



**Town of West Newbury**  
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West Newbury, Massachusetts 01985

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TO: Board of Selectmen  
FROM: Angus Jennings, Town Manager  
DATE: November 9, 2018  
RE: Middle Street Bridge, update on design process and anticipated timeline

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As previously reported, now that the City of Newburyport has finalized a scope of work and contract with BSC consulting group, bi-weekly conference calls began in October to ensure coordinated communication as the design process moves forward.

Please find attached the meeting minutes from the most recent conference call on October 31<sup>st</sup>.

I am working with Town staff to prepare mailing labels to facilitate mailed communications to area residents and other interested persons. We expect that conceptual design plans will be delivered in early January and, while we will not yet have good cost estimates due to work that will not proceed until later in the project (including, notably, geotechnical borings, the results of which can be expected to have a major impact on project costs), I suggest that we will likely have enough information to hold an initial local public meeting dedicated to this project.

Based on the anticipated design timeline, and taking into account required MassDOT approvals, it is anticipated that a proposal for construction funding could be brought to an October 2019 Special Town Meeting. Obviously, there will be extensive dialogue between our Town and the City of Newburyport regarding potential cost share; I expect this dialogue to continue at the staff level as we receive additional information such as municipal boundary survey, and will involve the elected leadership of both municipalities as overall project cost estimates become more solid.

When the time comes, there may be an opportunity to secure a MassWorks grant to support West Newbury's share of project costs. If we do pursue this opportunity, my experience suggests that we will be more competitive if we are taking active steps toward implementing our approved Housing Production Plan.

*cc: Gary Bill, Wayne Amaral*

<b>To:</b>	Jon-Eric White, Angus Jennings,	<b>Date:</b>	October 31, 2018
<b>From:</b>	Micah Morrison, Peter Reed	<b>Proj. No.</b>	28395.00
<b>Re:</b>	Progress Meeting 10/31/2018		
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	October 31, 2018	<b>Time:</b>	8:00 am
<b>Place of Meeting:</b>	Conference Call		
<b>Purpose:</b>	Progress of Plummer Spring Bridge project		
<b>List of Attendees:</b>	Jon-Eric White, Angus Jennings, Micah Morrison, Peter Reed, Mark Magowan		

Item	Discussion	Action
Conceptual Design Options	BSC will produce conceptual design options for the City and Town to review internally. A lot of effort goes into these so we're planning to deliver these options in early January. The options will take into account the conditions that exist based on their recent field reconnaissance, most notably the 12-foot deep channel under the bridge. BSC noted that it is unlikely that MassDOT will get involved in the decision making of the various concepts proposed. Traditionally they leave the bridge type up to the municipality and won't get involved until the design phase.	BSC working on conceptual design options
Survey Data	BSC to send Newburyport and West Newbury relevant documents obtained through town line research	BSC to send documents
Town Line Survey	City and Town will provide BSC with whatever documents they have relative to the town boundary location. Jon-Eric noted that his experience is that town lines that follow rivers that were created hundreds of years ago typically do not have metes and bounds, so they are approximate, and simply follow the center of the stream. Jon-Eric clarified that this project is likely similar and that BSC is doing a property line survey based on available info obtained and BSC will provide a location based on their expertise as land surveyors, which in this case could be plus or minus a few feet. This project is not scoped to perform a title-research-level property line survey that is typically performed by real estate attorneys that could cost add'l thousands of dollars.	Newburyport and West Newbury to send BSC available documents
Survey	Forward survey once it is finalized	BSC to send drawings
Public Hearing	Public Hearing to present options will be needed. Public informational meetings/engagements by Newburyport and West Newbury will occur throughout the process. BSC will investigate multiple bridge types and span lengths. The results of the geotechnical borings will significantly impact the construction cost and recommended bridge structure. In accordance with MassDOT requirements the borings will need to occur in very close proximity to the proposed/actual foundation location. A	Borings to occur after a preliminary span length is agreed upon

**ACCURACY NOTICE**

We have sought to record accurately the minutes of this meeting. If any of the above items do not agree with your understanding, please contact us within seven (7) days from the date of this document.

Item	Discussion	Action
	preliminary bridge span will need to be agreed upon to correctly locate the borings.	
West Newbury public meeting for construction funding	It was discussed that an October 2019 meeting would be better because construction is not anticipated until 2020. BSC offered to assist West Newbury in applying for a MassWorks grant which are awarded in October 2019, with the goal of going to Town Meeting knowing how much additional funds will be needed.	West Newbury likely to hold meeting in October 2019
Resiliency – Dam modifications	Jon-Eric brought up that Newburyport is looking into raising the downstream dam to provide greater climate resiliency. Depending on how much the elevation of the dam is raised could have a significant impact on the bridge project. BSC is happy to assist in resiliency effort but would likely need to adjust our fee. In order to determine the magnitude of the impact to the design effort and construction costs BSC would need to know how much the dam is proposed to be raised.	Newburyport to provide BSC with proposed elevation increase to dam

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