



# Town of West Newbury

381 Main Street

West Newbury, Massachusetts 01985

Angus Jennings, Town Manager

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TO: Board of Selectmen  
FROM: Angus Jennings, Town Manager  
DATE: May 10, 2019  
RE: Middle Street Bridge

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Please find enclosed the most recent draft bridge plan alternatives, along with relevant recent correspondence.

As noted, we are still awaiting an updated plan alternative reflecting one sidewalk, not two, and will share that with the Board upon receipt.

It should be noted and understood by all parties that these concept plans and preliminary cost estimates are still **preliminary working drafts**. However, we are moving closer to having drafts suitable for presentation in a public meeting. Work is ongoing, with Newburyport, to schedule and plan a joint public meeting to be hosted here in West Newbury, anticipated in June. Once a date is set, we will conduct outreach to West Newbury residents in order to solicit input regarding bridge design.

In parallel, as you know we began work over the winter toward an anticipated MOU between West Newbury and Newburyport. That work has not progressed significantly since the Board's prior review in January, but with our budget season now complete and Newburyport's budget season nearing completion, I've been talking with the Mayor's office about getting those discussions moving forward. Once we have the next draft of design plans and cost estimates, and public input, we should be in a position to get that MOU on track so both communities will have a better basis to plan for the anticipated costs of the bridge.

We are also in discussions with the project engineer BSC regarding engaging their pro bono assistance to pursue a grant to support construction costs.

It should be understood that the permitting associated with this project is very substantial, and will take quite a while (est. 6-12 months). Until permitting is complete, we will not fully understand project costs that may result from permitting requirements, required mitigation, etc., so I will recommend that we not bring this to Town Meeting for funding authorization until we're closer to an accurate cost number. At this point, I anticipate that this would be brought to the 2020 Annual Town Meeting.