

September 6, 2022

PRINCIPALS

Ms. Lori Capone Theodore A Barten, PE **Sudbury Conservation Commission** Margaret B Briggs 275 Old Lancaster Road Sudbury, MA 01776

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Subject: Sudbury-Hudson Transmission Reliability and Massachusetts Central Rail

Trail Project (DEP File # 301-1287) OOC Issued 02/04/2021

Notification of Minor Change and Request for Administrative Approval

Dear Ms. Capone and Sudbury Conservation Commission Members:

On behalf of NSTAR d/b/a Eversource Energy ("Eversource") and the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation ("DCR"), Epsilon Associates, Inc. ("Epsilon") is submitting this letter and supporting documentation to provide the Commission with notification of a minor change to the proposed Project that was approved in the referenced Order of Conditions (OOC) and to request administrative review and approval of this minor change. According to Condition #14 of the OOC, any change to the plans approved in the OOC shall require the applicant to inquire of the Commission in writing whether the change is significant enough to require the filing of a new NOI.

As background, Eversource and DCR recently appeared before the Sudbury Historic District Commission to obtain a Certificate of Appropriateness (COA) for proposed work within the George Pitts Tavern Historic District. The COA issued on 08/04/22 requires that the Project remove and reset (or retain if possible) existing rail tracks in front of the Boston & Maine Railroad Section Tool House, located just east of Boston Post Road (Route 20). To accomplish this, the Project alignment (i.e., the proposed limit of work) has been expanded slightly southward at this location, resulting in a minor increase to the Project's footprint within the 200-Foot Riverfront Area and within the 100-Foot Buffer Zone ("BZ")/Adjacent Upland Resource Area ("AURA") of a vegetated wetland. The only proposed change occurs within approximately 160 linear feet of the rail trail alignment and associated grading. There are no changes to the proposed location of the underground electrical transmission line.

The proposed minor change would result in an increase of 847 square feet to the overall Project footprint in this area. All of this 847 square feet is within the 200-foot Riverfront Area of Hop Brook (all within outer riparian zone) and 379 square feet of this area is within 100-Foot BZ/AURA. This 847 square feet area is currently forested and as shown on the

updated plans will be restored with the same native woody shrub plantings and native herbaceous seed mix that was approved for the other restoration in this area.

The minor expansion of the Project footprint into AURA is within an area previously identified for the removal of invasives as part of the AURA mitigation proposed and approved for the Project. Eversource will expand the approved AURA mitigation plan to provide an equivalent area of invasives removal to keep the mitigation ratio the same as previously developed and approved. The updated AURA mitigation plan will be sent to the Commission.

The 160-foot section of realigned bike path does not result in an increase to the approved impervious surfaces from the Project and because it occurs within only 160 feet of the path, the change amounts to a de minimis change in stormwater flows. With the minor realignment of 160 feet of the rail trail, stormwater from this section will be directed southward between stations 712+00 and 713+50. This takes advantage of an existing low area south of the rail bed, and ultimately results in a longer path of travel for stormwater, providing increased opportunity for infiltration and recharge before reaching the culvert at station 713+63.

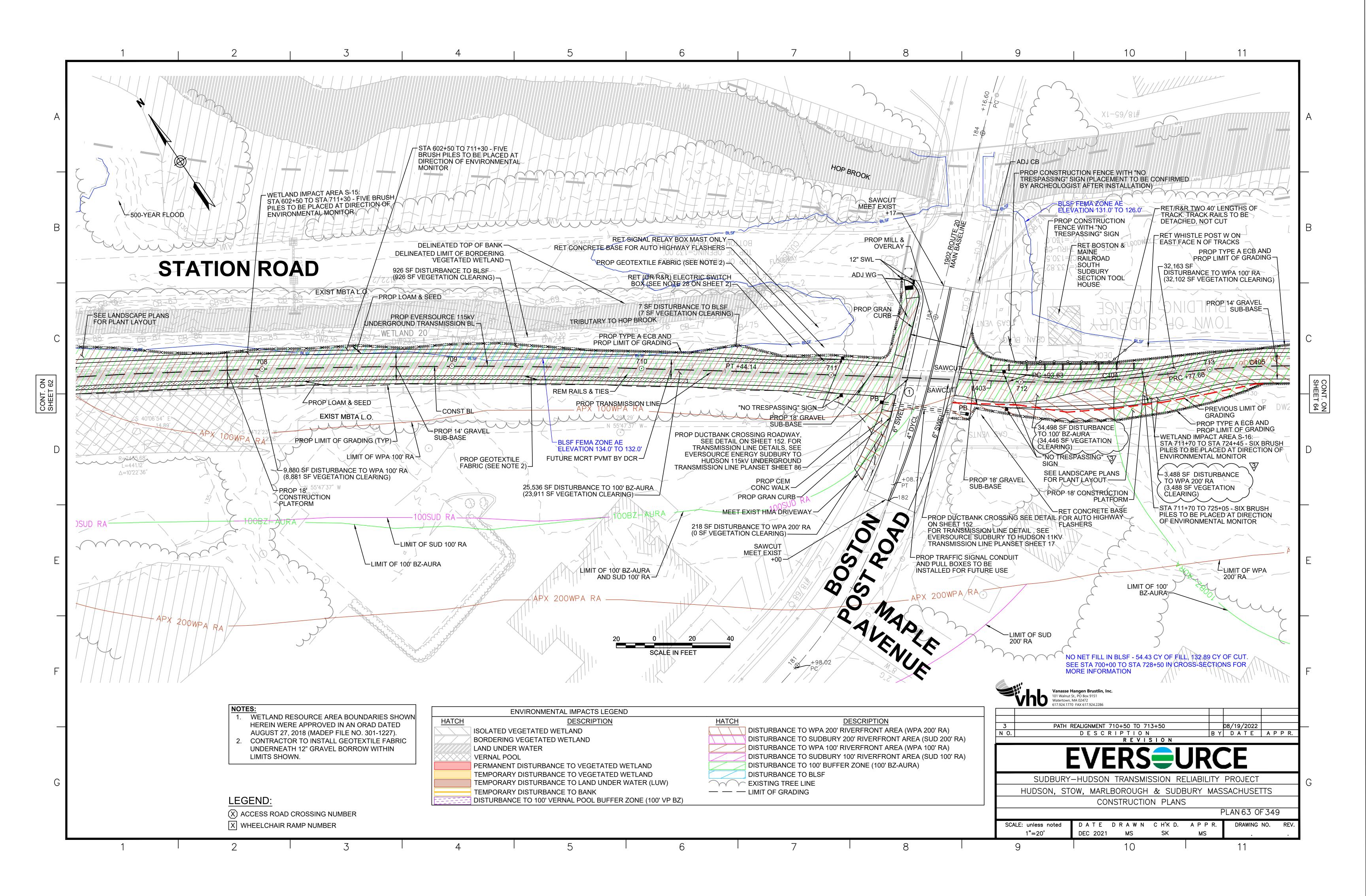
Attached please find three plan sheets showing the proposed minor change that upon administrative approval would replace the corresponding sheets in the plan set previously approved by the Commission.

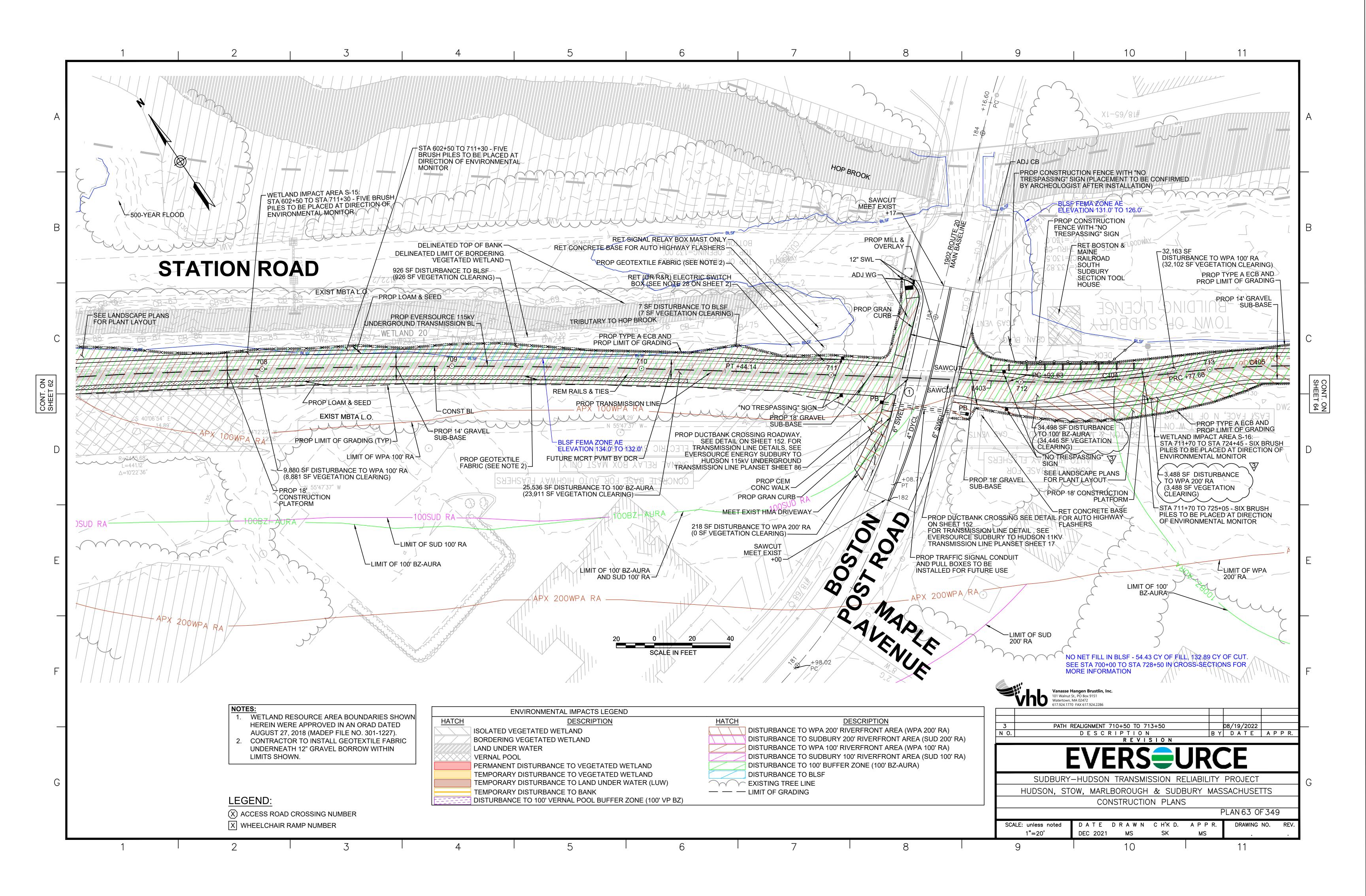
We respectfully request that the Commission confirm that this minor change is insignificant and can proceed as an administrative approval. Please do not hesitate to contact me at 508-212-0420 or via email at mbergeron@epsilonassociates.com if you have any questions related to this request.

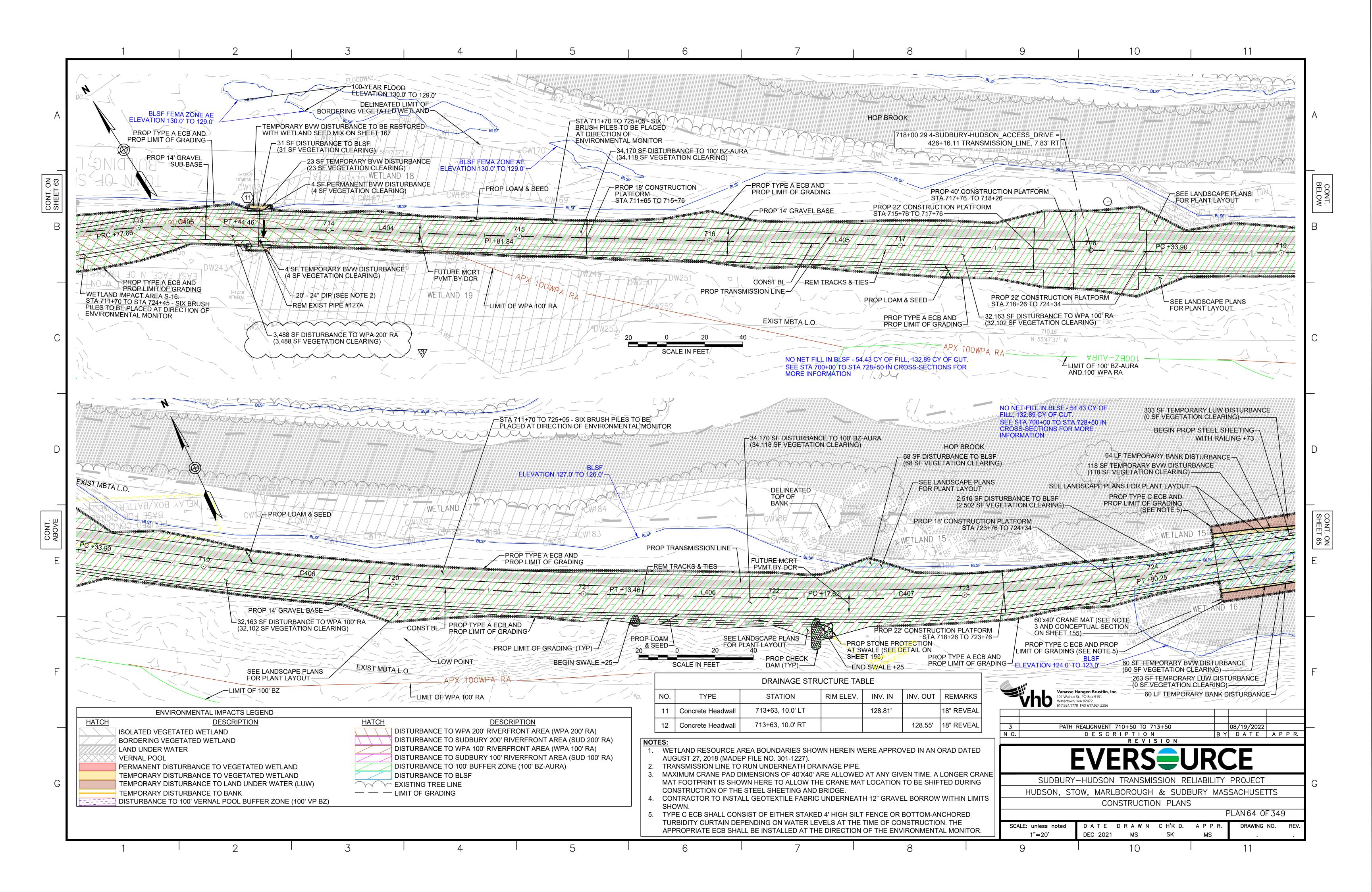
Sincerely,

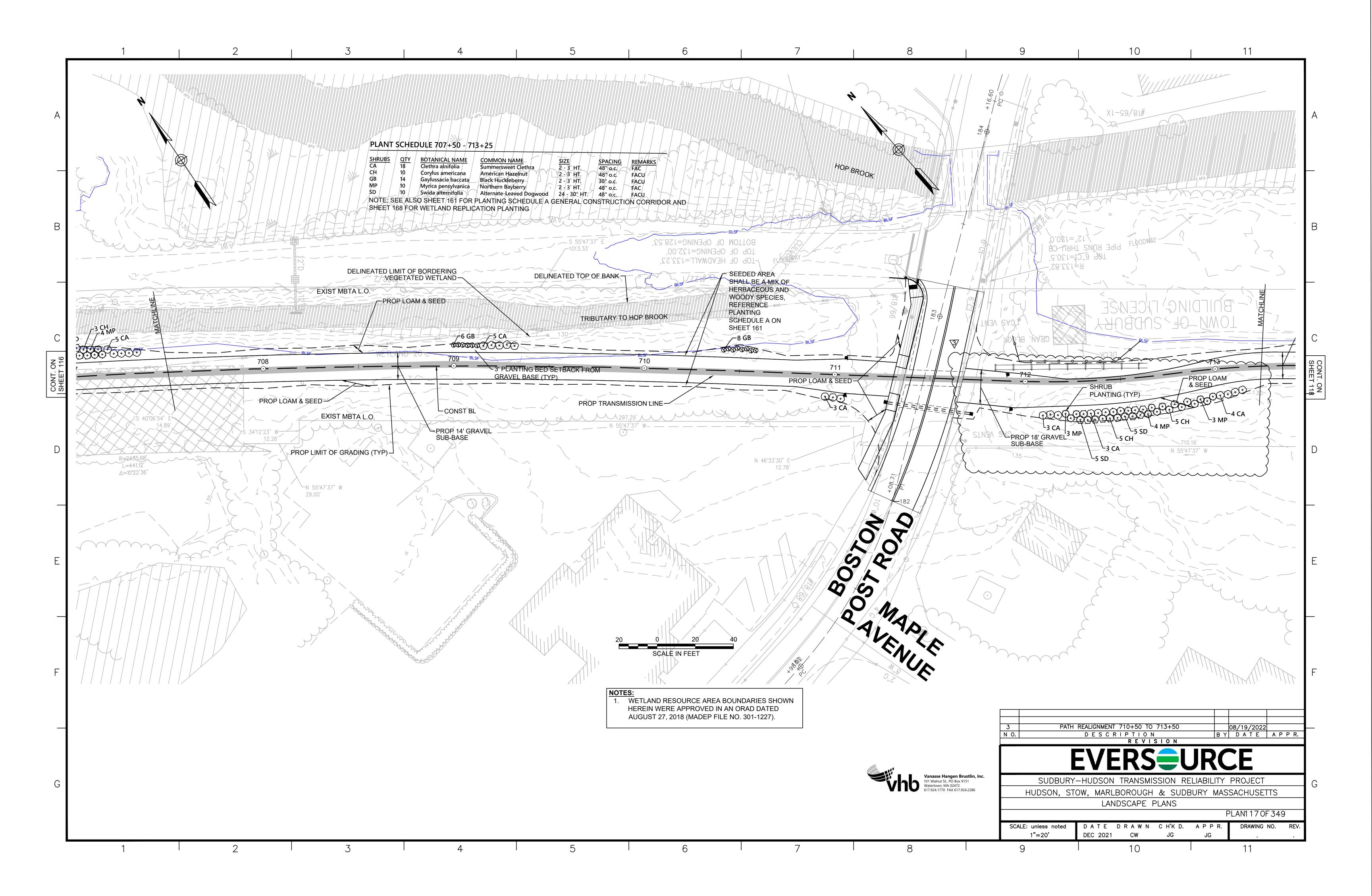
Marc Bergeron, PWS

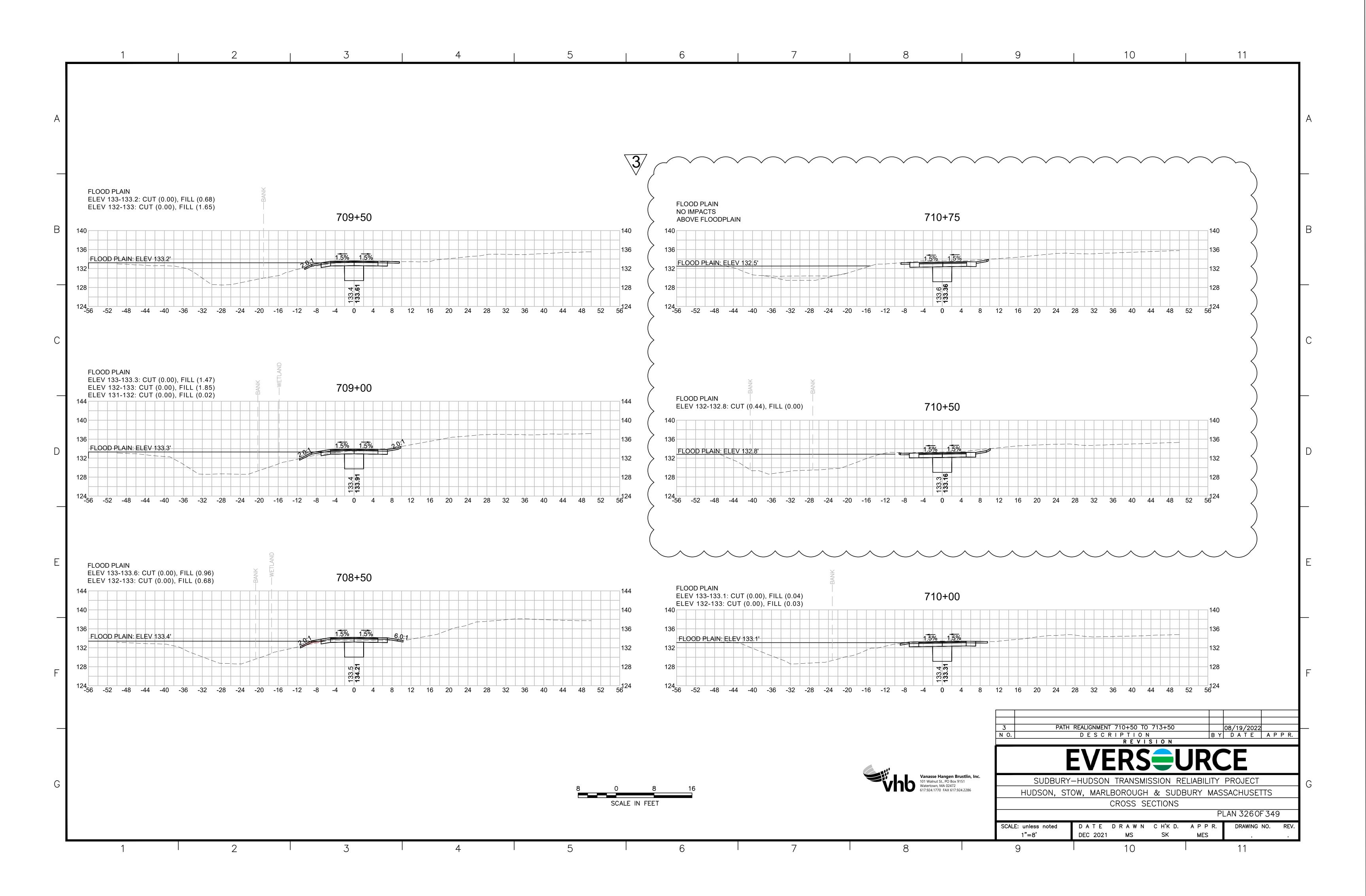
Project Manager/Principal

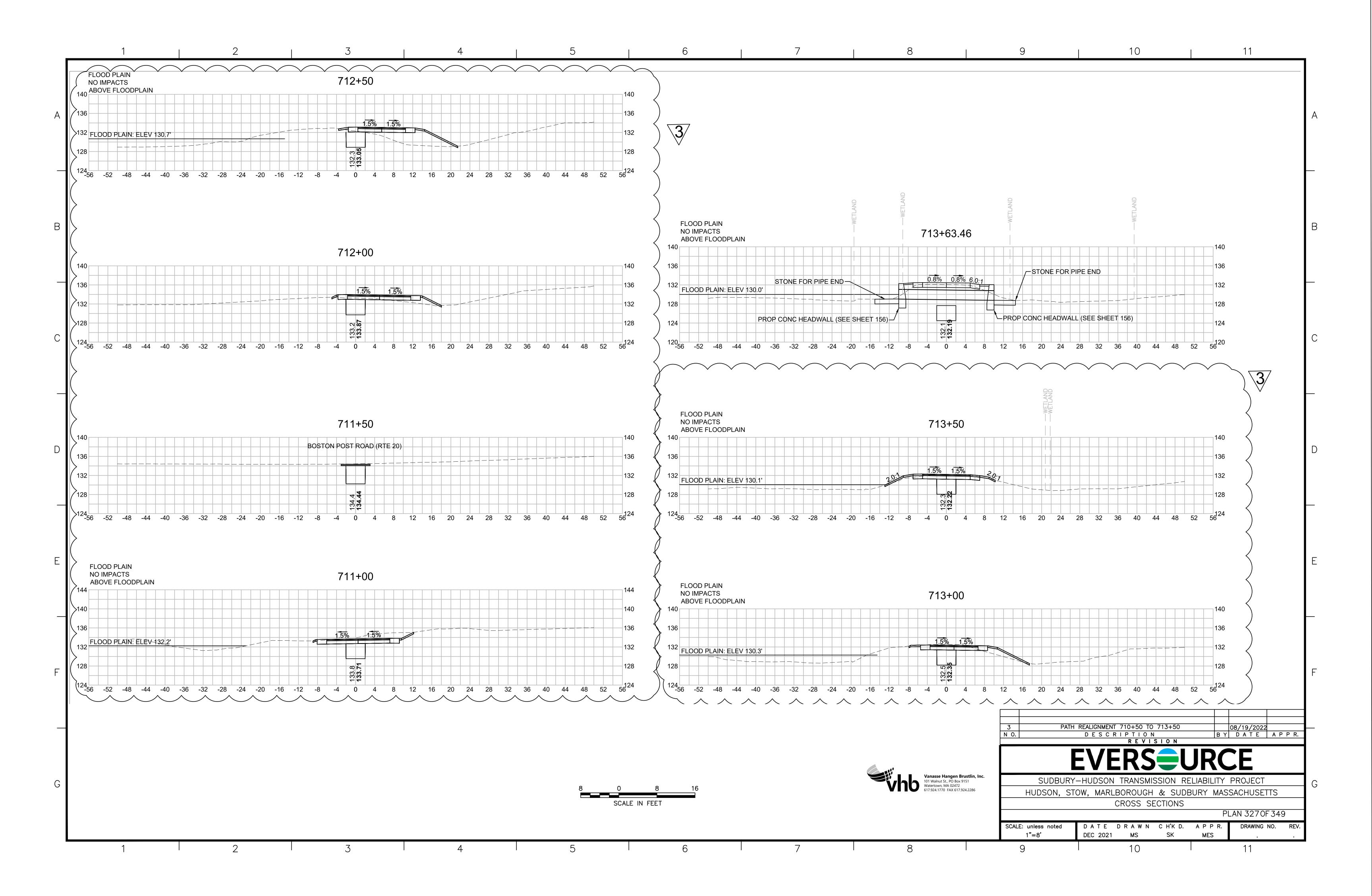


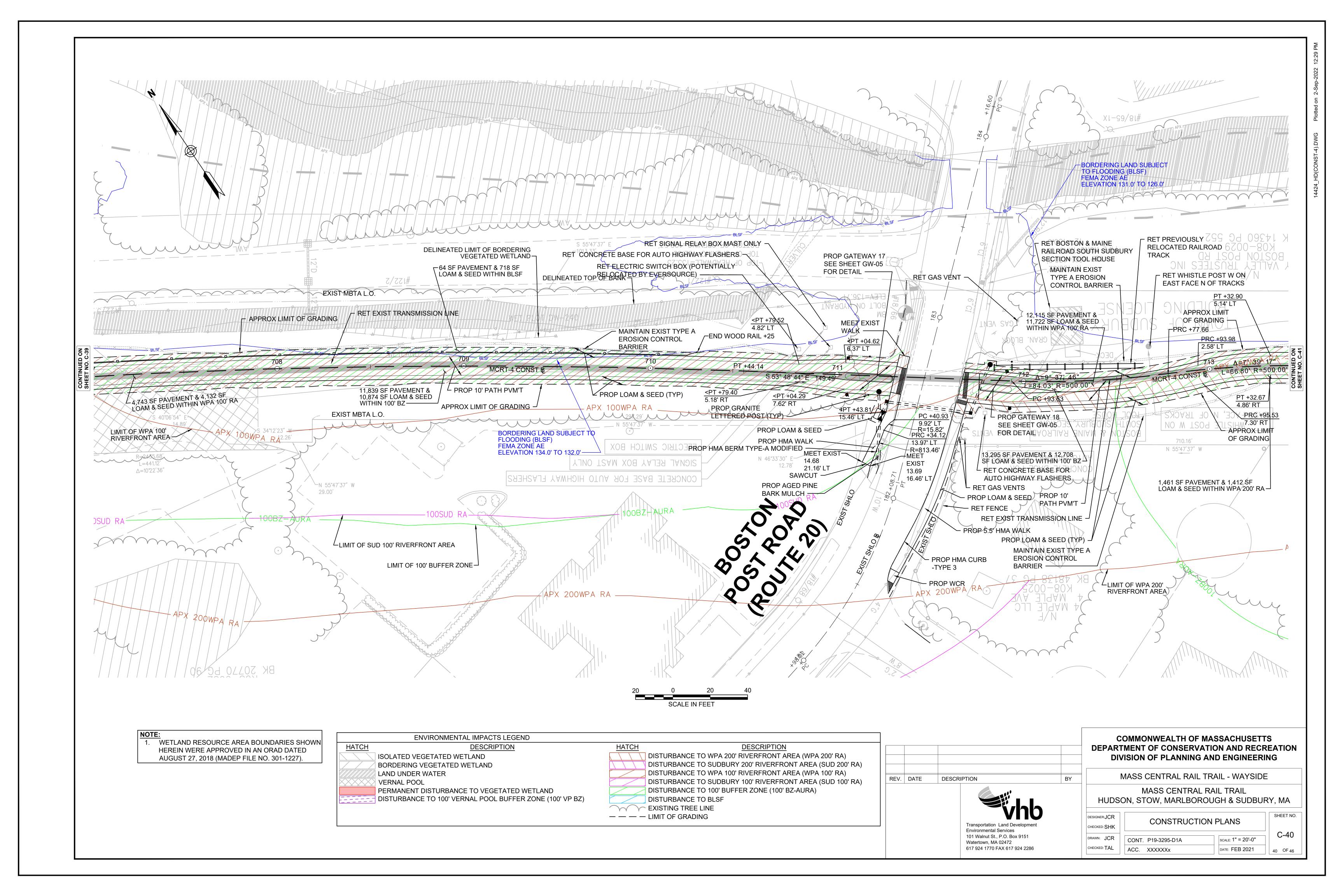


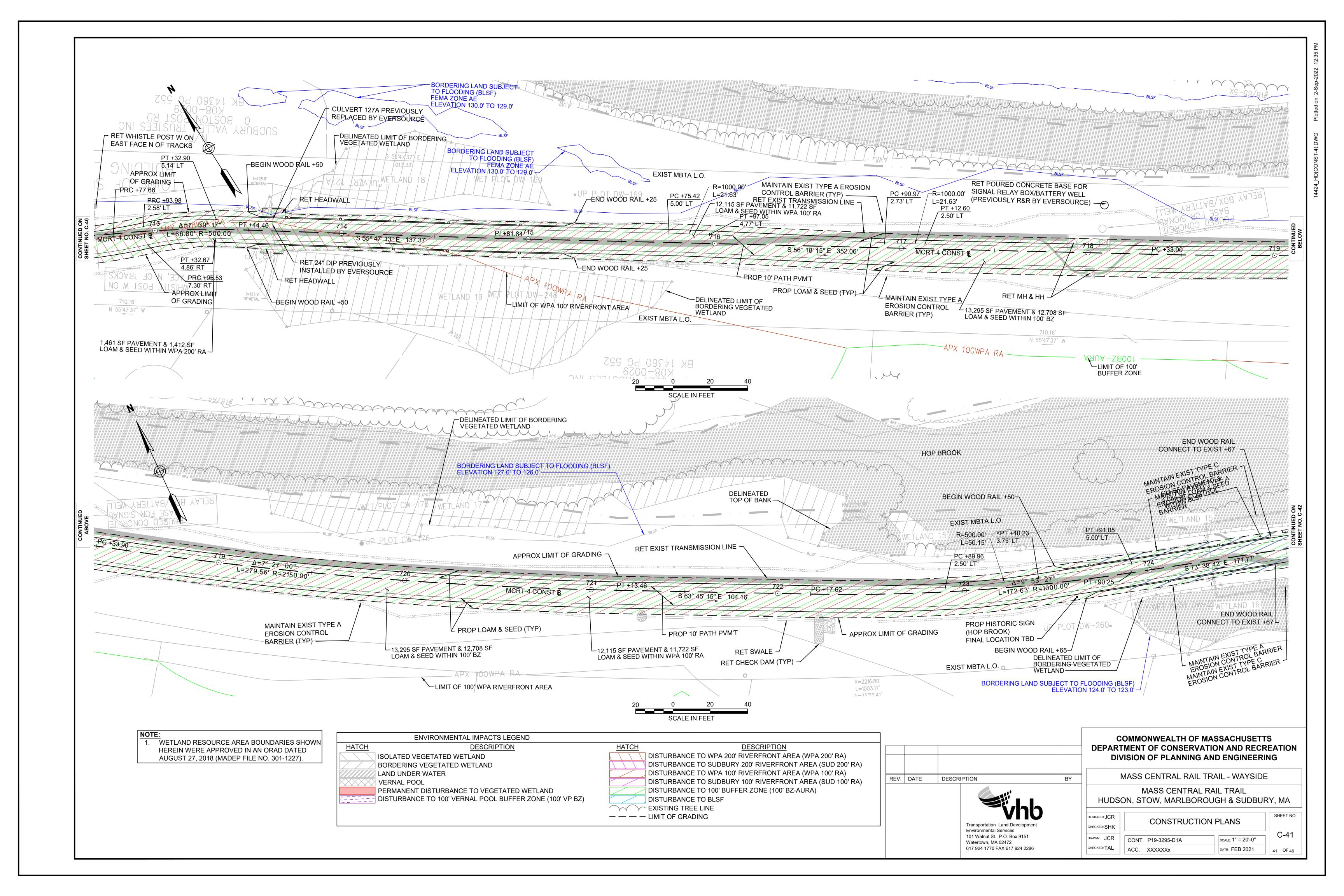


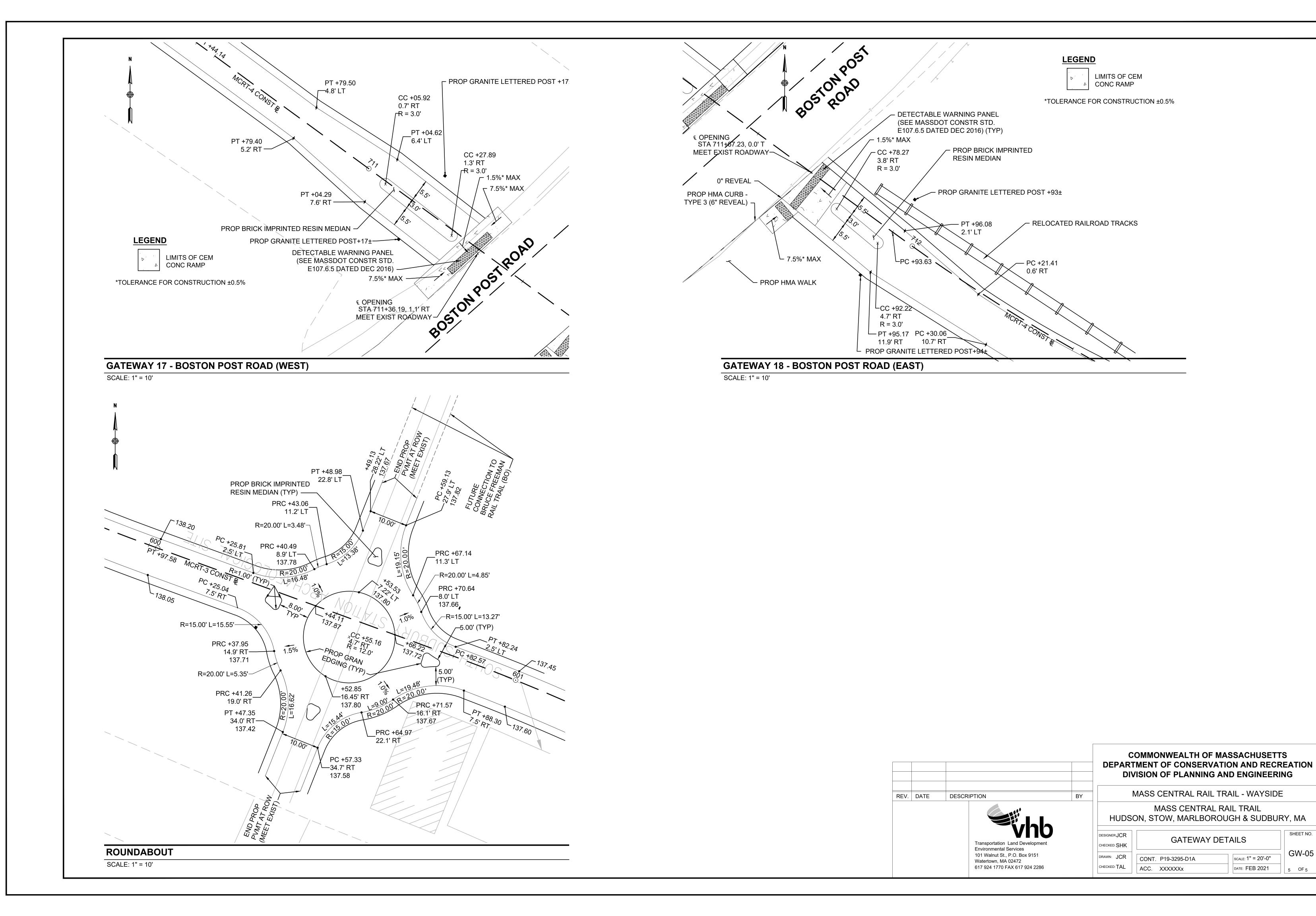












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