

VILLAGE BRIDGE AD HOC COMMITTEE STATUS REPORT

(December 16, 2025)

COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

- Paula Bedard, Chair, Community-at-large member
- Andrew Cadorette, Community-at-large member
- Tina Lawton, Scribe, Goffstown Main Street Program Representative
- Joshua Douglas, Select Board Representative
- Dick Bruno, Economic Development Council Representative
- Cynthia Boisvert, Goffstown Rotary Club Representative
- Vacant, Friends of the Goffstown Rail Trail Representative
(David Pierce served until 9/2/25)
- Vacant, Parks and Recreations Commission Representative
- Vacant, Conservation Commission Representative

ABOUT THE VILLAGE BRIDGE AD HOC COMMITTEE (2024 - 2025)

The mission of this Committee was to follow through on the Next Steps detailed in the Final Report of the Village Piscataquog River Pedestrian Bridge Ad Hoc Committee, presented to the Goffstown Select Board in 2021 for constructing a pedestrian bridge across the river in the location of the old railroad bridge that was destroyed by fire in 1976.

The Select Board extended the charter of this Committee for a two (2) year period to accomplish the following additional tasks:

- Support a Town application for a NHDOT Transportation Alternative Program Grant (TAP) as the primary funding source for construction of the pedestrian bridge in the Fall 2024; and
- Collaborate with and support the Friends of the Goffstown Rail Trail in outreach and soliciting of donations for the construction of the pedestrian bridge; and
- Continue working with the Town to seek other grant funding opportunities.

These additional tasks and the extension of this Ad Hoc Committee Charter shall not be construed in any manner to bind the Select Board to request budget appropriations for the construction of a future pedestrian bridge. Appropriation requests by the Select Board shall be decided on a year-to-year basis considering all fiscal needs confronting the Town, using the budget process defined in NH RSA 32.

TAP GRANT STATUS UPDATE

In August 2025, NH DOT announced the projects that would be funded through the Round 5 Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) grant. The Goffstown Pedestrian Bridge project was **not** one of the projects was chosen to be funded through this Round 5 TAP grant.

Out of the 32 projects that submitted applications for the Round 5 TAP grants, 17 were partially or totally funded through this program. The Goffstown Pedestrian Bridge project was ranked 23rd and therefore, did not receive this grant award.

More details on the state-wide project rankings are on the [NH DOT TAP web page](#) which states: *“There were 32 TAP Projects submitted to the Department and of those 17 were recommended based on available funding and scoring criteria. Those 17 projects were added to the draft 2027 thru 2036 State Ten Year Plan. The State Ten Year Plan process will be finalized in the summer of 2026. If the 17 proposed TAP projects are approved in the finalized Ten Year Plan, funding for engineering could begin as early as fiscal year 2027.”*

This committee is interested in re-applying for a TAP grant during the next TAP grant round, which is 2028.

BRIDGE DESIGN ESTIMATES

In September 2025, at the request of this committee, Goffstown Town Administrator reached out to the following 3 engineering firms for rough budget estimates on the cost a pedestrian bridge design. Below is the information these engineering firms recently provided (at no cost to the Town for these ballpark estimates). Note that these rough estimates are for the bridge *design only* not construction.

Engineering Firm	Design-only Estimate	Details
VHB (Vanasse, Hangen & Brustlin)	\$200 to \$350K	See memo. " VHB estimates a range of \$200,000 to \$350,000 for programming purposes of engineering costs."
Fuss & Oneill Inc.	\$250k to \$300k	– "... I heard back from our lead bridge designer Jaime French. She said if you're just looking for rough numbers for engineering preliminary through final design, she would say \$250k to \$300k . We would have to do more leg work to come up with something more detailed."
Hoyle, Tanner & Associates	\$180K	This firm reiterated the bridge design budget estimate they provided to us back in December 2021. At that time, their estimate for a pedestrian bridge design was approximately \$110K. Using a standard metric of projected cost increase from the year 2021 to 2025, a realistic estimate for that same bridge design work for the year 2025 would be approximately \$180K .

RECOMMENDATIONS

This committee recommends that the Select Board approves and endorses this committee to move forward, with a new, revised or amended Charter, for accomplishing the following:

- Continuing to research and apply for grant opportunities (such as TAP, CMAQ, SS4A and others) for designing and constructing a pedestrian bridge.

NOTE: The next TAP round grant opportunity is 2028.

- Develop and implement a Town-approved capital fundraising\pledge campaign to cover the % match required for TAP and or other grants. (For example, TAP requires a 20% match.)

NOTE: The Friends of the Goffstown Rail Trail (FGRT) organization (a 501c3) does agree to be the fiscal agent for funds\donations acquired through a Town-approved capital campaign, if the Select Board approves this course of action.

- Develop an MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) between the Friends of the Goffstown Rail Trail and the Town within the next 6 months to clarify and specify aspects of receiving and managing these donations.

[END]