



Town of West Newbury

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West Newbury, Massachusetts 01985

Angus Jennings, Town Manager

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TO: Select Board
FROM: Angus Jennings, Town Manager
DATE: May 5, 2023
RE: Middle Street Bridge updates

The following is a summary of the current project status.

- Following receipt of the final remaining permits in the past month or so (MassDOT Ch. 85; and MassDEP Ch. 91), the project is now fully permitted (i.e. “shovel-ready”).
- Total project costs: until recently, we were relying on a total project cost estimate that was more than 2 years old. As we had requested, earlier today, following extensive analysis, BSC Group provided an updated opinion-of-probable-cost. It is included in the meeting packet, and summarized in the table included in this memo.
- Total expenditures to date:
 - MassDOT Small Bridge Grant awarded to Newburyport. The \$500,000 grant was allocated approx.. 50/50 between design and construction. The design funds have been fully drawn down (a couple of years ago, at which point design work started to be funded from the WN MassWorks grant), leaving approx.. \$250k remains available for construction. This grant has been extended until 7/1/24.
 - MassWorks grant awarded to West Newbury. Since the MDOT grant funds were exhausted, this has been the sole source of funding for engineering/permitting. Of the original \$1M award, \$745,540.21 remains. So, between MassWorks and MDOT grants, approx.. \$505k has been expended to date. The Town is in continuing correspondence with MassWorks, and will formally seek an extension of our current grant past the 6/30/23 expiration date; however, there is a strong possibility that we won’t get an extension. If we don’t, we would re-apply for a new MassWorks grant. If this happens, our max grant award may be limited to the remaining balance in our MassWorks grant. This is unclear at this time.
- I am in continuing correspondence with Mayor Reardon, including earlier this week, to determine whether and what amount the City may approve for this project in its FY24 operating or capital budgets. I have expressed to the Mayor that the Town’s interest in seeing Newburyport allocate funds toward this project in FY24 is threefold:
 - This would help us demonstrate to the MassWorks grant administrators that the two communities are working together on, and committed to, the project. This will help us either get another extension (it was already extended by 1 year) or, failing that, successfully obtain a new MassWorks grant in FY24.
 - This would help ensure that the City doesn’t lose its remaining MDOT Small Bridge grant funds at the end of FY24.

- This would help us – jointly – attract new State or Federal funding to fill the funding gap.
- In any scenario, there will be a major funding gap that will need to be filled in order to bring this project to completion. I have previously summarized for the Board multiple potential paths forward, and will be pleased to discuss these further on Tuesday.
- The following summary takes into account project costs, expenses to date, and available appropriations:

Middle Street Bridge, Funding Summary DRAFT of 5/5/23

Project Costs

Construction costs	\$ 3,315,000
Design/Permitting	\$ 550,000
Construction contingency (10%)	\$ 331,500
Resident Engineer	\$ 110,000
Construction Engineering Services	\$ 60,000
TOTAL project costs (est.)	<u>\$ 4,366,500</u>

Available funds

MassDOT Small Bridge grant (expended)	\$ 250,000
MassDOT Small Bridge grant (remaining)	\$ 250,000
MassWorks (expended)	\$ 255,000
MassWorks (remaining)	\$ 745,000
Town Meeting appropriation	\$ 600,000
Newburyport (pending, amt unknown)	TBD
TOTAL funding sources (est.)	<u>\$ 2,100,000</u>
Est. Shortfall	\$ (2,266,500)

Source: Angus Jennings, Town Manager