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## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Mr. Jamie Ponte, Commissioner, D.P.I  
New Bedford Planning Board

**FROM:** Jason Adams, P.E., PTOE

**DATE:** April 3, 2019

**RE:** Proposed Cumberland Farms  
New Bedford, MA  
Response to Comments

The Town New Bedford retained CDM Smith, Inc. to conduct a review of the documents submitted as part of the proposed Cumberland Farms project at 2880 Acushnet Avenue in New Bedford, MA. A review letter was submitted to the City of New Bedford on January 4, 2019, outlining the comments specifically regarding the review of the Traffic Impact Study submitted to the Town of New Bedford in November 2018. McMahon has reviewed the comments associated with the traffic portion of the letter provided by CDM Smith.

In response to the comments raised by CDM Smith and the City, the Cumberland Farms project team has worked to reconfigure the project site access and McMahon has completed an update of the traffic impact study. The responses to each of the CDM Smith comments are as follows:

- 1. Comment:** Increase the study area to include Acushnet Avenue at Belair Street, Acushnet Avenue at Bowles Street, and Acushnet Avenue (Route 18) at Phillips Road.

**Response:** *The traffic impact study has been expanded to include the intersections of Acushnet Avenue at Belair Street, Acushnet Avenue at Bowles Street, and Acushnet Avenue (Route 18) at Phillips Road. New traffic volume counts were conducted at each of the above intersections and capacity analysis was included in the update to the traffic impact study prepared by McMahon.*

- 2. Comment:** Provide a description of the existing pedestrian facilities

**Response:** *A description of the existing pedestrian facilities has been included under the "Multi-Modal Accommodations" of the traffic impact study.*

**3. Comment:** Update the intersection limits included in the crash summary

**Response:** *The traffic impact study "Crash Summary" section has been updated to include the additional intersections from Comment #1. Within the traffic impact study, Appendix C: Crash Data has been updated to include the additional intersections in the Crash Summary table and the MassDOT Crash Rate Worksheets for these intersections.*

**4. Comment:** Provide a narrative documenting the critical gap acceptance methodology

**Response:** *The critical gap acceptance methodology completed utilized in the Existing and No Build conditions analysis was included in the report. As part of the mitigation for the project, the North Site Driveway is proposed to be included in the signalized intersection of Acushnet Avenue at Ashley Boulevard (Route 18), which would be reconfigured. The critical gap acceptance is no longer a key component to understanding the expected operations of the project site access.*

**5. Comment:** Update the trip generation rates with actual field data and methodology

**Response:** *The traffic impact study has been updated to include the trip generation based on field data collected at the existing Cumberland Farms on Shawmut Avenue in New Bedford, MA and the Tarkiln Hill Car Wash on Tarkiln Hill Road in New Bedford, MA. Trip generation rates were determined using data collected at these existing facilities and the expected trip generation characteristics of the proposed project have been updated using the empirical data. The traffic impact study includes updated traffic analyses with the revised trip generation associated with the site.*

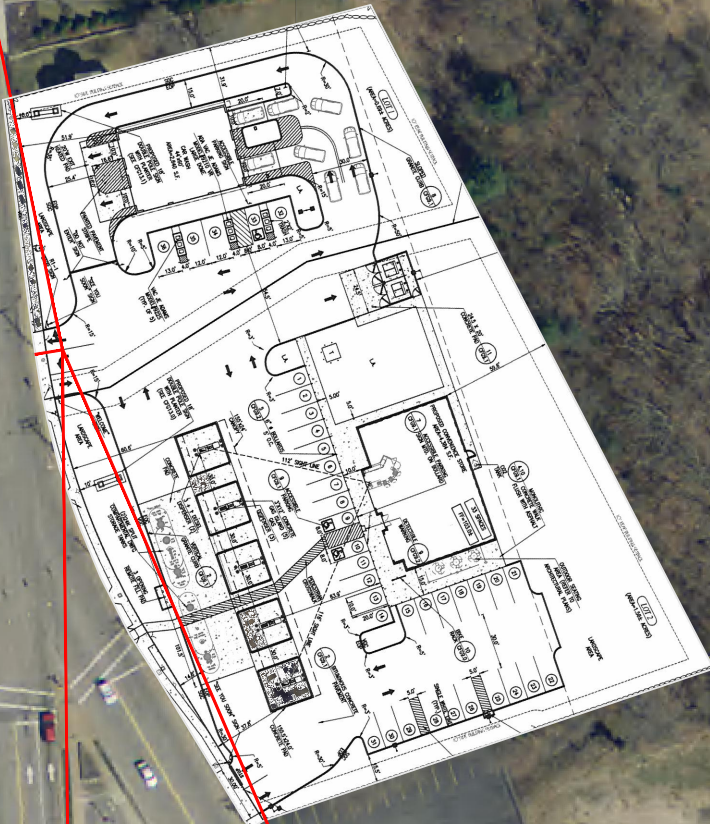
**6. Comment:** Address site access and circulation concerns, and update the design as needed

**Response:** *The project site design has been updated to address site access and circulation concerns. The North Site Driveway has been reconfigured to be included in the signalized intersection of Acushnet Avenue at Ashley Boulevard (Route 18). The proposed project mitigation would result in safer operations at the intersection of Acushnet Avenue at Ashley Boulevard (Route 18) by incorporating Belair Street into the traffic signal. The Cumberland Farms project site driveways are expected to operate in a safe and efficient manner.*

**7. Comment:** Illustrate the intersection sight distance on the site plan

**Response:** *Graphics showing the intersection sight distance on the site plan have been included as an attachment to this memorandum.*

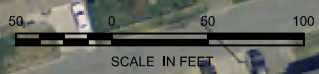
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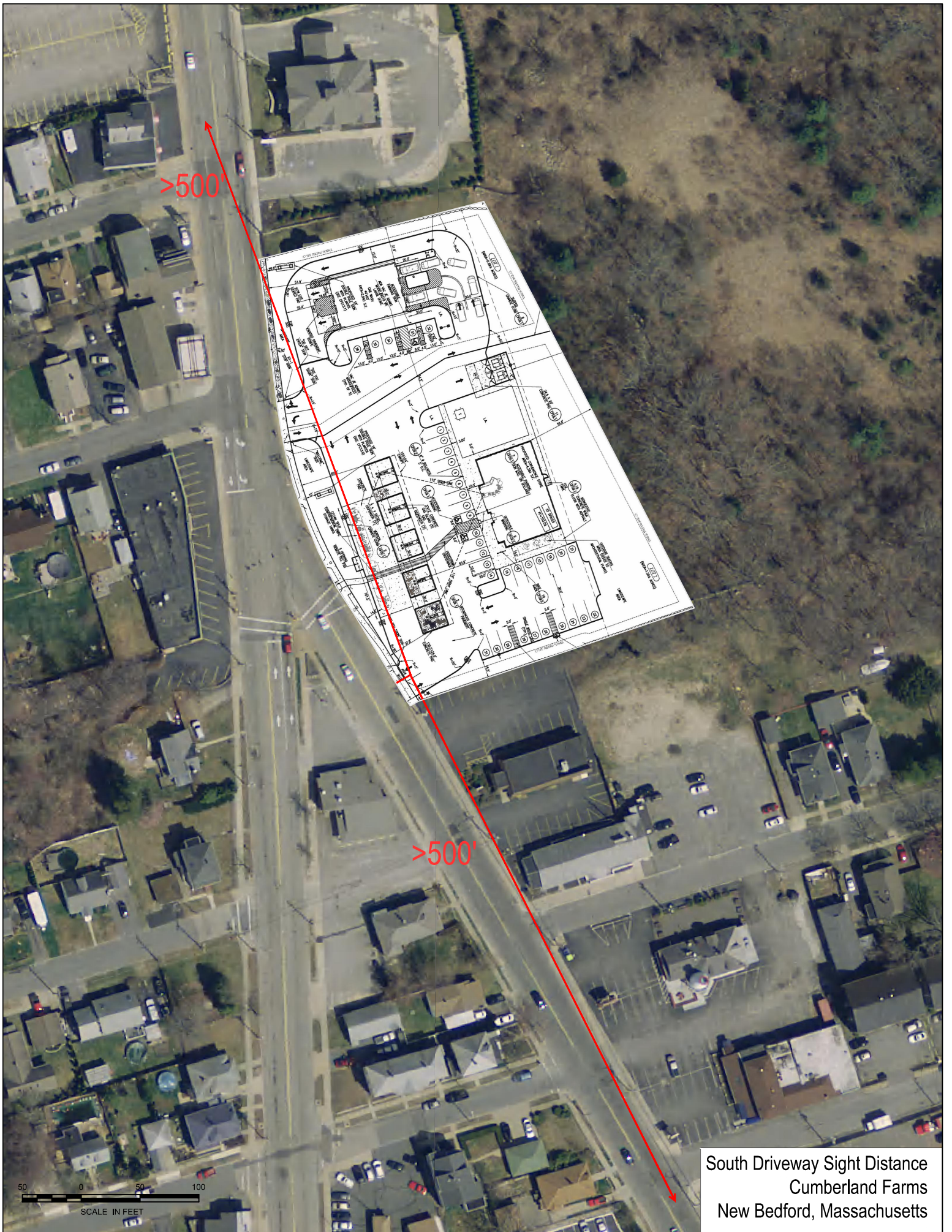


>500'

>500'

North Driveway Sight Distance  
Cumberland Farms  
New Bedford, Massachusetts





>500

>500'

50 0 50 100  
SCALE IN FEET

South Driveway Sight Distance  
Cumberland Farms  
New Bedford, Massachusetts