

# Article 12 – Authorization for Debt Exclusion – West Main Street Bridge Replacement

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# West Main St Bridge

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- Project Scope: Replace existing stone bridge on West Main Street over Nonacoicus Brook
- Original bridge construction estimated late 1800s
- Replacement required; rehabilitation not viable
  - Severe loss, cracking, deterioration of concrete
  - Separation of walls
  - Settlement
- Approximately 8,000 vehicles per day

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- History in brief:
  - Shirley Street Bridge closed due to spot collapses; West Main Street inspected because it's similar construction
  - Project funded by Town Meeting for \$1.23M and Town obtained \$500,000 Small Bridge Grant from MassDOT
  - Complete design/permitting/MassDOT Ch85 review, bid project and results greater than \$1M over budget
  - Since bidding: Working with MassDOT, bridge consultants, state representatives, other advisors to seek gap funding and evaluate alternatives



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- Funding in brief:

- Cost Estimate (includes construction, soft costs, and contingency):  
\$4,500,000

- Current Available Funding:

Remaining from local appropriation: \$1,000,000

Reinstated Small Bridge Grant: \$500,000

- Funding Required:

\$3,000,000

- Please note, the Town continues to seek alternative funding sources.  
Alternative funding sources would be used to reduce the local funding utilized for the project.

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- Impact on average residential tax:
  - The funding request at \$3.0M would add **\$63** to the average **FY2024 residential tax bill** in Ayer
- Schedule if approved by Town Meeting and ballot:
  - Already reestablishing any expired permits
  - After permits reestablished, begin bidding process
  - Aim to begin construction before end of 2023, majority of work 2024 (big variable = supplies / fabrication of bridge)