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



 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

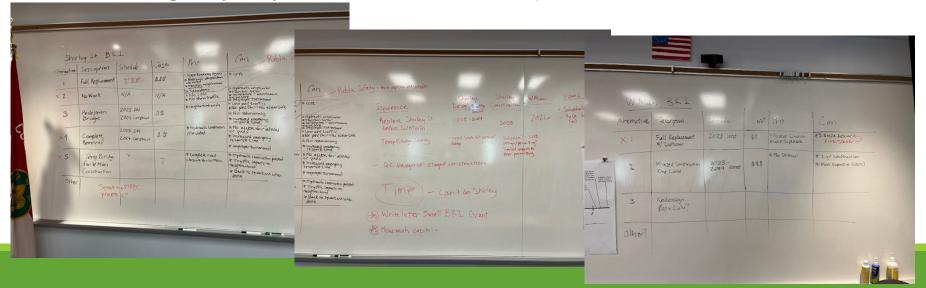




•History in brief:

- 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

- •In 2022, DPW convenes meeting with various stakeholders and advisors to discuss project
- Consensus is to replace bridge expeditiously as already designed and permitted
 - Main factors include high potential for bridge closure and 5.8-mile detour route causes disconnection of regional access (including emergency response and school buses)



- •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.

<u>Alternative funding sources would be used to reduce the local funding utilized</u> for the project.

- •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)