

# TOWN OF WINCHENDON

Office of  
**Board of Selectmen**



Office Hours:  
Monday - 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.  
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Telephone: (978) 297-0085  
Fax: (978) 297-1616

**109 Front Street, Dept. 1  
Winchendon, Massachusetts 01475-1758**

March 14, 2022

Daniel J. Sund  
Massachusetts Department of Transportation  
District 2 Bridge Engineer  
811 North King St.  
Northampton, MA 01060

**Re: Letter of Support - Town of Winchendon Municipal Small Bridge Grant Application**

Dear Mr. Sund,

As Chair of the Board of Selectmen we write today to offer our full support of the Town of Winchendon's application for the MassDOT Municipal Small Bridge Grant Program. We believe that this funding would be crucial to assisting the Town of Winchendon in the replacement of the existing undersized bridge on Mill Circle, over the White's Mill Pond outlet.

Currently, the existing metal bridge is deformed, and the span of 15'-1" is inadequate for current and future storms. In addition, the existing guardrail system is inadequate and does not meet modern safety standards, causing concern regarding structural capacity from the Town of Winchendon. Replacing the existing structure would significantly exceed the funding that the town could provide and its replacement is vital for ensuring residents continue to receive emergency, sanitation, school bus pickup and drop-off, and home heating delivery services. The Town believes that addressing these deficiencies are critical before a road closure is required.

The proposed replacement would have a minimum span of 20'-0" that would allow for increased hydraulic capacity, as well as environmental benefits. If the structure were to be replaced, it would result in numerous improvements relative to traffic and pedestrian safety, climate resiliency, shared aid for neighboring communities, and the elimination of the need for inspections and monitoring by the town.

The funding provided by the Municipal Small Bridge Grant Program would be critical to delivering the successful replacement and completion of this project, thereby helping to improve the safety and economic vitality of the town. In closing, we once again would like to offer our full support for this project, and we look forward to working with the Town of Winchendon to see this project successfully completed.

Sincerely,

Audrey LaBrie, Chair  
Board of Selectmen