STATE OF MAINE<br>DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

IN RE REPLACEMENT OF THE FRANK J. WOOD BRIDGE

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Public Meeting At The SMCC Mid-Coast Campus

Reported by Robin J. Dostie, a Notary Public and court reporter in and for the State of Maine, on April 5, 2017, at the SMCC Mid-Coast Campus, LL Bean Learning Commons and Health Science Center, 29 Sewall Street, Brunswick, Maine, commencing at 6:00 p.m.

REPRESENTING THE STATE:
JOEL KITTREDGE
FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION: CHERYL MARTIN CASSIE CHASE

## TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

MS. MARTIN: Okay. It's 6 o'clock, so I think we will get started. Good evening and welcome to the open house public meeting for the Frank J. Wood Bridge project. Before we get started, I did want to point out that there are restrooms down this hall here and the exits are very well marked at various locations around the room.

My name is Cheryl Martin and I'm the Assistant Division Administrator from the Federal Highway Administration Division located in Augusta. The Federal Highway Administration is the lead federal agency for this project and we use the National Environmental Policy Act or NEPA process to inform our decision concerning identification of a preferred alternative. As part of this process, we have compiled information concerning various alternatives for both rehabilitation and replacement of the structure. This information, which is available on MaineDOT's website and as handouts tonight, includes engineering costs and the environmental impacts for each alternative.

The purpose of this meeting is to obtain your input, comments, concerns and thoughts regarding all aspects of the project as we contemplate the
preferred alternative. Examples of subjects that we want your input on include environmental impacts to natural resources and historic properties, bicycle and pedestrian access, design and cost consideration. However, again, we are accepting comments on any aspect of the project.

The format of this meeting is an open house and I would like to invite Cassie Chase, Maine Division Environmental Engineer, to explain the meeting format and how you can submit comments on the project.

MS. CHASE: Good evening everybody and welcome to the Frank J. Wood public meeting. My name is Cassie Chase and I'm an Environmental Engineer with Federal Highway Administration's Maine Division office. As Cheryl just mentioned, we believe the best way to hear your comments and get your input on the Frank J. Wood Bridge project is to have this public meeting beginning with a brief presentation followed by an open house. The presentation, which Joel will be giving in just a moment, will go over the alternatives currently being analyzed by MaineDOT and Federal Highway. Instead of answering questions immediately following the presentation the presentation will be followed by an open house and

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tonight we have stations organized by theme, which you probably or maybe saw when you came in tonight, which provides you all with an opportunity to engage in one-on-one discussions with MaineDOT and Federal Highway team members. So some of the stations that we have here tonight are Historic Resources, Natural Resources to talk about the fish and wildlife impacts. We have a Design station and there are folks there that can also help answer questions on existing bridge conditions. And we have a Bicycle and Pedestrian station. So technical MaineDOT, Federal Highway and consultant staff are at each of those tables. You can recognize them because they all should have a name tag and just after the presentation feel free to float around and ask questions at that time.

We also have a Comment station, which I'll be standing at with David after this, and we invite you to provide comment. We have comment sheets here tonight, you can fill them out and we have a comment box that you can drop them in. You can also go to MaineDOT's website. We have that link up. There are various areas in this room tonight that have that link, so you can go and provide those there. We have a court reporter here, so if you would prefer to

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voice your comments in a verbal format you can provide those to her. She'll be sitting right over here and those comments will become part of the project record. And we're accepting comments until April 19. All comments that we receive, we're going to post on MaineDOT's website and responses to substantive comments will also be posted there.

Lastly, before handing over the presentation to Joel, if you haven't signed-in, we encourage you to sign-in. There is a sign-in table right up front there, that way we can get an estimate of how many people are attending and so, Joel, I will turn it over to you now. Thanks.

MR. KITTREDGE: Thank you, Cassie, Cheryl. Good evening everybody. My name is Joel Kittredge. I'm a Project Manager with the Maine Department of Transportation out of the Augusta office. As Cassie said, this will be a short presentation --

AUDIENCE MEMBER: We can't hear you. AUDIENCE MEMBER: Speak up.

MR. KITTREDGE: As Cassie said, this will be a short presentation. The goal is just to revisit the project overall and to highlight what we've done, where we're at with our analysis, all of the work that's been done to date.

So with that, this first slide is just showing us the general location overall. You can see obviously Bowdoin on one side -- excuse me, Topsham on one side, Brunswick on the other, Fort Andross, Brookfield Power generating station, Sea Dog, Cabot Mill, et cetera, et cetera. Frank J. Wood Bridge, everybody here -- that's familiar to everybody in this room, I've got to believe. It's a three span truss roughly 800 feet in total length.

AUDIENCE MEMBER: Can you speak up, please?
MR. KITTREDGE: Three span truss roughly 800 feet in total length. The project bridge was built in 1931. 86 years of age.

This evening both now for this presentation right now that $I$ am going through and then after this presentation and as you walk around the room, especially the Design Station in the back, it will be key, we have some terms here that I'd just like to go over. If you look at the graphic here the nomenclature of the superstructure is everything we'll just call it. The superstructure is above the piers and the abutments, so it's this green area in total here. The floor system and the deck system are highlighted here, which is part of the superstructure, if you will, for our purposes this
evening. And then the concrete items here and the pier, the abutments, and they are below -- they are below the truss. The overall green structural portion of the bridge itself.

More nomenclature. This is key, again, drilling down at the station in the back of the room there. Existing structural condition, we'll talk about the stringers. These longitudinal members here. The needle beams are transverse members here. Lateral bracing. X-cross frames here. Floor beams or transverse members. And the sidewalk truss itself -- excuse me, no, that's the -- yeah, the sidewalk truss, I'm sorry. The sidewalk truss itself with the -- as part of the truss itself. These are all structural members here that are key to evaluating the existing bridge and what we're trying to achieve here with a replacement or a rehabilitation. Again, this is a side view looking at the truss itself. Utility brackets. This is the roadway truss. The floor. The grid. The needle beams. So, again, this is just another way to look at this up close and personal from the profile that I showed you earlier.

Project background information. The existing configuration, the geometry of the existing
structure is two 11 foot travel lanes with 4 foot shoulders. The shoulders consist of a 2 foot paved section with a 2 foot open grid portion. Also, the 5 foot sidewalk, which is on the upstream side. And, again, for the purposes of this here just remember as you're looking at this, transverse, this is the floor beam. The stringers are running into and out of the paving and the sidewalk brackets and stringers on this side, the Brookfield side.

Just backing up here, MaineDOT inspects our bridges every two years. On a bridge of this particular nature, it's a truss type structure, we call this a non-redundant structure. It's got fracture critical details, which we're especially concerned with. In 2012 and 2014 , we did a routine and fracture critical inspection of the bridge and at that point in time the deck and superstructure were rated fair. In June of 2016 , we did another inspection. At this time, the deck and superstructure condition was rated poor and the condition and deterioration at that point in time dictated to us that we should go out there and do a special inspection in August. And a big upshot of that inspection there, which was the result of a special inspection where our engineers went out there
and went all over the bridge, it's posted for 25 tons in response to that inspection results thereof. And, again, it's posted for 25 tons and I think these photos speak for themselves. Very poor condition. They're in poor condition, not very poor condition. They're in poor condition. That is for, you know, that is today right there and what we have now the existing condition.

That takes us to the current maintenance project to address the conditions right now as they are today. We need to provide repairs to maintain the 25 ton weight limit that we have now. The project that is going out -- that is actually out, which they will be starting construction on eminent -- the eminent start here is a short-term five year fix. That project is going out the door. It's out there. The contractor is ready to line up. It's going to take 42 days of closure with construction complete this May 19. And, again, this is just to maintain the 25 ton posting.

Environmental considerations on our projects, historic resources. Frank J. Wood is a contributing resource to the National Register Eligible and listed properties and districts. There are parks and recreational areas involved in this,
the River Walk part, recreational areas, there is Anniversary Park as well. Endangered species, there is fish, shad. What is the regular fish there I'm trying to remember.

AUDIENCE MEMBER: Sturgeon. MR. KITTREDGE: Thank you. Sturgeon.

Sturgeon and shad that we're concerned with. Impacts to fisheries of course. Impacts to the Androscoggin River. And of course the environmental considerations all have to be taken into account with our public process, which is the current public process, which is ongoing.

And I think I skipped a slide there folks. I may have to go back and I apologize. The current maintenance project. Okay. A long-term solution is needed, but we're doing the maintenance fix now. Address the poor structural conditions and load capacity issues separate from the 25 ton project that we're doing right now as part of the maintenance project. So we're here -- the purpose and need, what are we going to do for a long-term fix? We need to address the poor structure conditions and load capacity issues and we need to talk about bicycle and pedestrian use, mobility and safety concerns.

There we go. Environmental considerations

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for this purpose and need on this project, this long-term project that we're trying to establish here, the right thing to do here $I$ just went through.

Moving along to other considerations.
Construction duration, how long is it going to take depending on what the fix is, if it's a rehabilitation or if it's a replacement. What are the traffic impacts, what are the impacts to folks trying to get from one side of the river to the other depending on what the fix might be. Utility impacts, what needs to be moved, what's there now, what are the long-term build-outs the needs of Brookfield. Right of way impacts, depending on if it's rehabilitation or replacement how many properties are affected and what are those impacts. The construction cost of course, that goes without saying. And a life cycle cost, which are project costs that are taken forward into the future and then brought back to a net present value with a discount rate applied.

AUDIENCE MEMBER: Can you tell us what the difference is between the construction cost and the life cycle cost?

MR. KITTREDGE: I think what you'll see as I go through the slides --

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AUDIENCE MEMBER: No, I don't mean the numbers, I mean the concepts.

MR. KITTREDGE: After the meeting, after this presentation, we'll be able to talk in depth about any questions that you may or may not -- that you may have about that kind of thing, so I guess I would ask that perhaps we wait until after the presentation and go to the stations. Thank you.

So the five preliminary design Alternatives 1 through 5, a new bridge on existing alignment, a new bridge on a curved upstream alignment, rehabilitation of the existing bridge, rehabilitation of the existing bridge with an added second sidewalk and we did take a look at a new alignment downstream of the existing structure.

So this graphic here shows what I just talked about, Alternatives 1 through 5. And, again, 1, 3, and 4 are on-alignment in some fashion, either a rehabilitation or a replacement on that alignment or the curved upstream alignment or downstream alignment.

Okay. Alternative 1, new bridge on existing alignment. It's a geometry. For any of these replacement structures, whether it's on existing alignment or on upstream or downstream, the
geometry -- the horizontal geometry is the same. It's 11 foot travel lanes with 5 foot shoulders and 2 5 foot sidewalks and barrier rail.

Thank you. New bridge on existing
alignment, construction duration is $31 / 2$ years and that could be broken up between the actual time to build the temporary structure and the time to construct the bridge itself. Traffic impacts, on-site temporary detour. Utility impacts, we have to relocate existing utilities to the new bridge. Construction cost for on-alignment $\$ 16$ million. Life cycle cost, $\$ 16.7$ million. And the cumulative service lifetime cost for this alternative was not pursued.

Alternative 2, a new bridge on curved upstream alignment. Again, as I said before, the geometry is the same, same width, same travel way, shoulders and 2 sidewalks, two 5 foot sidewalks. I will say that as far as these replacement alternatives, this geometry here as it's shown is 11 and 5. There is some possibility of changes in the geometry especially with regards to the sidewalk and the barrier. The barrier, if you will, I know that the Design Advisory Committee staffed by both sides of the river have been very active in trying to come
up with some creative solutions and enhanced widths and I think there has been some progress on that and so that's why you see 11, 5 and 5, 5 foot sidewalks. I believe there is some room for expansion, but that's in the event of replacement.

Next slide, please. And this is a graphic for that. Again, this is five span structure. Looking down, that's pretty much self-explanatory. This is the other graphic we have. You'll note this does show a bump-out. This bump-out was shown some time ago. This is one of the things that we had put forward back in April of last year. A bump-out was something that was, you know, a possibility. Just another thing that perhaps would be a good amenity to any kind of a replacement structure. And, again, I think if you talk to folks on the DAC, Design Advisory Committee, they've been very active, very creative, so I urge you folks to reach out for further conversation and find out what has been done. Pursued.

Next slide. Alternative 2, new bridge on curved upstream alignment. Construction duration is 2 1/2 years. Traffic impacts, this is -- we're going to maintain traffic on the existing structure so that this will be a good thing in that case. Utility
impacts, we have to relocate existing utilities to the new bridge.

AUDIENCE MEMBER: Please speak up.
MR. KITTREDGE: Sure. I apologize.
AUDIENCE MEMBER: Closer to the microphone.
MR. KITTREDGE: Okay. I won't move my head. I'll stay right here. Right of way impacts to three properties. Right of way impacts, three properties affected for a curved upstream alignment. Construction costs are $\$ 13$ million. The life cycle cost is $\$ 13.7$ million and a cumulative service lifetime cost of $\$ 17.3$ million.

Next slide, please. Rehabilitation of the existing bridge. Proposed section. Okay. This is Alternate Number 3. Again, as I talked before, your floor beams, your stringers in and out. This is your deck itself. This is your sidewalk. Your sidewalk support. With the rehabilitation of the existing bridge you would -- there would be one sidewalk to remain on the bridge, but the floor beams and the stringers and the needle beams and the deck itself would all be removed and replaced. The chord -truss chords and some of the cover plates on the chord would be replaced and/or improved and repaired, so this is a major, major rehabilitation of this
existing structure.
Rehabilitation of the existing bridge.
Again, as $I$ said, it would have a new deck. New deck here, new floor beams, new stringers, sidewalk support, framing repairs on the truss itself, bottom chord repair and of course the entire bridge would need to be painted. Further on rehabilitation of the existing bridge, construction duration of three years. The traffic impacts would be an on-site temporary detour. This rehabilitation of the existing structure does not address the mobility nor safety concerns. Construction cost estimated at \$15 million. Life cycle cost at almost $\$ 21$ million. And if you talk about the cumulative service lifetime cost it's at $\$ 35$ million.

Sir, I see you waiving your hand, but what we'll do is we'll address those questions after this presentation. Thank you.

Alternate 4, rehabilitation of the existing bridge with an added sidewalk. Alternative Number 4 is everything that we just described to you in Number 3 with the addition of a downstream sidewalk. I think the -- that's really pretty much the major difference is that does have the added sidewalk and to allow for that additional second sidewalk it would
use a light-weight bridge deck. This would not be just your standard concrete -- reinforced concrete bridge deck, but it would be a special light-weight deck configuration. Alternative 4 is a rehab with a second sidewalk. Construction duration of three years. The traffic impacts, we would have the on-site temporary detour. $\$ 17$ million construction cost, $\$ 23.2$ million life cycle cost and a cumulative service lifetime cost of $\$ 38.2$ million.

This graphic here, again, just to get us back to where we started with the five alternatives. And with that, that concludes the presentation.

MS. MARTIN: Okay. Thanks, Joel. The presentation portion of the meeting is over and I invite and encourage you to visit the various stations throughout the room. MaineDOT, FHWA and consultant staff are available to answer your specific questions and please provide your comments on the project by your method of choice. Thank you for coming.
(Whereby several audience members spoke simultaneously voicing displeasure in the process.)

## COMMENTS FOR THE RECORD

AUDIENCE MEMBER: Christine Macchi. I have a business next to the Frank Wood Bridge for 17 years
called Maine Fiber Arts and I'm in favor of keeping the current structure and rehabbing the existing bridge. And I am shocked and appalled that citizens who came out tonight were not encouraged to use the microphone to speak so that we could learn from them. AUDIENCE MEMBER: Hi. My name a Hugh

Maynard. I live in Bath. I cross over the Green Bridge often and I think this whole public -- it's not a public meeting. They call it an open house. It's bullshit. It was advertised as a public meeting. The format is terrible. It is counterproductive. These people want answers. They want to hear it in -- the whole room wants to hear answers to the same questions. Many of these questions are not argumentative. We're trying to find out what the terminology means. We're trying to figure out what, you know, what the project is. It is useful to go around to these stations, but the whole thing is a travesty. An absolute travesty. I don't know why we -- people have said we could have gotten this information online, that's right, but we're not here to get information online. We're here to hear answers. We're here to have our input not -AUDIENCE MEMBER: (Christine Macchi.) From the community.

AUDIENCE MEMBER: (Hugh Maynard.) -- from the community, not one by one going around the room. We've got well over 100 people here. We don't want to have to say the same thing over and over.

AUDIENCE MEMBER: Hi. My name is Henry D'Alesandris. And I think that because the historic significance of the mills on both sides of the bridge and the mill and the bridge itself we should keep all of that. Brunswick has a habit of getting rid of things that they shouldn't. We got rid of the high school. It was only 50 years old. I mean, I've watched these shows in Britain and I travel a lot. Every town has got something historical. They have to pay a little extra to keep it, but they have it and it's an attraction. People come to see that and we need to do something to keep this bridge. We really need it. It's a beautiful piece of construction and please let's do whatever we can to keep it. Don't worry about the -- we shouldn't worry about the money all of the time. Thank you.

AUDIENCE MEMBER: (Robin Brooks.) This was the most undemocratic forum I've ever attended. I'm appalled at the way the MaineDOT silenced public. Thank you.

AUDIENCE MEMBER: Hi. My name is Steve

Stern. I'm a party to the 106 process and the last time we met, which I couldn't go to because I seem to be working of the time, but we were told by Cassie that she would get information to us before the meeting -- more than one day before the meeting. Yesterday $I$ received the itemized report from the MDOT. I don't think that's very fair. We don't have time to evaluate any of the data as we come in in an appropriate time frame. That's all I have.

AUDIENCE MEMBER: Hi. My name is Steve Hinchman, $H-I-N-C-H-M-A-N$. I am an attorney for the Friends of the Frank J. Wood Bridge and I want to voice a protest that the format of this hearing as it is preventing the public from having a dialogue. I have been approached by at least six people saying they wanted to hear the back and the forth $Q$ and $A$ so they can be better informed and understand what the issues of concern were with regard to specifics, for example, bike and pedestrian access and the cost of the bridge, the assumptions that go into the cost, those are just some examples so that people have been looking in detail that have questions as the questions are answered the rest of the public would be better informed. The format of this meeting has deprived people of that and many, many people are
complaining to me asking what can I do as a lawyer, so I just want to go on record as saying this format seems to be intentionally designed to suppress public dialogue and minimize criticisms and comment. Thank you.

AUDIENCE MEMBER: I just wanted to add one thing. Henry D'Alesandris. You know, a friend of mine just said to me, you know, they show these pictures of all of the rust on the bridge and everything and they talk about it and say it really needs to be replaced, but, you know, if you have two teeth in your head that you need to pull out you don't pull them all out just because you've got two bad teeth, you know what I mean. There is things that they can fix on that bridge that they should to maintain it. And the other thing is that, you know, we feel a little railroaded here because you come to this public meeting and you want to hear the questions that everyone else has, but the way they set it up with these stations that you have to go around and talk to all of these experts, but nobody hears what the questions are. Nobody hears it, so they're really trying to keep us from communicating with each other, which I think is a very bad thing.

AUDIENCE MEMBER: Arlene Morris. I live

Brunswick and I own a historic commercial building in Topsham that abuts the bridge. I just think the process today is unbelievable to not let people talk and hear. I joined the Friends of the Frank Wood -of the Frank J. Bridge and we've been meeting for over a year, we've been following all of your -- all of the notes that come out of the MDOT and I cannot believe that you didn't give us an opportunity to tell people what we know. We know a lot. And it's just ridiculous. I'm just -- I'm just totally offended.

AUDIENCE MEMBER: John Graham. I am deeply disappointed in the format tonight. I was looking forward to hearing -- to making statements and hearing public dialogue on the bridge itself. I understand the idea of going after and having some questions answered, but I think there should have been a bit of public comment back and forth and some answers done before they did that and I believe they should try to do this meeting over so that we can have that opportunity before they close out
decisions. And finally, I would like to state in the public record I am all for rehabilitation.

AUDIENCE MEMBER: My name is Wallace
Pinfold. And I came out this evening expecting a

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public meeting rather than just a flat statement. I thought there would be people, engineers, designers, whatever to answer public questions, but I see that that hasn't happened. I don't know what the federal government's intentions was, but it looks like its mind is made up and had decided to suppress all public curiosity by giving a set presentation. So that's what I have to say.

THE REPORTER: Thank you.
AUDIENCE MEMBER: (Wallace Pinfold.)
Certainly.
AUDIENCE MEMBER: Cathy Leonard. I'd like to request that this be done again with an opportunity for the public to ask questions in a general venue where everyone gets to hear the answers from the folks who are spread around the room. This is extremely disappointing. Thank you.

AUDIENCE MEMBER: J. Phinney Baxter White. My name is J. Phinney Baxter White. I was expecting to be able to speak tonight. MDOT got to speak and no one else got to speak. That is my complaint. We had a lot of information to put forward. There is a lot of new information. And a year and a week ago MDOT spoke at this meeting and said that no matter what that the bridge could only last 30 years with
rehabilitation. The bridge is now a 75 year bridge with their numbers and it would have a temporary bridge constructed the whole time so that there is no traffic impact. People don't understand that and don't know that because a year and a week ago those weren't items that were up -- that were even considered. So this was a suppression of our group, the Friends of the Frank J. Wood Bridge group. I'm a consulting party with my small business in Topsham and I feel suppressed and I think this meeting has to be held again and I think it was tipped to balance MDOT's wish to do Alternative 2. Anyway, they've got their thumb on the scale.

AUDIENCE MEMBER: My name is Cynthia Howland. I'm a resident of Water Street in Brunswick and I came out especially to this meeting to hear the alternatives and the comments of people and just to see what the -- how the land lay. I am horrified at this meeting. It's a disgrace. I was shocked that whoever organized this made no attempt to listen to the people who came out, who spent their time from doing other things to come out. They obviously did not want to hear what anyone had to say and I strongly believe this meeting needs to be held again. Thank you.

AUDIENCE MEMBER: My name is Karen Munson. I live at 15 Summer Street and I came tonight very open to hearing about the alternatives. I am first all of really annoyed that $I$ couldn't hear what was being said and this was the second meeting that that's happened at. I made comments after the last meeting, none of them were responded to. I sent emails, so I'm disappointed in that. I came very open to listening to all of the alternatives and I'm leaving furious and $I$ have not been this furious since I lived in this neighborhood. I have a very high level in the -- of trust in the intent and the process of government and I am feeling like that trust has been betrayed by the process tonight or the lack of it. Thank you.

AUDIENCE MEMBER: My name is Sean Ruel. First of all, I'd just like to express my displeasure with the structure of the meeting. It was advertised as a public meeting and was absolutely not. It's a series of small one-on-one private meetings, which I don't think is productive. The other point I would like to make is the false decision we're making here between rehabilitating a reasonably attractive esthetically historic bridge and replacing it with a new bridge that's ugly. We don't need to do either
of those things. We could hopefully find an aesthetically pleasing signature style bridge that could serve to represent this community for generations. Recently in Portsmouth they tried to replace the Memorial Bridge over the Piscataquis River. And similarly proposed a very dull bridge and eventually after community outcry it was replaced with something that's quite pretty. And we just need to take the time to think about this now so we don't have an ugly bridge for the next 100 years. Thank you.

AUDIENCE MEMBER: My name is Alexis Burgdorf Sullivan and we were just hoping to have a chance to, you know, speak up in favor of the existing bridge and it just doesn't seem like we really had a chance to do that, so we'd like another opportunity to be able to sort of like present a case for the existing bridge. I am really not in favor of this project, so we would like the chance to be able to do that.

AUDIENCE MEMBER: Hi. My name Tom Feeley. I live right about a half mile from the bridge. I've got a 3 year old and a 6 year old and I'm concerned about increased truck traffic if they're going to be putting up a new bridge and everything. Personally, I think the area should be a residential pedestrian
neighborhood and I'm concerned about increased traffic, increased flow of trucks and I'm disappointed I didn't get a chance to voice my opinion at a public hearing and I would hope that they open this up to the public in a way that we can actually have a dialogue. Thank you.

AUDIENCE MEMBER: My name is Bruce Van Note. I'm a resident of Topsham and I'm the Chair of the Design Advisory Committee that was formed by the Topsham Selectmen and the Brunswick Town Council.

And first of all, I'd like to thank Federal Highway and MaineDOT for thoroughly considering all the impacts before making any decision. This is a 100 year decision, it's okay to take a few months and think about it. I respect people who respect old things. The older I get, the more important that is. So, again, it's very good that they looked at this and I don't think there has been a more detailed process to look at the impacts of this. I don't -so if it's not the most thorough process in the country it's got to be close to it, so I think it was worthy.

With that said, I've got to respectfully disagree with people who think rehabbing the bridge is the right thing. I fully support Alternative 2,
it's the new curved upstream alignment, for three principle reasons. The first is that the new bridge will just be safer and more reliable. There are literally pieces falling off that bridge. I actually have one and I'm glad it didn't hit anybody. And safety and reliability is the cornerstone of anything you do. It's the mission of MaineDOT, it's the mission of every transportation agency in the country, so safety and reliability have to be foremost.

The second major reason is financial. This is a financial no brainer for the state and federal government both in terms of initial capital cost, the difference that's between $\$ 15$ million and $\$ 19.5$ million for Alternative 2 and Alternative 4 respectively. If you think longer term it's even more of a no brainer. $\$ 17.3$ million for 100 years of life for Alternative 2 versus $\$ 38$ million plus for 75 years of life. Anybody who is writing that check has to know the right answer. And that's just state and federal tax payers. The business impacts of the two aren't even close. A couple -- a few weeks of closure for Alternative 4 versus who knows how long for alternative -- sorry, for Alternative 2 is a few weeks of closure, Alternative 4, the rehab, much
longer.
So safety, money, those are usually reasons that a lot of decisions are made, but the biggest reason, the third, is that Alternative 2, the curved upstream alignment, would just be a better connection in so many different ways. It's going to connect the communities. The current bridge is a long green tunnel. You go on one side and you know you're in Brunswick, you have to go through a long green tunnel where you look at nothing except the trusses you go through and then you pop out and, oh, I'm on the other side. It has the effect of dividing the two. Alternative 2 is going to be low profile and totally open up the whole area. It's going to be very liberating. People are going to think of the Pejepscot Falls site, not Brunswick, bridge, Topsham. It's going to be one big site that's connected. People will be able to sit up at the Frontier and look down at the Sea Dog and the Sea Dog up to the Frontier, hey, maybe we should be go down there because it's wide open. People are going to see the architecture on both side and go, hey, why don't we go over there. It's just a very big feeling of openness. So it's going to connect the communities, it's going to connect all users.

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The curved upstream alignment has much better facilities for bicycles, pedestrians than anything you do with the old bridge can as to be expected. They built the old bridge in 1931 using technology they had then. This is going to be just wide open with very wide sidewalks that people haven't even seen yet. Very well integrated into the site. The railings are going to be beautiful. The lighting is going to be beautiful. It's going to be a place people want to go, so it's going to connect pedestrians to the site. It's going to connect it to the parks that are there. It's going to connect it to pedestrian facilities. To the west you have the River Walk, which will connect right to this bridge. There is a potential for a pedestrian underpass so you don't even have to cross at grade. Completely safe. So you can go one side to the other in Topsham without even having to deal with a car. And it's going to connect with the Pejepscot Falls. Alternative 2 actually leap frogs over the falls, so instead of being on one side or the other it doesn't cover them up. A lot of people care about the falls, so do I. You're still going to be able to see them.

So Alternative 2 is clearly the better choice in my view, but $I$ know change is hard. We sit
here on a base that was closed several years ago. I grew up in this area, $I$ know what it was like when that announcement came. There was a lot of shock, dismay, fear. Things are changing, things are bad. Well, we're sitting in this facility, CMCC, on the front page of the Times Record today they talked about a new set of jobs coming in. We don't have all of the jobs back, but the ones that are here are much more resilient and not subject to the whims of people in DC. So change, although hard here, has been good and the same thing is going to happen here. If you accept and embrace change it's going to be good and this is going to be very good, so I am very hopeful that Federal Highway and MaineDOT select Alternative 2. With that said, that's my opinion. I'm really glad they took all of the other people's opinions because this is a long-term decision that should be thoroughly considered and I think they've done a great job doing that.

AUDIENCE MEMBER: My name is Gavin Engler. I live in Brunswick. I absolutely support rehabilitation of the existing bridge one way or the other. 100 percent oppose the new proposed construction. I just think that aesthetically and in regards to the community it's wildly inappropriate.

The existing bridge is an iconic piece of our towns and without it everyone would be really -- I think if it was erased our communities would regret it and replacement is a short-sighted decision based on financial impacts and some things are more important than money, so rehabilitate the bridge, please.

AUDIENCE MEMBER: My name is Evan Duda. I am 100 percent for rehabilitating the Frank Wood Bridge. I think in regards to the financial decision, which is where these alternatives came from it's undermining and short selling the landscape of our community and the state. I think it's absolutely important that the bridge maintains its esthetic properties for the historic image of these two towns. Thank you.

AUDIENCE MEMBER: Hi. I'm Scott Hanson, resident of Topsham and I strongly support rehabilitation of the Frank J. Wood Bridge. I also strenuously object to the format of this so-called public meeting tonight. It needs to be done over and the public needs to be able to hear each other on this topic. Thank you.

AUDIENCE MEMBER: My name is Tony Barrett and I love the work that's gone into the various designs and I like the accommodations for bicycling
and pedestrians and Alternative 2 for the bridge design looks great. And I hope some of the amenities that the Topsham and Brunswick Design Advisory Committee would be incorporated by MaineDOT in final design.

AUDIENCE MEMBER: All right. My name is Alicia Heyburn. I'm a resident of Brunswick. In my professional life $I$ work in land conservation and river restoration and so it is rare for me to advocate for new construction or development, but in this instance $I$ am strongly in favor of replacing the existing bridge with Alternative Number 2. The reason for that is that it's a much longer life span, much better investment and use of our infrastructure dollars primarily. Number two, is I feel that it's extremely beautiful, the new simple design because it opens up the view to the river. And in my work, opportunities to connect people to place through a direct experience such as walking across the bridge and having a view of the beautiful river gives them an opportunity to learn more about the river. I know that we have the chance to build bump-outs and have informative signs, which can talk about the migratory fish that come up through the Androscoggin. And the third reason is that I'm a cyclist and it's quite an
inconvenient roundabout route to get from my downtown Brunswick to my primary destinations in Topsham in a safe way and I would like to be able to go straight across the bridge at that point. Thank you.

AUDIENCE MEMBER: Nancy E. Randolph. I
actually have served on the board of selectmen in Topsham and the town council in Brunswick. I might be the only person. I have actually served on the committee and actually spearheaded that committee in rehabilitating the Swinging Bridge that's just up river from this bridge. I right now serve on a non-profit that maintains the Swinging Bridge because the towns don't want to spend any local dollars maintaining it even as they didn't spend any local dollars rehabbing that bridge and therein lies the problem. Locally, we never want to spend any local dollars maintaining a bridge and we go back in history back to every main street bridge, every -you know, the Pedestrian Bridge, the Swinging Bridge and even the Black Bridge, both towns wanted the other town to pay for it and it takes a long time for either town to do anything, so I want a new bridge with a little maintenance for 100 years. I know that when a rehab project is specified with money it's never enough. The Swinging Bridge was twice what we
expected and that was with us really holding the reigns on things. It always costs more. There is always something that has to be done and I know that although people who are -- there are people who are very, very strongly wanting to keep this bridge and they think the numbers are too high to rehabilitate. I know that when you open up any rehab whether it's bridge, building or even an old car it's always more expensive because when you open it up you find rot and broken parts that can't be replaced without rebuilding and making. So I know we need a new bridge to serve us all, serve the people who are walking, serve people who are in cars and on bicycles and that's it.

AUDIENCE MEMBER: My name is Evan Duda and I would like to request that MDOT provides another public hearing where the community can ask questions and they can answer in a public and shared discussion. Thank you.

AUDIENCE MEMBER: (William Morin.) I've got a question, where do we go next from here? Well, I think it was a nice presentation here, but $I$ think obviously people wanted to get answers in a different format and sort of like a town meeting, somebody gets up and asks a question, sit down again and get some
of those basic questions, cut it off at a certain time and then send people over to see these displays because they're all wonderful and then all of the other people around it that way, so I think everybody kind of felt cutoff.

THE REPORTER: Do you have a preference on rehab versus new?

AUDIENCE MEMBER: (William Morin.) Well, I definitely have a preference.

THE REPORTER: If you would like to state that and why, that would be great.

AUDIENCE MEMBER: (William Morin.) Well, I have in my other documents that I sent, but I think it's -- one of the major things I think -- I know the money as it was presented tonight in the five alternatives the money is a problem. Well, it's glaring. It is a more expensive proposition to rehab the bridge, but the -- it will preserve the Brunswick/Topsham industrial historical district and will not negatively impact the area if it's torn down and a girder bridge is put up. But in spite it costing more at this time and maybe a little bit more later on this site is basically -- I will take the word basically out. It's a very attractive area and Brunswick in itself is a very attractive area for
tourists and visitors and they visit the downtown area and they gravitate towards the falls where the bridge is and it's very much of an attraction and only a short distance up the river from the Green Bridge is the Pedestrian Bridge that was rehabbed almost 10 years ago. The State of Maine paid basically all of the costs of the federal monies and all of that. And I live very close to that and they in summertime especially during the day there usually somebody is stopped on the highway or parked on the Brunswick side and sometimes on the Topsham side and walking around the bridge area looking at the bridge and the river and the falls and all of that sort of thing. So it's turned into a great physical tourist attraction and then you have people down there taking pictures if they're having their prom. One night I thought they were getting married, but they weren't. It looked like a wedding scene, but it's one of these attractive things and so what I'm saying is that this is a, you know, a tourist attraction. There is no charge for it, but people tend to gravitate. It's called historical -- what do you call it -- tourism or whatever, so a lot -- that is getting very, very popular. This bridge can certainly -- the current bridge could certainly fill that bill and would add

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to it and I think there would be a lot of income to local restaurants and other businesses that cater to visitors and tourists, whatever. So that's why I think it's -- I think you get more money out of it if you keep the bridge. You won't get it all in the same year though. You'll have good years and bad years. Okay. I think that's good.

AUDIENCE MEMBER: (Robert Wiener.) My comment is that the -- I -- I strongly favor the rehabilitation option. I think the existing bridge is an essential part of the character of both towns and the historic fabric of the historic district and it's irreplaceable. I think it would be a great loss to the -- as I say, to the historic character of both towns and the historic district. I think it has -- I think it has value in and of itself, but I understand that as far as the evaluations that have been done its primary value has been found to be -- as it is part of that fabric of the district -- the historic district, but I just -- I feel strongly that it should be rehabilitated. It would be a great loss not to do that. I guess that's it.

Oh, I also feel -- one more thing. I think it was unfortunate that there was not public comment -- spoken comment at this meeting. I think
that they missed an opportunity for the public to hear each other's point of view and by doing them all in writing and privately $I$ think it is a way of undermining the public process. I think that's unfortunate. Thank you.

AUDIENCE MEMBER: Donald Gower, G-O-W-E-R.
I don't know where to begin. I'm on two committees here in the Topsham/Brunswick area, the Androscoggin River Walk and the Androscoggin Swinging Bridge Committee, so my focus is on pedestrian and bicycle safety. So I'm concerned about the develop -- I'm concerned about the original bridge design because it only offers a 4 foot bike lane, which are going to have metal railings next to you and also grating that will prevent you from taking advantage of a safe ride across the bridge, so in that aspect I'm in favor of the new bridge. Also on the sidewalk, I think it's comparative to have sidewalks on each side, which the new design has anyway, but also at either or both ends of the bridge to have a pass-under so you have safety for people who want to cross that very busy road without stopping traffic, which is in itself a problem. We don't want to stop the traffic. For safety, particularly for young kids and families, they would be able to cross under the bridge to get
to say the Sea Dog or to the park on the Brunswick side. Also, there has been recently some money allocated for a design of the River Walk portion in Brunswick and I'd like to see how that incorporates with the new design for the bridge so there is safe travels up through there, which I suppose they will do.

But I would make one other additional
comment, which maybe is outside the scope of this particular project, but from the Swinging Bridge in Brunswick we should determine a method to get a sidewalk on the Topsham side of Route 1 up to the Black Bridge and connect to the sidewalk that's just south of there up towards Pleasant Street. There is a need for people particularly in Topsham to cross the bridge and go up to all kinds of businesses. There is Dunkin Donuts, there is a bar in there, there is McDonald's, there's Cumberland Farms all on that right side of the road and there is no real easy way to get across Pleasant Street or Route 1 safely. So if we had a continuous sidewalk from Maine Street Brunswick all the way to Pleasant Street on the Topsham river side, on the river side of Route 1 that would be a big benefit for everyone. That covers my thoughts. Thank you. I appreciate it.


C ERTIFICATE
I, Robin J. Dostie, a Court Reporter and Notary Public within and for the State of Maine, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and accurate transcript of the proceedings as taken by me by means of stenograph,
and I have signed:

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My Commission Expires: February 6, 2019.

DATED: April 12, 2017

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| < Dates > |
| :---: |
| $\begin{aligned} & \text { April 12, } 2017 \\ & \text { 42:17 } \end{aligned}$ |
| April 19 5:5 |
| April 5, 2017 |
| 1:13 |
| $\begin{aligned} & \text { February 6, } \\ & \text { 2019. 42:15 } \end{aligned}$ |
|  |  |
|  |
| \$13 15:10 |
| \$13.715:11 |
| $\begin{gathered} \$ 1516: 12, \\ 28: 14 \end{gathered}$ |
|  |  |
|  |
| \$16.7 13:12 |
| \$17 17:7 |
| \$17.3 15:12, |
| 28:17 |
| \$19.5 28:14 |
| \$21 16:13 |
| \$23.2 17:8 |
| \$35 16:15 |
| \$38 28:18 |
| \$38.2 17:9 |
| $\begin{aligned} & <0> \\ & 022603.001: 6 \end{aligned}$ |
|  |  |
|  |
| 1 12:10, 12:17, |
| 12:18, 12:22, |
| 40:12, 40:20, |
| 40:23 |
| 1/2 13:5, 14:23 |
| $1037: 6$ |
| 100 19:3, |
| 26:10, 27:14, |
| 28:17, 31:23, |
| 32:8, 34:23 |
| 106 20:1 |
| 11 8:1, 13:2, |
| 13:20, 14:3 |
| 15 25:2 |
| 17 17:25 |
| 1931 30:4 |
| 1931. 6:13 |

```
< 2 >
    13:2, 13:15,
    13:18, 14:21,
    14:23, 27:25,
    28:15, 28:18,
    28:24, 29:4,
    29:13, 30:20,
    30:24, 33:1
2. 24:12,
    31:15, 33:12
2012 8:15
2014 8:15
2016 8:18
25 9:1, 9:3,
    9:12, 9:20,
    10:18
29 1:14
```

< 3 >
3 12:18, 13:5,
16:22, 26:22
3. 15:15
30 23:25
$<4>$
4 8:1, 12:18,
16:19, 16:20,
17:4, 28:15,
28:23, 28:25,
39:13
42 9:18
< 5 >
5 8:3, 12:10,
13:2, 13:3,
13:18, 14:3
5. 12:17, 13:21
50 19:11
< $6>$
$62: 2,26: 22$
6:00 1:15
$<7>$

75 24:1, 28:18
< 8 >
8 41:2
800 6:9, 6:11
86 6:13
< A >
able 12:4,
23:20, 26:17, 26:19, 29:18, 30:23, 32:21, 34:3, 39:25
above 6:21
absolute 18:19
absolutely
25:19, 31:21, 32:12
abutments 6:22, 7:2
abuts 22:2
accept 31:12
accepting 3:5, 5: 4
access 3:4, 20:19
accommodations 32:25
account 10:10 accurate 42:5 achieve 7:17 across 33:19, 34:4, 39:16, 40:20
Act 2:14
active 13:25, 14:17
actual 13:6
actually 9:13, 27:6, 28:4, $30: 20,34: 6$, $34: 8,34: 9$
add 21:6, 37:25
added 12:13, 16:20, 16:24
addition 16:22
additional
16:25, 40:8

Address 9:10, 10:17, 10:22, 16:11, 16:17
Administration
1:19, 2:11, 2:12, 3:15
Administrator 2:10
advantage 39:15
advertised 18:10, 25:18
Advisory 13:24, 14:17, 27:9, 33: 3
advocate 33:10
aesthetically 26:2, 31:24
affected 11:15, 15:9
age 6:13
agency 2:13, 28:8
ago 14:11, 23:23, 24:5, 31:1, 37:6
Alexis 26:12
Alicia 33:7
alignment
12:10, 12:11, 12:14, 12:19,
12:20, 12:21, 12:23, 12:25, 13:5, 13:16, 14:22, 15:9, 28:1, 29:5, 30:1
allocated 40:3
allow 16:25
almost 16:13, 37: 6
Alternate
15:15, 16:19
Alternative
2:16, 2:22, 3:1, 12:22, 13:13, 13:15, 14:21, 16:20, 17:4, 24:12, 27:25, 28:15, 28:18, 28:23,

28:24, 28:25, 29:4, 29:13, $30: 20,30: 24$, 31:14, 33:1, 33:12
Alternatives 2:18, 3:22, 12:9, 12:17, 13:20, 17:11, 24:17, 25:3, 25:9, 32:10, 36:16
although 31:10, 35: 4
amenities 33:2
amenity 14:14
analysis 5:24
analyzed 3:22
and/or 15:24
Androscoggin
10:8, 33:24,
39:8, 39:9
Andross 6:4
Anniversary 10:2
announcement 31:3
annoyed 25:4
answer 4:9, 17:17, 23:3, 28:20, 35:18
answered 20:23, 22:17
answering 3:23
answers 18:12, 18:14, 18:23, 22:19, 23:15, 35:23
Anybody 28:5, 28:19
Anyway 24:12, 39:19
apologize 10:14, 15:4
appalled 18:3, 19:23
applied 11:20
appreciate 40:25
approached

20:15
appropriate 20:9
April 14:12
architecture 29:22
area 6:22, 26:25, 29:14, 31:2, 36:20, 36:24, 36:25, $37: 2,37: 12$, 39:8
areas 4:23, 9:25, 10:1
argumentative 18:15
Arlene 21:25
around 2:8, 4:15, 6:16, 18:18, 19:2, 21:21, 23:16, 36:4, 37:12
Arts 18:1
asks 35:25
aspect 3:6, 39:16
aspects 2:25
Assistant 2:10
assumptions 20:20
attempt 24:20
attended 19:22
attending 5:12
attorney 20:11
attraction
19:15, 37:3, 37:15, 37:20
attractive
25:23, 36:24, 36:25, 37:19
August 8:23
Augusta 2:11, 5:17
available 2:20, 17:17
< B >
back 6:17, 7:6, 10:14, 11:19,

14:12, 17:11, 20:16, 22:18,
31:8, 34:17,
34:18
background 7:24
backing 8:10
bad 21:14,
21:24, 31:4, 38:6
balance 24:11
bar 40:17
Barrett 32:23
barrier 13:3, 13:23
base 31:1
based 32:4
basic 36:1
basically 36:23, 36:24, 37:7
Bath 18:7
Baxter 23:18, 23:19
beam 8:7
beams 7:9,
$7: 10,7: 21$, 15:16, 15:20, 15:21, 16:4
Bean 1:13
beautiful
19:17, 30:8, $30: 9,33: 16$, 33:20
become 5:3
begin 39:7
beginning 3:19
believe 3:16, 6:8, 14:4, 22:8, 22:19, 24:24
below 7:2, 7:3
benefit 40:24
best 3:17
betrayed 25:14
better 20:17, 20:24, 29:5, 30:2, 30:24, 33:14
Bicycle 3:3, 4:10, 10:23,

39:10
bicycles 30:2, 35:13
bicycling 32:25
big 8:23,
29:17, 29:23, 40:24
biggest 29:3
bike 20:19, 39:13
bill 37:25
bit 22:18, 36:22
Black 34:20, 40:13
board 34:6
bottom 16:5
Bowdoin 6:3
box 4:21
bracing 7:10
brackets 7:19, 8:8
brainer 28:12, 28:17
bridges 8:11
brief 3:19
Britain 19:12
broken 13:6, 35:10
Brookfield 6:5, 8:9, 11:12
Brooks. 19:21
brought 11:19
Bruce 27:7
Brunswick 1:15, 6:4, 19:9, 22:1, 24:15, 27:10, 29:9, 29:16, 31:21, 33:3, 33:7, 34:2, $34: 7$, $36: 25,37: 11$, 40:1, 40:4, 40:11, 40:22
Brunswick/topsh am 36:19
build 13:7, 33:22
build-outs 11:12
building 22:1, 35:8
built 6:12, 30: 4
bullshit 18:10
bump-out 14:10, 14:12
bump-outs 33:22
Burgdorf 26:12
business 17:25, 24:9, 28:21
businesses 38:2, 40:16
busy 39:21
$<\mathrm{C}>$
Cabot 6:5
call 6:21, 8:13, 18:9, 37:22
called 18:1, 37:22
Campus 1:9, 1:13
capacity 10:18, 10:23
capital 28:13
car 30:18, 35:8
care 30:22
cars 35:13
case 14:25, 26:17
Cassie 1:20, 3:8, 3:14, 5:14, 5:17, 5:21, 20:3
cater 38:2
Cathy 23:12
Center 1:14
certain 36:1
Certainly 23:11, 37:24, 37:25
certify 42:4
cetera 6:6
Chair 27:8
chance 26:13, 26:15, 26:19, 27:3, 33:22
change 30:25,
31:10, 31:12 changes 13:21 changing 31:4 character

38:11, 38:14
charge 37:21
Chase 1:20, $3: 8$, 3:12, 3:14
check 28:19
Cheryl 1:19, 2:9, 3:16, 5:14
choice 17:19, 30:25
chord 15:22, 15:24, 16:6 chords 15:23 Christine

17:24, 18:24
citizens 18:3
clearly 30:24
close 7:22, 22:21, 27:21, 28:22, $37: 8$ closed 31:1 Closer 15:5 closure 9:18, 28:23, 28:25 CMCC 31:5 coming 17:20, 31:7
commencing 1:15
Comment 4:17, 4:19, 4:20, 21:4, 22:18, 38:9, 38:25, 40:9
COMMENTS 2:24, $3: 5$, 3:10, 3:17, 5:1, 5:3, 5:4, 5:5, 5:7, 17:18, 17:23, 24:17, 25:6
commercial 22:1 Commission

42:15
Committee

13:24, 14:17,
27:9, 33:4,
34:9, 39:10
committees 39:7
Commons 1:14
communicating 21:23
communities
29:7, 29:24, 32:3
community
18:25, 19:2, 26:3, 26:7, 31:25, 32:12, 35:17
comparative 39:18
compiled 2:17
complaining 21:1
complaint 23:21
complete 9:19
Completely 30:16
concepts 12:2
concern 20:18
concerned 8:15, 10:7, 26:22, 27:1, 39:11, 39:12
concerning 2:15, 2:17
concerns 2:24, 10:24, 16:12
concluded 41:2
concludes 17:12
concrete 7:1, 17:2
condition 7:7, 8:20, 8:21, 9:4, 9:5, 9:6, 9:8
conditions 4:10, 9:10, 10:17, 10:22
configuration 7:25, 17:4
connect 29:6, 29:24, 29:25, 30:10, 30:11,
$30: 12,30: 14$, 30:19, 33:18, 40:13
connected 29:17
connection 29:5
conservation 33: 8
consideration 3: 4
considerations 9:21, 10:10, 10:25, 11:4
considered 24:7, 31:18
considering 27:12
consist 8:2
construct 13:8
constructed 24:3
Construction 9:14, 9:19, 11:5, 11:16, 11:22, 13:5, 13:11, 14:22, 15:10, 16:8, 16:12, 17:5, 17:7, 19:18, 31:24, 33:10
consultant
4:12, 17:17
consulting 24:9
contemplate 2:25
continuous 40:21
contractor 9:17
contributing 9:23
conversation 14:19
cornerstone 28: 6
cost 3:4, 11:16, 11:17, 11:22, 11:23, 13:11, 13:12, 13:13, 15:11, 15:12, 16:12, 16:13, 16:15,

17:8, 17:9, 20:19, 20:20, 28:13
costing 36:22
costs 2:21,
11:18, 15:10, 35:2, $37: 7$
Council 27:10, 34:7
counterproducti ve 18:12
country 27:21, 28:9
couple 28:22
course 10:8,
10:9, 11:16, 16:6
Court 1:12, 4:25, 42:2, 42:13
cover 15:23, 30:22
covers 40:24
creative 14:1, 14:18
critical 8:14, 8:16
criticisms 21:4
cross 18:7, 30:16, 39:21, 39:25, 40:15
Cumberland 40:18
cumulative 13:12, 15:11, 16:14, 17:8
curiosity 23:7
current 9:9, 10:11, 10:14, 18:2, 29:7, 37:24
currently 3:22
curved 12:11, 12:20, 13:15, 14:22, 15:9, 28:1, 29:4, 30:1
cut 36:1
cutoff 36:5
cycle 11:17,

11:23, 13:12, 15:10, 16:13, 17:8
cyclist 33:25
Cynthia 24:14
< D >
D'alesandris
19:6, 21:7
DAC 14:16
data 20:8
date 5:25
DATED 42:17
David 4:18
day 20:5, 37:9
days 9:18
DC 31:10
deal 30:18
decided 23:6
decision 2:15,
25:22, 27:13,
27:14, 31:17,
32:4, 32:10
decisions 22:22, 29:3
deck 6:23, 8:17, 8:19, 15:17, 15:21, 16:3, 17:1, 17:3, 17:4
deeply 22:12
definitely 36:9
Department 1:2, 5:16
depending 11:6,
11:10, 11:13
deprived 20:25
depth 12:4
described 16:21
Design 3:4, 4:8, 6:17, 12:9, 13:24, 14:16, 27:9, $33: 2,33: 3$, $33: 5,33: 16$, 39:12, 39:19, $40: 3,40: 5$
designed 21:3
designers 23:2
designs 32:25
destinations 34:2
detail 20:22
detailed 27:18
details 8:14
deterioration 8:21
determine 40:11
detour 13:9, 16:10, 17:7
develop 39:11
development 33:10
dialogue 20:14, 21:4, 22:15, 27:6
dictated 8:22
difference
11:22, 16:24, 28:14
different 29:6, 35:23
direct 33:19
disagree 27:24
disappointed 22:13, 25:8, 27:3
disappointing 23:17
discount 11:19
discussion 35:19
discussions 4:4
disgrace 24:19
dismay 31:4
displays 36:2
displeasure 17:22, 25:17
distance 37:4
district 36:19, 38:12, 38:15, 38:19, 38:20
districts 9:24
dividing 29:12
Division 2:10, 2:11, 3:9, 3:15
documents 36:13
Dog 6:5, 29:19,

40:1
doing 10:16, 10:19, 24:22, 31:19, 39:2
dollars 33:15, 34:13, 34:15, 34:17
Donald 39:6
done 5:23, 5:25, 14:19, 22:19, 23:13, 31:18, 32:20, 35:3, 38:17
Donuts 40:17
door 9:16
Dostie 1:11, 42:2
down 2:6, 7:6, 14:8, 29:19, 29:20, 35:25, 36:20, 37:15
downstream 12:14, 12:20, 12:25, 16:22
downtown 34:1, 37:1
drilling 7:6
drop 4:21
Duda 32:7, 35:15
dull 26:6
Dunkin 40:17
duration 11:5, 13:5, 14:22, 16:8, 17:5
during 37:9
$<\mathrm{E}>$
E. $34: 5$
earlier 7:23
easy 40:19
effect 29:12
either 12:18, 25:25, 34:22, 39:19
Eligible 9:24
emails 25:8
embrace 31:12
eminent 9:15
encourage 5:9, 17:15
encouraged 18:4
Endangered 10:2
ends 39:20
engage 4:3
Engineer 3:9, 3:14
engineering 2:21
engineers 8:25, 23:2
Engler 31:20
enhanced 14:1
enough 34:25
entire 16:6
Environmental 2:14, 2:22, $3: 2,3: 9$, 3:14, 9:21, 10:9, 10:25
erased 32:3
especially 6:17, 8:14, 13:22, 24:16, 37:9
essential 38:11
establish 11:2
esthetic 32:13
esthetically 25:24
estimate 5:11
estimated 16:12
et 6:6
evaluate 20:8
evaluating 7:16
evaluations 38:17
Evan 32:7, 35:15
evening 2:3, 3:12, 5:15, 6:14, 7:1, 22:25
event 14:5
eventually 26:7
everybody 3:12, 5:15, 6:7, 36:4
everyone 21:19,

23:15, 32:2, 40:24
everything
6:20, 16:21,
21:10, 26:24
example 20:19
Examples 3:1, 20:21
except 29:10
excuse 6:3, 7:12
Existing 4:10, $7: 7,7: 16$, 7:25, 9:8, 12:10, 12:12, 12:13, 12:15, 12:22, 12:24,
13:4, 13:10, 14:24, 15:1, 15:14, 15:18, 16:1, 16:2, 16:8, 16:11, 16:19, 18:2, 26:14, 26:17, 31:22, 32:1, 33:12, 38:10 exits 2:7
expansion 14:4
expected 30:4, 35:1
expecting
22:25, 23:19
expensive 35:9, 36:17
experience 33:19
experts 21:21
Expires 42:15
explain 3:9
express 25:17
extra 19:14
extremely
23:17, 33:16
$<\mathrm{F}>$
fabric 38:12, 38:19
facilities $30: 2,30: 13$
facility 31:5
fair 8:18, 20:7
falling 28:4
Falls 29:16, $30: 19,30: 20$, 30:22, 37:2, 37:13
false 25:22
familiar 6:7
families 39:24
far 13:19, 38:17
Farms 40:18
fashion 12:18
favor 18:1, 26:14, 26:18, 33:11, 38:9, 39:16
fear 31:4
Federal 1:19, 2:10, 2:12, 2:13, 3:15, 3:23, 4:4, 4:12, 23:4, 27:11, 28:12, 28:21, 31:14, 37:7
feel 4:15, 21:17, 24:10, 33:15, 38:20, 38:23
Feeley 26:20
feeling 25:13, 29:23
feet 6:9, 6:12
felt 36:5
few 27:14, 28:22, 28:24
FHWA 17:16
Fiber 18:1
figure 18:17
fill 4:20, 37:25
final 33:4
finally 22:22
financial 28:11, 28:12, 32:5, 32:9
find 14:19, 18:16, 26:1,

35:9
First 6:1,
25:3, 25:17, 27:11, 28:2
fish 4:7, 10:3,
33:24
fisheries 10:8
five 9:16,
12:9, 14:7,
17:11, 36:15
fix 9:16,
10:16, 10:21, 11:6, 11:10, 21:15
flat 23:1
float 4:15
Floor 6:23, $7: 10,7: 20$, 8:6, 15:16, 15:20, 16:4
flow 27:2
focus 39:10
folks 4:9, 10:13, 11:8, 14:16, 14:18, 23:16
followed 3:20, 3:25
following 3:24, 22: 6
foot 8:1, 8:2, 8:3, 8:4, 13:2, 13:3, 13:18, 14:3, 39:13
foregoing 42:4
foremost 28:10
format 3:7, 3:10, 5:1, 18:11, 20:13, 20:24, 21:2, 22:13, 32:19, 35:24
formed 27:9
Fort 6:4
forth 20:16, 22:18
forum 19:22
forward 11:18, 14:12, 22:14,

23:22
found 38:18
fracture 8:14, 8:16
frame 20:9
frames 7:10
framing 16:5
Frank 1:4, 2:4, 3:13, 3:18, 6:6, 9:22, 17:25, 20:12, 22:4, 22:5, 24:8, 32:8, 32:18
free 4:15
friend 21:7
Friends 20:12, 22:4, 24:8
frogs 30:20
front 5:10, 31: 6
Frontier 29:18, 29:20
fully 27:25
furious 25:10
future 11:18
$<\mathrm{G}>$
G-O-W-E-R 39:6
Gavin 31:20
general 6:2, 23:15
generating 6:5
generations 26:4
geometry 7:25, 12:23, 13:1, 13:17, 13:20, 13:22
gets 23:15, 35:24
getting 19:9, 37:17, 37:23
girder 36:21
give 22:8
gives 33:20
giving 3:21, 23:7
glad 28:5,

31:16
glaring 36:17
goal 5:22
gotten 18:21
government
23:5, 25:13, 28:13
Gower 39:6
grade 30:16
Graham 22:12
graphic 6:19,
12:16, 14:6,
14:9, 17:10
grating 39:14
gravitate 37:2,
37:21
great 31:19,
$33: 2,36: 11$,
37:14, 38:13, 38:21
Green 6:22, 7:3, 18:7, 29:7, 29:9, 37: 4
grew 31:2
grid 7:20, 8:3
group 24:7, 24:8
guess 12:6, $38: 22$
$<\mathrm{H}>$
$\mathrm{H}-\mathrm{I}-\mathrm{N}-\mathrm{C}-\mathrm{H}-\mathrm{M}-\mathrm{A}-\mathrm{N}$ 20:11
habit 19:9
half 26:21
hall 2:7
hand 16:16
handing 5:8
handouts 2:20
Hanson 32:16
happen 31:11
happened 23:4, 25: 6
hard 30:25,
31:10
head 15:6,
21:12
Health 1:14
hear 3:17,
5:19, 18:13,
18:23, 20:16,
21:18, 22:4,
23:15, 24:16,
24:23, 25:4, 32:21, 39:2
hearing 20:13, 22:14, 22:15, 25:3, 27:4, 35:17
hears 21:22
held 24:11, 24:24
help 4:9
Henry 19:5, 21:7
hereby 42:4
Heyburn 33:7
high 19:10, 25:12, $35: 6$
highlight 5:23
highlighted 6:24
Highway 1:19, 2:11, 2:12, 3:15, 3:23, 4:5, 4:12, 27:12, 31:14, 37:10
Hinchman 20:11
Historic 3:3, 4:6, 9:22, 19:6, 22:1, 25:24, 32:14, 38:12, 38:14, 38:15, 38:19
historical 19:13, 36:19, 37:22
history 34:18
hit 28:5
holding 35:1
hope 27:4, 33:2
hopeful 31:13
hopefully 26:1
hoping 26:13
horizontal 13:1
horrified 24:18
house 2:4, 3:7,

3:20, 3:25, 18:9
Howland 24:15
Hugh 18:6, 19:1
< I >
I. 30:23
iconic 32:1
idea 22:16
identification 2:15
image 32:14
immediately 3:24
impact 24:4, 36:20
Impacts 2:22,
3:2, 4:8, 10:7, 10:8,
11:8, 11:10, 11:13, 11:15, 13:8, 13:9, 14:23, 15:1, 15:7, 15:8, 16:9, 17:6, 27:13, 27:19, 28:21, 32:5
important
27:16, 32:5, 32:13
improved 15:24
in. 4:21, 31:7
inappropriate 31:25
include 3:2
includes 2:21
income 38:1
inconvenient 34:1
incorporated 33:4
incorporates 40: 4
increased 26:23, 27:1, 27:2
industrial 36:19
inform 2:15
information
2:17, 2:19,
7:24, 18:21,
18:22, 20:4,
23:22, 23:23
informative 33:23
informed 20:17, 20:24
infrastructure
33:14
initial 28:13
input 2:24, 3:2, 3:17, 18:23
inspection
8:16, 8:19,
8:23, 8:24,
8:25, 9:2
inspects 8:10
instance 33:11
Instead 3:23, 30:21
integrated 30:7
intent 25:12
intentionally
21:3
intentions 23:5
investment
33:14
invite 3:8,
4:18, 17:15
involved 9:25
irreplaceable
38:13
issues 10:18,
10:23, 20:18
itemized 20:6
items 7:1, 24:6
itself 7:4,
$7: 12,7: 13$,
$7: 14,7: 19$,
13:8, 15:17,
15:21, 16:5,
19:8, 22:15, 36:25, 38:16, 39:22
$<J>$
J. 1:4, 1:11, 2:4, 3:13, 3:18, 6:6, 9:22, 20:12, 22:5, 23:18, 23:19, 24:8, 32:18, 42:2
job 31:19
jobs 31:7, 31:8
Joel 1:18,
3:21, 5:9,
5:12, 5:15, 17:13
John 22:12
joined 22:4
June 8:18
< K >
Karen 25:1
keep 19:8,
19:14, 19:16, 19:19, 21:23, 35:5, 38:5
keeping 18:1
key 6:18, 7:5, 7:15
kids 39:24
kind 12:6, 14:15, 36:5
kinds 40:16
KITTREDGE 1:18, 5:14, 5:15, 5:21, 6:11, 10:6, 11:24, 12:3, 15:4, 15: 6
knows 28:23
< L >
lack 25:15
land 24:18, 33: 8
landscape 32:11
lane 39:13
lanes 8:1, 13:2
last 14:12, 20:1, 23:25, 25: 6

Lastly 5:8
later 36:23
Lateral 7:10
lawyer 21:1
lay 24:18
lead 2:12
leap 30:20
learn 18:5, 33:21
Learning 1:14
least 20:15
leaving 25:10
length 6:9, 6:12
Leonard 23:12
level 25:12
liberating 29:15
lies 34:15
Life 11:17, 11:23, 13:11, 15:10, 16:13, 17:8, 28:18, 28:19, 33:8, 33:13
lifetime 13:13, 15:12, 16:14, 17:9
light-weight
17:1, 17:3
lighting 30:9
limit 9:12
line 9:17
link 4:22, 4:24
listed 9:24
listen 24:20
listening 25:9
literally 28:4
little 19:14, 21:17, 34:23, 36:22
live 18:7, 21:25, 25:2, 26:21, 31:21, 37:8
lived 25:11
LL 1:13
load 10:17, 10:22
local 34:13,

34:14, 34:16, 38:2
Locally 34:16
located 2:11
location 6:2
locations 2:8
long 11:5,
28:23, 29:7,
29:9, 34:21
long-term
10:15, 10:21,
11:2, 11:12,
31:17
longer 28:16, 29:1, 33:13
longitudinal 7:8
look 6:19,
7:21, 12:14,
27:19, 29:10, 29:19
looked 27:17, 37:18
Looking 7:18, 8:6, 14:8, 20:22, 22:13, 37:12
looks 23:5, 33:2
loss 38:13, 38:21
lot 19:12, 22:9, 23:22, 23:23, 29:3, 30:22, 31:3, 37:23, 38:1
love 32:24
low 29:13
< M >
Macchi 17:24
Macchi. 18:24
main 34:18
Maine 1:1,
1:12, 1:15, 3:8, 3:15, 5:16, 18:1, 37:6, 40:21, 42:3

Mainedot 2:20, 3:22, 4:4, 4:11, 4:22, 5:6, 8:10, 17:16, 19:23, 27:12, 28:7, 31:14, 33:4 maintain 9:11, 9:20, 14:24, 21:16
maintaining 34:14, $34: 17$ maintains 32:13, 34:12 maintenance 9:9, 10:15, 10:16, 10:19, 34:23
major 15:25, 16:23, 28:11, 36:14
Manager 5:16
marked 2:7
married 37:17
MARTIN 1:19, 2:2, 2:9, 17:13
matter 23:24
Maynard 18:7
Maynard. 19:1
Mcdonald 40:18
MDOT 20:7, 22:7, 23:20, 23:24, 24:12, 35:16
mean 12:1, 12:2, 19:11, 21:14
means 18:16, 42: 6
Meeting 1:9, 2:4, 2:23, 3:7, 3:10, 3:13, 3:19, 12:3, 17:14, 18:9, 18:11, 20:5, 20:24, 21:18, 22:5, 22:20, 23:1, 23:24, 24:10,

24:16, 24:19, 24:24, 25:5, 25:7, 25:18, 25:19, 32:20, 35:24, 38:25, 41:2
meetings 25:20
members 4:5,
7:8, 7:9,
7:11, 7:15, 17:21
Memorial 26:5
mentioned 3:16 met 20:2
metal 39:14
method 17:19, 40:11
microphone
15:5, 18:5
Mid-coast 1:9, 1:13
migratory 33:23
mile 26:21
Mill 6:6, 19:8
million 13:11,
13:12, 15:10, 15:11, 15:12, 16:13, 16:15, 17:7, 17:8, 17:9, 28:14, 28:15, 28:17, 28:18
mills 19:7
mind 23:6
mine 21:8
minimize 21:4
missed 39:1
mission 28:7, 28:8
mobility 10:24, 16:11
moment 3:21
money 19:20, 29:2, 32:6, 34:24, 36:15, 36:16, 38:4, 40:2
monies 37:7
months 27:14
Morin. 35:20,
$36: 8,36: 12$
Morris 21:25
move 15:6
moved 11:11
Moving 11:4
MS 2:2, 3:12,
17:13
Munson 25:1
< N >
name 2:9, 3:13,
4:14, 5:15, 18:6, 19:5, 19:25, 20:10, 22:24, 23:19, 24:14, 25:1, 25:16, 26:12, 26:20, 27:7, 31:20, 32:7, 32:23, 33:6, 35:15
Nancy 34:5
National 2:14, 9:23
Natural 3:3, 4:6
nature 8:12
need 9:11, 10:20, 10:21, 10:23, 11:1, 16:7, 19:16, 19:17, 21:12, 25:25, 26:8, 35:11, 40:15
needed 10:16
needle 7:9, 7:20, 15:21
needs 11:11, 11:12, 21:11, 24:24, 32:20, 32:21
negatively 36:20
neighborhood 25:11, 27:1
NEPA 2:14
net 11:19
New 12:10, 12:11, 12:14,

12:22, 13:4,
13:10, 13:15,
14:21, 15:2,
16:3, 16:4,
23:23, 25:25,
26:24, 28:1,
28:2, 31:7,
31:23, 33:10,
33:16, 34:22,
35:11, 36:7,
39:17, 39:19, 40:5
Next 14:6,
14:21, 15:13,
17:25, 26:10,
35:21, 39:14
nice 35:22
night 37:16
Nobody 21:21, 21:22
nomenclature 6:20, 7:5
non-profit 34:12
non-redundant 8:13
none 25:7
nor 16:11
Notary 1:11, 42:3
Note 14:9, 27:7
notes 22:7
nothing 29:10
Number 15:15, 16:20, 16:21, 33:12, 33:15
numbers 12:2, 24:2, 35:6
$<0>$
o'clock 2:2
object 32:19
obtain 2:23
obviously 6:3, 24:22, 35:23
offended 22:11
offers 39:13
office 3:16, 5:17
often 18:8
Okay 2:2, 10:15, 12:22, 15:6, 15:14, 17:13, 27:14, 38:7
old 19:11, 26:22, 27:15, 30:3, 30:4, 35:8
older 27:16 on-alignment 12:18, 13:11 on-site 13:9, 16:9, 17:7
One 6:3, 6:4, 11:9, 14:11, 15:19, 19:2, 20:5, 21:6, 23:21, 28:5, 29:8, 29:17, 30:17, 30:21, 31:22, $36: 14$, 37:16, 37:18, 38:23, $40: 8$
one-on-one 4:4, 25:20
ones 31:8
ongoing 10:12
online 18:21, 18:22
open 2:4, 3:7, 3:20, 3:25, 8:3, 18:9, 25:3, 25:9, 27:5, 29:14, 29:21, 30:6, 35:7, 35:9
openness 29:24
opens 33:17
opinion 27:4, 31:15
opinions 31:16
opportunities 33:18
opportunity 4:3, 22:8, 22:21, 23:14, 26:16, 33:21, 39:1
oppose 31:23
option 38:10
organized 4:1,
24:20
original 39:12
outcry 26:7
outside 40:9
overall 5:23,
6:2, 7:3
own 22:1
< P >
p.m. 1:15, 41:2
page 31:6
paid 37:6
painted 16:7
Park 10:2, 40:1
parked 37:10
parks 9:25, 30:12
part 2:16, 5:3, 6:24, 7:14, 10:1, 10:19, 38:11, 38:19
particular 8:12, 40:10
particularly 39:24, 40:15
parts 35:10
party 20:1, 24:9
pass-under 39:20
paved 8:2
paving 8:8
pay 19:14, 34:21
payers 28:21
Pedestrian 3:4, 4:11, 10:24, 20:19, 26:25, 30:13, 30:15, 34:19, 37:5, 39:10
pedestrians 30:2, 30:11, 33:1
Pejepscot
29:16, 30:19
percent 31:23, 32:8
perhaps 12:7, 14:14
person 34:8
personal 7:22
Personally 26:24
Phinney 23:18, 23:19
photos 9:4
physical 37:14
pictures 21:9, 37:16
piece 19:17, 32:1
pieces 28:4
pier 7:2
piers 6:22
Pinfold 22:25
Pinfold. 23:10
Piscataquis 26:5
place 30:10, 33:18
plates 15:23
Pleasant 40:14, 40:20, 40:22
Please 6:10, $14: 6,15: 3$, 15:13, 17:18, 19:18, $32: 6$
pleasing 26:2
plus 28:18
point 2:6, 8:17, 8:21, 25:21, 39:2
point. 34:4
Policy 2:14
poor 8:20, 9:4, 9:5, 9:6, 10:17, 10:22
pop 29:11
popular 37:24
portion 7:4, 8:3, 17:14, 40:3
Portsmouth 26:4
possibility 13:21, 14:13
post 5:6
posted 5:7,
9:1, 9:3
posting 9:20
potential 30:15
Power 6:5
prefer 4:25
preference
36:6, 36:9
preferred 2:16, 3:1
preliminary 12:9
present 11:19, 26:17
presentation
3:19, 3:20,
$3: 24,3: 25$,
4:15, 5:8,
5:18, 5:22, $6: 14,6: 16$, 12:4, 12:8, 16:18, 17:12, 17:14, 23:7, 35:22
presented 36:15
preserve 36:18
pretty 14:8, 16:23, 26:8
prevent 39:15
preventing 20:14
primarily 33:15
primary 34:2, 38:18
principle 28:2
private 25:20
privately 39:3
probably 4:2
problem 34:16, 36:16, 39:23
PROCEEDINGS 2:1, 42:5
process 2:14, 2:16, 10:11, 10:12, 20:1, 22:3, 25:13, 25:14, 27:19, 27:20, 39:4
process. 17:22

| $\begin{gathered} \text { productive } \\ 25: 21 \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 35: 25 \\ & \text { questions } 3: 23 \end{aligned}$ |
| :---: | :---: |
| professional | 4:9, 4:16, |
| 33:8 | 12:5, 16:17, |
| profile 7:22, | 17:18, 18:14, |
| 29:13 | 18:15, 20:22, |
| progress 14:2 | 20:23, 21:19, |
| Project 2:5, | 21:22, 22:17, |
| 2:13, 2:25, | 23:3, 23:14, |
| $3: 6,3: 11$, | 35:17, 36:1 |
| 3:18, 5:4, | quite 26:8, |
| 5:16, 5:23, | 33:25 |
| 6:12, 7:24, |  |
| 9:10, 9:13, |  |
| 9:16, 10:15, | < R > |
| 10:18, 10:20, | rail 13:3 |
| 11:1, 11:2, | railings 30:8, |
| 11:17, 17:19, | 39:14 |
| 18:17, 26:18, | railroaded |
| 34:24, 40:10 | 21:17 |
| projects 9:22 | Randolph 34:5 |
| prom 37:16 | rare 33:9 |
| properties 3:3, | rate 11:20 |
| 9:24, 11:14, | rated 8:18, |
| 15:8, 32:14 | 8:20 |
| Proposed 15:14, | rather 23:1 |
| 26:6, 31:23 | RE 1:4 |
| proposition | reach 14:18 |
| 36:17 | ready 9:17 |
| protest 20:13 | real 40:19 |
| provide 4:19, | really 16:23, |
| 4:24, 5:2, | 19:17, 21:10, |
| 9:11, 17:18 | 21:23, 25:4, |
| provides 4:3, | 26:15, 26:18, |
| 35:16 | 31:15, 32:2, |
| pull 21:12, | 35:1 |
| 21:13 | reason 28:11, |
| purpose 2:23, | 29:4, 33:13, |
| 10:20, 11:1 | 33:25 |
| purposes 6:25, 8:5 | $\begin{aligned} & \text { reasonably } \\ & 25: 23 \end{aligned}$ |
| $\begin{aligned} & \text { Pursued 13:14, } \\ & 14: 20 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { reasons } 28: 2 \\ & 29: 2 \end{aligned}$ |
| put 14:11, | rebuilding |
| 23:22, 36:21 | 35:11 |
| putting 26:24 | receive 5:5 |
|  | received 20:6 |
| $<\mathrm{Q}>$ | $\begin{gathered} \text { Recently } 26: 4 \\ 40: 2 \end{gathered}$ |
| question 35:21, | recognize 4:13 |

productive
25.21
professional
33:8
profile 7:22, 29:13
progress 14:2
Project 2:5, 2:13, 2:25, 3:6, 3:11, 3:18, 5:4, $5: 16,5: 23$, 9:10, 9:13 $9: 16,10: 15$, 10:18, 10:20, 11:1, 11:2, 11:17, 17:19, 18:17, 26:18, 34:24, 40:10
projects 9:22
prom 37:16
properties 3:3, 9:24, 11:14, 15:8, 32:14
Proposed 15:14,
26:6, 31:23
proposition
36:17
protest 20:13
provide 4:19, 4:24, 5:2, 9:11, 17:18
provides 4:3, 35:16
pull 21:12,
21:13
purpose 2:23, 10:20, 11:1
purposes 6:25, 8:5
Pursued 13:14, 14:20
put 14:11, 23:22, 36:21
putting 26:24

35:25
questions 3:23,
$4: 9,4: 16$,
12:5, 16:17,
17:18, 18:14,
18:15, 20:22,
20:23, 21:19,
21:22, 22:17,
23:3, 23:14,
35:17, 36:1
quite 26:8,
33:25
< R >
rail 13:3
railings 30:8, 39:14
railroaded 21:17
Randolph 34:5
rare 33:9
rate 11:20
rated 8:18, 8:20
rather 23:1
RE 1:4
reach 14:18
ready 9:17
real 40:19
really 16:23, 19:17, 21:10, 26:15, 26:18, 31:15, 32:2, 35:1
reason 28:11, 29:4, 33:13, 33:25
reasonably 25:23
reasons 28:2, 29:2
rebuilding 35:11
receive 5:5
received 20:6
Recently 26:4, 40:2
recognize 4:13

Record 5:4, 17:23, 21:2, 22:23, 31:6 recreational 9:25, 10:1 regard 20:18 regarding 2:24 regards 13:22, 31:25, 32:9
Register 9:23
regret 32:3
regular 10:3
rehab 17:4, 28:25, 34:24, 35:7, 36:7, 36:17
rehabbed 37:5
rehabbing 18:2, 27:24, 34:15
rehabilitate 32:6, 35:6
rehabilitated 38:21
rehabilitating 25:23, 32:8, 34:10
Rehabilitation 2:18, 7:18, 11:7, 11:14, 12:12, 12:19, 15:13, 15:18, 15:25, 16:2, 16:7, 16:10, 16:19, 22:23, 24:1, 31:22, 32:18, 38:10
reigns 35:2
reinforced 17:2
reliability 28:6, 28:9
reliable 28:3
relocate 13:10, 15:1
remain 15:20
remember 8:5, 10: 4
removed 15:22
repair 16:6
repaired 15:24
repairs 9:11,

16:5
replace 26:5
replaced 15:22,
15:24, 21:11,
26:7, 35:10
REPLACEMENT
1:4, 2:18,
7:17, 11:7,
11:14, 12:19,
12:24, 13:19, 14:5, 14:15, 32: 4
replacing 25:24, 33:11
report 20:6
Reported 1:11
Reporter 1:12, 4:25, 23:9, $36: 6,36: 10$, 42:2
Reporter/notary 42:13
represent 26:3
REPRESENTING
1:18
request 23:13, 35:16
resident 24:15,
27:8, 32:17,
33:7
residential
26:25
resilient 31:9
resource 9:23
Resources 3:3, 4:6, 4:7, 9:22
respect 27:15
respectfully
27:23
respectively 28:16
responded 25:7
response 9:2
responses 5:6
rest 20:23
restaurants
38:2
restoration 33:9
restrooms 2:6
result 8:24
results 9:2
revisit 5:22
rid 19:9, 19:10
ride 39:15
ridiculous 22:10
River 10:1, 10:9, 11:9, 13:25, 26:6, 30:14, 33:9, 33:17, 33:20, 33:21, $34: 11$, 37:4, 37:13, 39:9, 40:3, 40:23
road 39:22, 40:19
roadway 7:20
Robert 38:8
Robin 1:11, 19:21, 42:2
room 2:8, 4:23, $6: 8,6: 16$, 7:6, 14:4, 17:16, 18:13, 19:2, 23:16
rot 35:9
roughly 6:9, 6:11
roundabout 34:1
Route 34:1, 40:12, 40:20, 40:23
routine 8:15
Ruel 25:16
running 8:7
rust 21:9
$<\mathrm{S}>$
safe 30:17, 34:3, 39:15, 40:5
safely 40:20
safer 28:3
safety 10:24, 16:12, 28:6, 28:9, 29:2,

39:11, 39:21, 39:24
saw 4:2
saying 11:17,
20:15, 21:2,
37:19
scale 24:13
scene 37:18
school 19:11
Science 1:14
scope 40:9
Scott 32:16
Sea 6:5, 29:19, 40:1
Sean 25:16
second 12:13, 16:25, 17:5, 25:5, 28:11
section 8:3, 15:14
seem 20:2, 26:15
seems 21:3
seen 30:7
select 31:14
Selectmen
27:10, 34:6
self-explanator
y 14:8
selling 32:11
send 36:2
sent 25:7, 36:13
separate 10:18
series 25:20
serve 26:3, 34:11, 35:12, 35:13
served 34:6, 34:8
service 13:13, 15:11, 16:14, 17:9
set 21:20, 23:7, 31:7
several 17:21, 31:1
Sewall 1:14
shad 10:3, 10:7
shared 35:18

She'll 5:2
sheets 4:19
shock 31:3
shocked 18:3,
24:19
short 5:18,
5:22, 32:11,
37: 4
short-sighted
32: 4
short-term 9:15
shoulders 8:2,
13:2, 13:18
shouldn't
19:10, 19:19
show 14:10,
21: 8
showed 7:23
showing 6:2
shown 13:20,
14:10
shows 12:16,
19:12
side 6:3, 6:4,
7:18, 8:4,
8:9, 11:9,
29:8, 29:12,
29:22, 30:17,
30:21, 37:11,
39:18, 40:2,
40:12, 40:19,
40:23
sides 13:24,
19:7
sidewalk 7:11,
7:13, 8:4,
8:8, 12:13,
13:22, 15:17,
15:19, 16:4,
16:20, 16:22,
16:24, 16:25,
17:5, 39:17,
40:12, 40:13,
40:21
sidewalks 13:3,
13:18, 14:3,
30:6, 39:18
sign-in 5:10
signature 26:2
signed 42:8
signed-in 5:9
significance
19:7
signs 33:23
silenced 19:23
similarly 26:6
simple 33:16
simultaneously
17:22
Sir 16:16
sit 29:18,
30:25, 35:25
site 29:16,
29:17, 30:8,
30:11, $36: 23$
sitting 5:2,
31:5
six 20:15
skipped 10:13
slide 6:1,
10:13, 14:6,
14:21, 15:13
slides 11:25
small 24:9, 25:20
SMCC 1:9, 1:13
so-called 32:19
solution 10:15
solutions 14:1
somebody 35:24, 37:10
sometimes 37:11
sorry 7:13, 28:24
sort 26:17, 35:24, 37:13
south 40:14
span 6:8, 6:11, 14:7, 33:13
spearheaded 34:9
special 8:23, 8:25, 17:3
species 10:2
specific 17:18
specifics 20:18
specified 34:24
spend 34:13,
34:14, 34:16
spent 24:21
spite $36: 21$
spoke 17:21, 23:24
spoken 38:25
spread 23:16
staff 4:12, 17:17
staffed 13:24
standard 17:2
standing 4:18
start 9:15
started 2:3, 2:5, 17:11
starting 9:14
State 1:1, 1:12, 1:18, 22:22, 28:12, 28:20, 32:12, 36:10, 37:6, 42:3
statement 23:1
statements 22:14
Station 4:8, 4:11, 4:17, 6:5, 6:17, 7:6
stations 4:1, 4:5, 12:8, 17:16, 18:18, 21:20
stay 15:7
stenograph 42:6
Stern 20:1
Steve 19:25, 20:10
stop 39:23
stopped 37:10
stopping 39:22
straight 34:3
Street 1:15, 24:15, 25:2, 34:18, 40:14, $40: 20,40: 21$, 40:22
strenuously 32:19
stringers 7:8, 8:7, 8:8, 15:16, 15:21,

16:4
strongly 24:24,
32:17, 33:11,
35:5, 38:9,
38:20
structural 7:3, 7:7, 7:15,
10:17
structure 2:19, 8:1, 8:12, 8:13, 10:22,
12:15, 13:7,
14:7, 14:15,
14:24, 16:1,
16:11, 18:2,
25:18
structures
12:24
Sturgeon 10:5, 10:6, 10:7
style 26:2
subject 31:9
subjects 3:1
submit 3:10
substantive 5:7
Sullivan 26:13
Summer 25:2
summertime 37:9
superstructure
6:20, 6:21,
6:25, 8:17,
8:20
support 15:18, 16:5, 27:25, 31:21, 32:17
suppose 40:6
suppress 21:3,
23:6
suppressed
24:10
suppression
24:7
Swinging 34:10, 34:12, 34:19, 34:25, 39:9, 40:10
system 6:23
$<\mathrm{T}>$
table 5:10
tables 4:13
$\operatorname{tag}$ 4:14
talked 12:17, 15:15, 31:6
tax 28:21
team 4:5
technical 4:11
technology 30:5
teeth 21:12, 21:14
temporary 13:7,
13:9, 16:10,
17:7, 24:2
tend 37:21
term 28:16
terminology 18:16
terms 6:18, 28:13
terrible 18:11
Thanks 5:13, 17:13
theme 4:1
themselves 9:4
therein 34:15
thereof 9:2
they've 14:17, 24:12, 31:18
third 29:4, 33:25
thorough 27:20
thoroughly
27:12, 31:18
though 38:6
thoughts 2:24, 40:25
Three 6:8,
6:11, 15:7, 15:8, 16:8, 17:5, 28:1
throughout 17:16
thumb 24:13
tipped 24:11
today 9:7,
9:11, 22:3, 31:6
Tom 26:20
ton 9:12, 9:20,

10:18
tonight 2:21,
4:1, 4:2,
4:6, 4:20,
4:23, 18:4,
22:13, 23:20,
25:2, 25:14,
32:20, 36:15
tons 9:1, 9:3
Tony 32:23
took 31:16
topic 32:22
Topsham 6:3, 22:2, 24:9, 27:8, 27:10, 29:16, 30:17, 32:17, 33:3, 34:2, $34: 7$, 37:11, 40:12, 40:15, 40:23
Topsham/brunswi
ck 39:8
torn 36:20
total 6:9,
6:12, 6:23
totally 22:10, 29:13
tourism 37:22
tourist 37:14, 37:20
tourists 37:1, 38:3
towards 37:2, 40:14
Town 19:13, 27:10, 34:7, 34:21, 34:22, 35:24
towns 32:1,
32:14, 34:13, 34:20, 38:11, 38:15
Traffic 11:8, 13:8, 14:23, 14:24, 16:9, 17:6, 24:4, 26:23, 27:2, 39:22, 39:23
TRANSCRIPT 2:1, 42:5

Transportation
1:2, 5:17,
28:8
transverse 7:9,
7:11, 8:6
travel 8:1,
13:2, 13:17, 19:12
travels 40:6
travesty 18:19
tried 26:4
truck 26:23
trucks 27:2
true 42:4
truss 6:9,
6:11, 7:3,
$7: 11,7: 13$,
7:14, 7:19,
7:20, 8:12,
15:23, 16:5
trusses 29:10
trust 25:12,
25:14
try 22:20
trying 7:16, 10:4, 11:2, 11:9, 13:25, 18:15, 18:16, 21:23
tunnel 29:8, 29:9
turn 5:12
turned 37:14
twice 34:25
two 8:1, 8:11, 13:18, 21:11, 21:13, 28:21, 32:14, 33:15, 39:7
two. 29:12
type 8:12
< U >
ugly 25:25,
26:10
unbelievable 22:3
undemocratic 19:22
undermining 32:11, 39:4
underpass 30:15
understand
20:17, 22:16, 24:4, 38:16
unfortunate 38:24, 39:5
until 5:4, 12:7
upshot 8:23
upstream 8:4, 12:11, 12:20, 12:25, 13:16, 14:22, 15:9, 28:1, 29:5, 30:1
urge 14:18
useful 18:18
users 29:25
using 30:4
utilities 13:10, 15:1
Utility 7:19, 11:10, 13:9, 14:25
$<\mathrm{V}>$
value 11:19, 38:16, 38:18
Van 27:7
various 2:8, 2:17, 4:23, 17:15, 32:24
venue 23:15
verbal 5:1
versus 28:18, 28:23, 36:7
view 7:18, 30:25, 33:17, 33:20, 39:2 visit 17:15, 37:1
visitors 37:1, 38:3
voice 5:1, 20:13, 27:3 voicing 17:22
< W >
wait 12:7
waiving 16:16
Walk 6:16, 10:1, 30:14, 39:9, 40:3
walking 33:19, 35:13, 37:12
Wallace 22:24, 23:10
wanted 20:16, 21:6, 34:20, 35:23
wanting 35:5
wants 18:13
watched 19:12
Water 24:15
ways 29:6
website 2:20, 4:22, 5:6
wedding 37:18
week 23:23, 24:5
weeks 28:22, 28:25
weight 9:12
welcome 2:3, 3:13
west 30:13
whatever 19:18, 23:3, 37:23, 38:3
Whereby 17:21
whether 12:24, 35:7
whims 31:9
White 23:18, 23:19
whoever 24:20
whole 18:8, 18:13, 18:19, 24:3, 29:14
wide 29:21, 30: 6
width 13:17
widths 14:1
Wiener. 38:8
wildlife 4:7
wildly 31:25
will 2:3, 3:21,

$$
\begin{aligned}
& \text { 3:25, 5:3, } \\
& 5: 7,5: 12 \text {, } \\
& 5: 18,5: 21 \text {, } \\
& \text { 6:17, 6:25, } \\
& \text { 9:14, 13:19, } \\
& \text { 13:23, 14:25, } \\
& \text { 28:3, 29:18, } \\
& \text { 30:14, 36:18, } \\
& \text { 36:20, 36:23, } \\
& \text { 39:15, 40:6 } \\
& \text { William 35:20, } \\
& \text { 36:8, 36:12 } \\
& \text { WIN 1:6 } \\
& \text { wish 24:12 } \\
& \text { within 42:3 } \\
& \text { without 11:16, } \\
& \text { 30:18, 32:2, } \\
& \text { 35:10, } 39: 22 \\
& \text { wonderful 36:3 } \\
& \text { Wood 1:4, 2:5, } \\
& \text { 3:13, 3:18, } \\
& \text { 6:6, 9:22, } \\
& \text { 17:25, 20:12, } \\
& \text { 22:4, 24:8, } \\
& \text { 32:8, 32:18 } \\
& \text { word 36:24 } \\
& \text { work 5:24, } \\
& \text { 32:24, 33:8, } \\
& \text { 33:17 } \\
& \text { working 20:3 } \\
& \text { worry 19:19 } \\
& \text { worthy 27:22 } \\
& \text { writing 28:19, } \\
& \text { 39:3 } \\
& \begin{array}{l}
\langle X> \\
X-\text { cross } 7: 10
\end{array} \\
& \text { < Y > } \\
& \text { year 9:16, } \\
& \text { 14:12, 22:6, } \\
& \text { 23:23, 24:1, } \\
& \text { 24:5, 26:22, } \\
& \text { 27:14, 38:6 } \\
& \text { years 6:13, } \\
& \text { 8:11, 13:5, } \\
& \text { 14:23, 16:9, } \\
& \text { 17:6, 17:25, }
\end{aligned}
$$

19:11, 23:25, 26:10, 28:17,
28:19, 31:1, 34:23, 37:6, 38:6, 38:7
Yesterday 20:6 young 39:24

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