



Town of West Newbury

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TO: Select Board
FROM: Angus Jennings, Town Manager
DATE: September 6, 2021
RE: Supplemental info re Middle Street Bridge for OS packet on 9/7/21

On Thursday, Wayne and I had a zoom meeting with our MassWorks grant administrator. We provided an update along the lines of the memo included in the 8/30 and 9/7 OS packets: i.e., that there is a funding gap that would prevent us from awarding a construction contract, but that we continue to work with Newburyport in hopes of closing that gap by securing additional non-local funds, increasing local appropriations, or a combination of both.

We also provided an update on the project's permitting status, and will receive a memo from BSC Group this week setting out the anticipated permitting timeline which projects all permits in-hand this calendar year.

The performance period for the MassWorks grant is 3 years. The first fiscal year was the year the grant was awarded, FY20, so the grant expires at the end of FY22. While the goal at the time the grant was awarded was that the project be fully constructed within that period, this will not be possible. However, if the project is "shovel ready" (i.e. fully permitted, as expected), and full funding has been appropriated to allow us to award a construction contract, this may be sufficient to allow the MassWorks funds to carry forward into FY23. (There are a couple of scenarios where this would be feasible). Our grant manager will review this with the EOHED Asst. Secretary and Secretary in the coming weeks.

In the meantime, we'll continue discussions with Newburyport with the goal of arriving at an updated MOU. We'll also keep our ear to the ground regarding additional potential Federal funding.