

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

CITY OF LOWELL

In City Council

RESOLUTION

The City Council of the City of Lowell wishes to be recorded in support of fully funding the Bond Bill relative to the design and construction of a new permanent bridge to replace the thirty year old “temporary” Rourke Bridge in Lowell, MA.

In 2007, in developing the Regional Transportation Plan, City of Lowell officials identified Merrimack River crossing deficiencies as being a high priority;

The City requested that a new, updated feasibility study be undertaken examining the potential for replacing the temporary Rourke Bridge with a larger, permanent structure;

A feasibility study was complete in November of 2013 at a cost of \$562,439;

The construction of a new bridge is vital to the public safety of the City of Lowell, as it provides direct vehicle access to Lowell General Hospital, a major trauma center that serves the entire Greater Lowell area;

The construction of a larger, permanent structure is a regional issue that affects neighboring towns which heavily utilize the existing Rourke Bridge to access U.S. Route 3, Route 113, Route 110, and Route 3A;

A permanent larger bridge would improve traffic not only in the City of Lowell, but would also provide easier access to neighboring towns north of the River, and would enhance connections to the region’s highway network, decrease commuter delays for the region’s workforce, and improve delivery times for goods and services needed by area businesses, thereby improving economic development in the region as a whole;

The current Rourke Bridge is one of only a few bridges that provide a crossing of the Merrimack River, with the next crossing to the north being located six miles away in Tyngsborough;

Accordingly, the Lowell City Council wishes to be recorded in support of fully funding the Rourke Bridge project in the Transportation Bond Bill relative to the design and construction of a new permanent bridge to replace the thirty year old “temporary” Rourke Bridge in Lowell, MA.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LOWELL as follows:

That we, the members of the City Council of the City of Lowell wish to be recorded in support of fully funding the Rourke Bridge project in the Transportation Bond Bill relative to the design and construction of a new permanent bridge to replace the thirty year old “temporary” Rourke Bridge in Lowell, MA.

Submitted by:

CITY COUNCIL - CITY OF LOWELL

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