MassDOT's Navigation Impact Report dated August 2024 forwarded by your letter dated August 9, 2024. Based on the information provided and the New Bedford Port Authorities letter dated September 20, 2024, we have made a preliminary determination that a replacement bridge should provide a minimum vertical clearance of 138 feet (MHW) and minimum horizontal clearance of 260 feet to not unreasonably obstruct the free navigation of the waters over which the bridge is constructed.

This preliminary clearance determination is valid for three years. However, if there are changes to the waterway or additional information is discovered during the bridge permitting process, this Preliminary Navigation Clearance Determination may need to be revisited. Please note that this preliminary determination does not constitute a final approval or final agency determination.

Please feel free to contact me at the number above, or Jeffrey Stieb, Senior Bridge Management Specialist, at 617-833-1311.

Sincerely,

G.P. Hitchen  
Bridge Program Manager  
U.S. Coast Guard  
By direction

Copy: Gordon M. Carr, Executive Director, New Bedford Port Authority  
Ms. Angie Lopes Ellison, Town Administrator, Fairhaven, MA  
Coast Guard Sector Southeastern New England