

Meeting with Select Board, Highway, and Engineer - Minutes 1-9-17 11am

In attendance: Select Board member Beth Bandy, Sarah Reynolds, Toby Gould; Highway Superintendent Gordon Hathaway; Gill Engineering Dan Crovo; Town Administrator Peg Dean

Meeting called to order at 11:11 am

For discussion during this meeting was how to approach pursuing a grant for the long bridge under the TIGER grant. The Select Board started by thanking Gill for their work for the Town.

They started by outlining the current condition of the bridge. The deck is probably the biggest issue, and should be completely replaced. The abutments have issues. The project would need to address the superstructure, beams and deck. The bridge evaluation's projected costs for repairs was from perspective of what could be done repair what was there.

If a TIGER grant was successful and funded, the Town would want to consider a whole new set of beams, precast concrete onto existing piers to add a cantilever that then extend the bridge for bike lanes and pedestrian lanes. An example of a bridge down near Bridgewater, MA, did like what the Town could do, widened the bridge without changing the foundation, tied into the bridge, without a joint in between them.

There was discussion about whether it was possible for Complete Streets to ease regulations for rural areas. The Select Board discussed how the only appropriate project for Complete Streets is the long bridge. Can safety justify the need for Complete Streets funds? Per Gill, it's an issue of accommodation and safety. Highway's concern is how easy would the changes be to maintain?

New steel beams and deck last at least 75 years with little or no maintenance. The cost is considerable, \$6 – 8M. As is repair is approx. \$2 – 2.5M. Gill believes it would be a better value to replace the superstructure. Described how the timeline could look. Dan gave an example of North Adams bridge construction, single alternating lane on Route 2. It could be a two-year job, potentially. Gill has experience in accelerated construction, depending on funds available. The project coordination would need to be mindful of trains blocking traffic, busses crossing can cause a half hour delay on bridge. Could Pan Am coordinate times?

The Select Board discussed approaching Mass DOT about whether there is any way to partner, using the Transportation Improvement Program as a match or using Complete Streets funds. Do they consider including other bridges? If criteria are economic impacts, Zoar Bridge may be the other bridge to consider. Gill could provide a cost estimate for a few thousand dollars.

The Select Board would need to vote on preliminary engineering costs.

Does the FRCOG have any idea of funds available for bike lanes outside of Complete Streets?

Meeting adjourned at 12:34pm

Respectfully submitted by Peg Dean

Draft minutes until approved by Select Board