

Biddeford Highway Improvement Project

MaineDOT WIN 25653.00

*Section 4(f)
De Minimis Summary*

PUBLIC COMMENT DRAFT

Section 4(f) De Minimis Impact Determination

Section 4(f) of the Department of Transportation Act of 1966 (23 CFR 774) and its revisions protects four types of properties: publicly owned parks that are open to the general public, publicly owned recreation areas that are open to the general public, publicly owned wildlife and waterfowl refuges, and public or privately owned historic sites. De minimis impacts are defined as those that, after taking into account any measures to minimize harm, do not adversely affect the activities, features, or attributes that qualify a significant public park, recreation area, wildlife and/or waterfowl refuge, or historic sites for protection under Section 4(f) of the Department of Transportation Act of 1966, as amended.

MaineDOT completes environmental review, consultation, and other actions required by applicable Federal environmental laws for federal-aid projects pursuant to the following: 23 U.S.C. 326 and a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) executed by FHWA and MaineDOT dated October 9, 2024, and 23 U.S.C. 327 and an MOU executed by FHWA and MaineDOT dated January 30, 2026.

Project Scope

The proposed project consists of highway improvements along Elm Street/U.S. Route 1 in Biddeford, beginning just southerly of the Upper Falls Road/Diamond Street intersection and extending northerly .30 mile to terminate at the Main Street intersection. The entire project area is captured in Figure 1 below.

Proposed Action

The proposed action includes the following:

- Milling and overlay of the existing roadway pavement.
- Construction of a continuous center lane along Elm Street comprised of a combination of dedicated left turn lanes segments and two-way left turn lane segments. The proposed intersection geometry will closely resemble existing conditions to minimize impacts to adjacent properties.
- Install new granite curb and concrete sidewalk on both sides of Elm Street and along the side streets in the limit of work.
- Adjustments to existing drainage infrastructure.
- Access management improvements, including ADA compliant tip-downs and detectable warning fields.
- Upgrades to signage and pavement markings.
- New traffic signals at the following intersections:
 - Elm Street / Lincoln Street
 - Elm Street / Upper Falls Road / Diamond Street



Figure 1. Biddeford 25653.00 Project Area

Description of Section 4(f) Properties & Impacts

The following resources would be subject to a Section 4(f) use. Property impacts are shown in [Appendix A](#).

Recreation Areas

There are no recreational areas within the project area.

Public Parks

- Pocket Park, 315 Main Street (City of Biddeford)

The unnamed pocket park at the corner of Main Street and Elm Street (315 Main Street) is a 0.07 acre greenspace that features granite benches and planters, small garden beds, and interspersed trees. A small dirt path winds through the center. It was first developed in the early 2000s. The following description is from the City of Biddeford's Downtown Master Plan (July 2011):

This property was acquired by the City of Biddeford in 2005 after its previous owner defaulted on taxes. It was informally designated as "Le Parc Interim" and developed as a community garden while the City, along with Heart of Biddeford, attempted to solicit a developer through an RFP process. No bidders came forward, as the site is very small (less than 0.1 acres) and located on a busy corner with no nearby off-street parking. The community garden was dismantled in 2010 and the site is currently just an open space.

In 2012 the space was designated as a public park and was being maintained by staff of the McArthur Public Library. The park has continued to serve as a small community gathering space. The City of Biddeford is currently seeking public input on a new name for the park.

In order to reconstruct the sidewalk adjacent to the pocket park, MaineDOT would permanently incorporate approximately 10 SF of right-of-way on the city-owned parcel and it will be converted to a construction and maintenance easement. The permanent incorporation of approximately 10 SF of right-of-way into the project thus constitutes a "Use" under 23 CFR 774.17.



Figure 2. Pocket Park (315 Main Street) © Google 2025

Historic Sites

Public notice and comment, beyond that required by 36 CFR part 800, is not required, per 23 CFR 774.5(b)(1)(iii).

Wildlife and Waterfowl Refuges

There are no wildlife and waterfowl refuges within the project area.

Avoidance, Minimization, and Mitigation Efforts

The proposed action minimizes the introduction of materials that are not currently found at the project location and minimizes direct impacts to the Section 4(f) property to the greatest extent possible while still meeting the project’s purpose and need. The work proposed is minor in scope and would thus have minimal effect on the activities, features, and attributes that qualify the pocket park for protection under Section 4(f).

Official with Jurisdiction Concurrence

The City of Biddeford is the Official with Jurisdiction under Section 4(f), as the pocket park is considered a publicly-owned public park. Consultation with the City is ongoing.

Public Involvement

The public involvement process is ongoing.

Summary

Based on the scope of the proposed project and the above information, the following assessment has been made:

The proposed highway improvement project in Biddeford would require a permanent incorporation of land at the pocket park at 315 Main Street, a Section 4(f) public park. The right-of-way impact that would result from the proposed action would not adversely affect the activities, features, and attributes that qualify the properties for protection under Section 4(f). Therefore, the use of the Section 4(f) property will result in a *de minimis* impact.

Date Approved

MaineDOT Senior Environmental Manager

Date of Quality Review

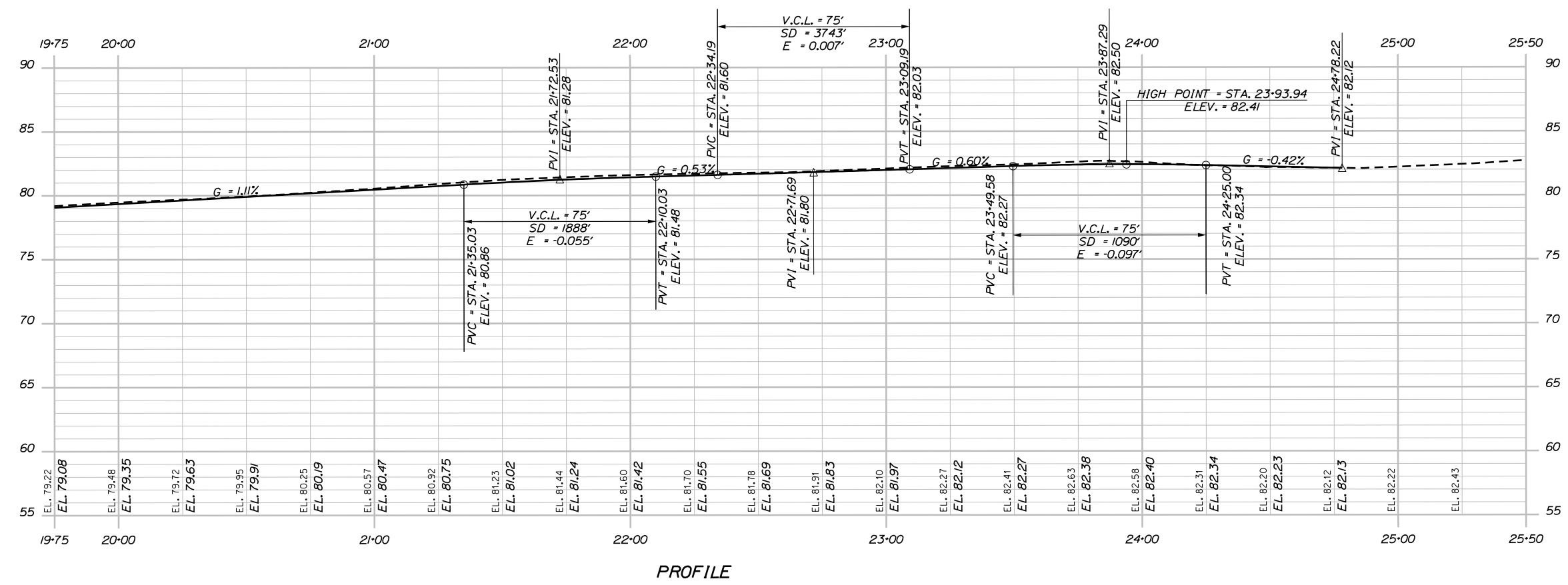
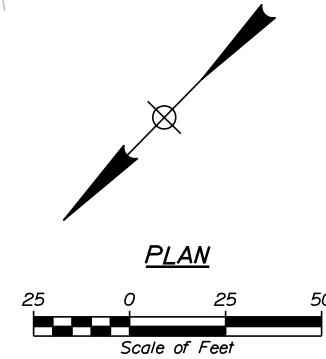
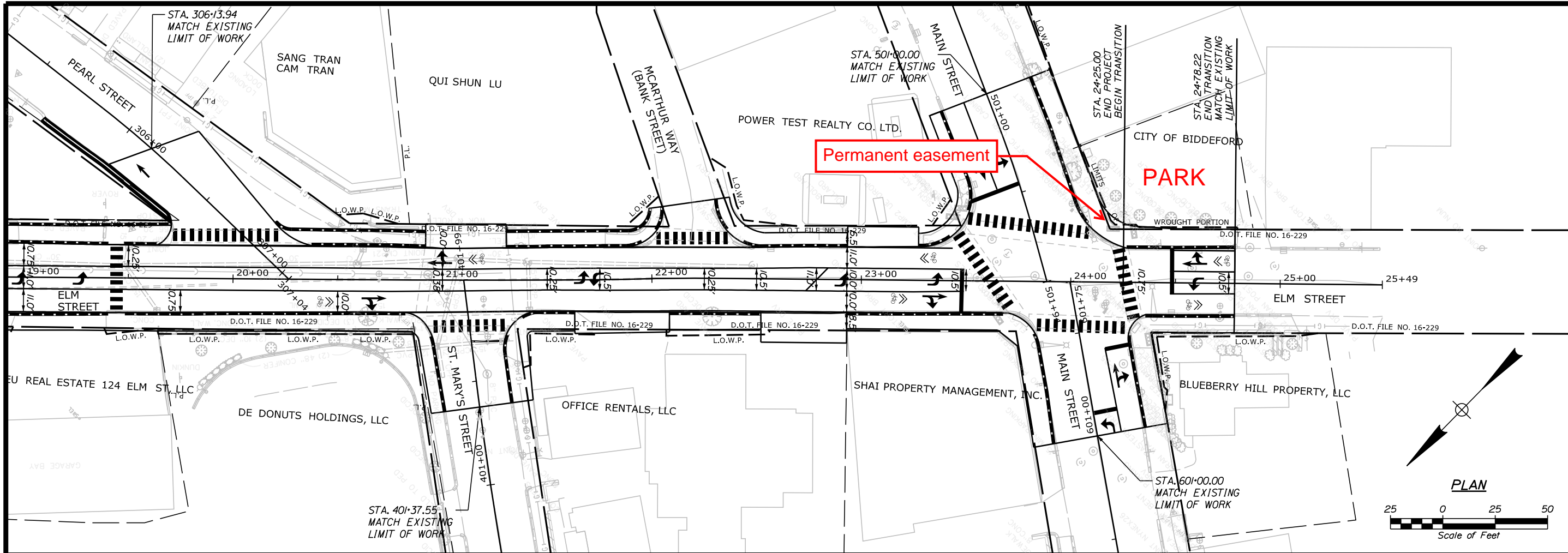
MaineDOT Environmental Team Leader

Appendix A

Date: 2/23/2026

Username:

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STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
2565300
WIN 25653.00

PROJ. MANAGER	DATE	BY	DATE
DESIGN-DETAILED			
CHECKED-REVIEWED			
DESIGNS-DETAILED			
DESIGNS-DETAILED			
REVISIONS 1			
REVISIONS 2			
REVISIONS 3			
REVISIONS 4			
FIELD CHANGES			

**BIDDEFORD
ELM STREET**

PLAN AND PROFILE

SHEET NUMBER
7
OF 47

