



**Town of West Newbury**  
**381 Main Street**  
**West Newbury, Massachusetts 01985**

**Angus Jennings, Town Manager**  
**978-363-1100, Ext. 111 Fax 978-363-1826**  
[townmanager@wnewbury.org](mailto:townmanager@wnewbury.org)

TO: Board of Selectmen  
FROM: Angus Jennings, Town Manager  
DATE: August 3, 2018  
RE: Update on Middle Street Bridge meetings with Newburyport Mayor and staff

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On August 1, Gary Bill and I attended another meeting in Newburyport with the Mayor, several Department Heads and staff, and the engineering consultants retained by the City for the Middle Street Bridge project.

The meeting included discussion of the consultant work scope, which is close to being finalized. The City cannot execute a contract with the consultant until receipt of final MDOT authorization pursuant to the Small Bridge Grant Program. This authorization is expected in the near term, and it is clear that the City shares our commitment to advancing this project as expeditiously as possible.

The work scope will include preparation of multiple design concepts, with cost estimates, which will be reviewed in public meetings to be advertised directly to bridge abutters and interested parties.

After discussion, it was agreed to add a property line survey to the work scope in order to establish definitively where the municipal boundary rests, relative to the bridge.

The discussion made clear the many complexities that can be anticipated as the design process moves forward, including related to repair v. replacement, whether to retain or partially replicate the historic nature of the bridge, sub-surface soil conditions, stormwater management in proximity to the reservoir, safety of non-motorized users of the bridge, and the need to meet MDOT standards for lane width, guard rails etc.

As reported at the prior Board of Selectmen meeting, I am confident that the Town of West Newbury will continue to have a seat at the table as this process moves forward in cooperation with the City of Newburyport.

cc: Gary Bill, DPW Director; Michael McCarron, Town Counsel