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1	STATE OF MAINE	
2	DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION	
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4	IN RE REPLACEMENT OF THE FRANK J.	WOOD BRIDGE
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6	WIN 022603.00	
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9	Public Meeting At The SMCC Mid-Coast Campus	
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11	Reported by Robin J. Dostie, a Notary	Public and
12	court reporter in and for the State o	f Maine, on
13	April 5, 2017, at the SMCC Mid-Coast Campus, LL Bean	
14	Learning Commons and Health Science Center, 29 Sewall	
15	Street, Brunswick, Maine, commencing at 6:00 p.m.	
16		
17		
18	REPRESENTING THE STATE:	JOEL KITTREDGE
19	FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION:	CHERYL MARTIN
20		CASSIE CHASE
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1 TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS 2 MS. MARTIN: Okay. It's 6 o'clock, so I think we will get started. Good evening and welcome 3 to the open house public meeting for the Frank J. 4 5 Wood Bridge project. Before we get started, I did 6 want to point out that there are restrooms down this 7 hall here and the exits are very well marked at 8 various locations around the room. 9 My name is Cheryl Martin and I'm the Assistant Division Administrator from the Federal 10 11 Highway Administration Division located in Augusta. The Federal Highway Administration is the lead 12 federal agency for this project and we use the 13 National Environmental Policy Act or NEPA process to 14 inform our decision concerning identification of a 15 preferred alternative. As part of this process, we 16 have compiled information concerning various 17 18 alternatives for both rehabilitation and replacement of the structure. This information, which is 19 20 available on MaineDOT's website and as handouts tonight, includes engineering costs and the 21 22 environmental impacts for each alternative. 23 The purpose of this meeting is to obtain your input, comments, concerns and thoughts regarding 24 25 all aspects of the project as we contemplate the

1 preferred alternative. Examples of subjects that we 2 want your input on include environmental impacts to 3 natural resources and historic properties, bicycle 4 and pedestrian access, design and cost consideration. 5 However, again, we are accepting comments on any 6 aspect of the project.

7 The format of this meeting is an open house 8 and I would like to invite Cassie Chase, Maine 9 Division Environmental Engineer, to explain the 10 meeting format and how you can submit comments on the 11 project.

12 MS. CHASE: Good evening everybody and welcome to the Frank J. Wood public meeting. My name 13 is Cassie Chase and I'm an Environmental Engineer 14 15 with Federal Highway Administration's Maine Division office. As Cheryl just mentioned, we believe the 16 17 best way to hear your comments and get your input on 18 the Frank J. Wood Bridge project is to have this public meeting beginning with a brief presentation 19 followed by an open house. The presentation, which 20 21 Joel will be giving in just a moment, will go over 22 the alternatives currently being analyzed by MaineDOT 23 and Federal Highway. Instead of answering questions immediately following the presentation the 24 25 presentation will be followed by an open house and

1 tonight we have stations organized by theme, which 2 you probably or maybe saw when you came in tonight, 3 which provides you all with an opportunity to engage in one-on-one discussions with MaineDOT and Federal 4 5 Highway team members. So some of the stations that 6 we have here tonight are Historic Resources, Natural 7 Resources to talk about the fish and wildlife 8 impacts. We have a Design station and there are folks there that can also help answer questions on 9 10 existing bridge conditions. And we have a Bicycle 11 and Pedestrian station. So technical MaineDOT, 12 Federal Highway and consultant staff are at each of those tables. You can recognize them because they 13 14 all should have a name tag and just after the 15 presentation feel free to float around and ask questions at that time. 16

17 We also have a Comment station, which I'll 18 be standing at with David after this, and we invite 19 you to provide comment. We have comment sheets here 20 tonight, you can fill them out and we have a comment 21 box that you can drop them in. You can also go to 22 MaineDOT's website. We have that link up. There are 23 various areas in this room tonight that have that link, so you can go and provide those there. We have 24 25 a court reporter here, so if you would prefer to

1 voice your comments in a verbal format you can provide those to her. She'll be sitting right over 2 3 here and those comments will become part of the 4 project record. And we're accepting comments until 5 April 19. All comments that we receive, we're going 6 to post on MaineDOT's website and responses to 7 substantive comments will also be posted there. 8 Lastly, before handing over the presentation 9 to Joel, if you haven't signed-in, we encourage you to sign-in. There is a sign-in table right up front 10 11 there, that way we can get an estimate of how many 12 people are attending and so, Joel, I will turn it 13 over to you now. Thanks. 14 MR. KITTREDGE: Thank you, Cassie, Cheryl. 15 Good evening everybody. My name is Joel Kittredge. I'm a Project Manager with the Maine Department of 16 Transportation out of the Augusta office. As Cassie 17 18 said, this will be a short presentation --19 AUDIENCE MEMBER: We can't hear you. 20 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Speak up. MR. KITTREDGE: As Cassie said, this will be 21 22 a short presentation. The goal is just to revisit 23 the project overall and to highlight what we've done, where we're at with our analysis, all of the work 24 25 that's been done to date.

1 So with that, this first slide is just 2 showing us the general location overall. You can see 3 obviously Bowdoin on one side -- excuse me, Topsham on one side, Brunswick on the other, Fort Andross, 4 Brookfield Power generating station, Sea Dog, Cabot 5 6 Mill, et cetera, et cetera. Frank J. Wood Bridge, 7 everybody here -- that's familiar to everybody in 8 this room, I've got to believe. It's a three span 9 truss roughly 800 feet in total length. 10 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Can you speak up, please? 11 MR. KITTREDGE: Three span truss roughly 800 12 feet in total length. The project bridge was built 13 in 1931. 86 years of age. 14 This evening both now for this presentation 15 right now that I am going through and then after this presentation and as you walk around the room, 16 especially the Design Station in the back, it will be 17 18 key, we have some terms here that I'd just like to go If you look at the graphic here the 19 over. nomenclature of the superstructure is everything 20 21 we'll just call it. The superstructure is above the 22 piers and the abutments, so it's this green area in 23 total here. The floor system and the deck system are highlighted here, which is part of the 24 25 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.

5 More nomenclature. This is key, again, 6 drilling down at the station in the back of the room 7 there. Existing structural condition, we'll talk about the stringers. These longitudinal members 8 here. The needle beams are transverse members here. 9 Lateral bracing. X-cross frames here. Floor beams 10 11 or transverse members. And the sidewalk truss 12 itself -- excuse me, no, that's the -- yeah, the sidewalk truss, I'm sorry. The sidewalk truss itself 13 14 with the -- as part of the truss itself. These are 15 all structural members here that are key to evaluating the existing bridge and what we're trying 16 to achieve here with a replacement or a 17 18 rehabilitation. Again, this is a side view looking at the truss itself. Utility brackets. 19 This is the roadway truss. The floor. The grid. The needle 20 21 beams. So, again, this is just another way to look 22 at this up close and personal from the profile that I 23 showed you earlier.

24Project background information. The25existing configuration, the geometry of the existing

1 structure is two 11 foot travel lanes with 4 foot shoulders. The shoulders consist of a 2 foot paved 2 3 section with a 2 foot open grid portion. Also, the 5 foot sidewalk, which is on the upstream side. And, 4 5 again, for the purposes of this here just remember as 6 you're looking at this, transverse, this is the floor 7 beam. The stringers are running into and out of the paving and the sidewalk brackets and stringers on 8 9 this side, the Brookfield side.

10 Just backing up here, MaineDOT inspects our 11 bridges every two years. On a bridge of this 12 particular nature, it's a truss type structure, we call this a non-redundant structure. 13 It's qot fracture critical details, which we're especially 14 concerned with. In 2012 and 2014, we did a routine 15 and fracture critical inspection of the bridge and at 16 that point in time the deck and superstructure were 17 18 rated fair. In June of 2016, we did another inspection. At this time, the deck and 19 20 superstructure condition was rated poor and the condition and deterioration at that point in time 21 22 dictated to us that we should go out there and do a 23 special inspection in August. And a big upshot of that inspection there, which was the result of a 24 25 special inspection where our engineers went out there

and went all over the bridge, it's posted for 25 tons 1 2 in response to that inspection results thereof. And, 3 again, it's posted for 25 tons and I think these 4 photos speak for themselves. Very poor condition. 5 They're in poor condition, not very poor condition. 6 They're in poor condition. That is for, you know, 7 that is today right there and what we have now the 8 existing condition.

9 That takes us to the current maintenance project to address the conditions right now as they 10 11 are today. We need to provide repairs to maintain 12 the 25 ton weight limit that we have now. The project that is going out -- that is actually out, 13 which they will be starting construction on 14 15 eminent -- the eminent start here is a short-term five year fix. That project is going out the door. 16 17 It's out there. The contractor is ready to line up. 18 It's going to take 42 days of closure with construction complete this May 19. And, again, this 19 is just to maintain the 25 ton posting. 20 Environmental considerations on our 21 22 projects, historic resources. Frank J. Wood is a 23 contributing resource to the National Register Eligible and listed properties and districts. 24 There

25 are parks and recreational areas involved in this,

1 the River Walk part, recreational areas, there is 2 Anniversary Park as well. Endangered species, there 3 is fish, shad. What is the regular fish there I'm 4 trying to remember. 5 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Sturgeon. 6 MR. KITTREDGE: Thank you. Sturgeon. 7 Sturgeon and shad that we're concerned with. Impacts 8 to fisheries of course. Impacts to the Androscoggin River. And of course the environmental 9 10 considerations all have to be taken into account with 11 our public process, which is the current public 12 process, which is ongoing. And I think I skipped a slide there folks. 13 14 I may have to go back and I apologize. The current 15 maintenance project. Okay. A long-term solution is needed, but we're doing the maintenance fix now. 16 Address the poor structural conditions and load 17 18 capacity issues separate from the 25 ton project that 19 we're doing right now as part of the maintenance 20 project. So we're here -- the purpose and need, what 21 are we going to do for a long-term fix? We need to 22 address the poor structure conditions and load 23 capacity issues and we need to talk about bicycle and pedestrian use, mobility and safety concerns. 24 25 There we go. Environmental considerations

1 for this purpose and need on this project, this 2 long-term project that we're trying to establish 3 here, the right thing to do here I just went through. Moving along to other considerations. 4 Construction duration, how long is it going to take 5 6 depending on what the fix is, if it's a 7 rehabilitation or if it's a replacement. What are 8 the traffic impacts, what are the impacts to folks trying to get from one side of the river to the other 9 depending on what the fix might be. Utility impacts, 10 what needs to be moved, what's there now, what are 11 12 the long-term build-outs the needs of Brookfield. Right of way impacts, depending on if it's 13 14 rehabilitation or replacement how many properties are 15 affected and what are those impacts. The construction cost of course, that goes without 16 saying. And a life cycle cost, which are project 17 18 costs that are taken forward into the future and then 19 brought back to a net present value with a discount rate applied. 20 21 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Can you tell us what the 22 difference is between the construction cost and the 23 life cycle cost? MR. KITTREDGE: I think what you'll see as I 24 25 go through the slides --

1 AUDIENCE MEMBER: No, I don't mean the 2 numbers, I mean the concepts. 3 MR. KITTREDGE: After the meeting, after this presentation, we'll be able to talk in depth 4 5 about any questions that you may or may not -- that 6 you may have about that kind of thing, so I quess I 7 would ask that perhaps we wait until after the 8 presentation and go to the stations. Thank you. 9 So the five preliminary design Alternatives 1 through 5, a new bridge on existing alignment, a 10 11 new bridge on a curved upstream alignment, 12 rehabilitation of the existing bridge, rehabilitation of the existing bridge with an added second sidewalk 13 and we did take a look at a new alignment downstream 14 15 of the existing structure. So this graphic here shows what I just 16 talked about, Alternatives 1 through 5. And, again, 17 18 1, 3, and 4 are on-alignment in some fashion, either 19 a rehabilitation or a replacement on that alignment or the curved upstream alignment or downstream 20 21 alignment. 22 Okay. Alternative 1, new bridge on existing 23 alignment. It's a geometry. For any of these replacement structures, whether it's on existing 24 25 alignment or on upstream or downstream, the

1 geometry -- the horizontal geometry is the same. It's 11 foot travel lanes with 5 foot shoulders and 2 2 5 foot sidewalks and barrier rail. 3 Thank you. New bridge on existing 4 5 alignment, construction duration is 3 1/2 years and 6 that could be broken up between the actual time to 7 build the temporary structure and the time to 8 construct the bridge itself. Traffic impacts, on-site temporary detour. Utility impacts, we have 9 to relocate existing utilities to the new bridge. 10 11 Construction cost for on-alignment \$16 million. Life cycle cost, \$16.7 million. And the cumulative 12 service lifetime cost for this alternative was not 13 14 pursued. Alternative 2, a new bridge on curved 15 upstream alignment. Again, as I said before, the 16 geometry is the same, same width, same travel way, 17 18 shoulders and 2 sidewalks, two 5 foot sidewalks. Ι will say that as far as these replacement 19 alternatives, this geometry here as it's shown is 11 20 21 and 5. There is some possibility of changes in the 22 geometry especially with regards to the sidewalk and 23 the barrier. The barrier, if you will, I know that the Design Advisory Committee staffed by both sides 24 25 of the river have been very active in trying to come

1 up with some creative solutions and enhanced widths 2 and I think there has been some progress on that and 3 so that's why you see 11, 5 and 5, 5 foot sidewalks. 4 I believe there is some room for expansion, but 5 that's in the event of replacement.

Next slide, please. And this is a graphic 6 7 for that. Again, this is five span structure. 8 Looking down, that's pretty much self-explanatory. 9 This is the other graphic we have. You'll note this does show a bump-out. This bump-out was shown some 10 11 time ago. This is one of the things that we had put 12 forward back in April of last year. A bump-out was something that was, you know, a possibility. Just 13 14 another thing that perhaps would be a good amenity to 15 any kind of a replacement structure. And, again, I think if you talk to folks on the DAC, Design 16 Advisory Committee, they've been very active, very 17 18 creative, so I urge you folks to reach out for further conversation and find out what has been done. 19 Pursued. 20

Next slide. Alternative 2, new bridge on curved upstream alignment. Construction duration is 23 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 1 2 the new bridge. AUDIENCE MEMBER: Please speak up. 3 4 MR. KITTREDGE: Sure. I apologize. 5 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Closer to the microphone. 6 MR. KITTREDGE: Okay. I won't move my head. 7 I'll stay right here. Right of way impacts to three 8 properties. Right of way impacts, three properties 9 affected for a curved upstream alignment. Construction costs are \$13 million. The life cycle 10 cost is \$13.7 million and a cumulative service 11 lifetime cost of \$17.3 million. 12 Next slide, please. Rehabilitation of the 13 This is 14 existing bridge. Proposed section. Okay. 15 Alternate Number 3. Again, as I talked before, your floor beams, your stringers in and out. This is your 16 deck itself. This is your sidewalk. Your sidewalk 17 18 support. With the rehabilitation of the existing 19 bridge you would -- there would be one sidewalk to remain on the bridge, but the floor beams and the 20 21 stringers and the needle beams and the deck itself 22 would all be removed and replaced. The chord --23 truss chords and some of the cover plates on the chord would be replaced and/or improved and repaired, 24 25 so this is a major, major rehabilitation of this

1 existing structure.

2	Rehabilitation of the existing bridge.	
3	Again, as I said, it would have a new deck. New deck	
4	here, new floor beams, new stringers, sidewalk	
5	support, framing repairs on the truss itself, bottom	
б	chord repair and of course the entire bridge would	
7	need to be painted. Further on rehabilitation of the	
8	existing bridge, construction duration of three	
9	years. The traffic impacts would be an on-site	
10	temporary detour. This rehabilitation of the	
11	existing structure does not address the mobility nor	
12	safety concerns. Construction cost estimated at \$15	
13	million. Life cycle cost at almost \$21 million. And	
14	if you talk about the cumulative service lifetime	
15	cost it's at \$35 million.	
16	Sir, I see you waiving your hand, but what	
17	we'll do is we'll address those questions after this	
18	presentation. Thank you.	
19	Alternate 4, rehabilitation of the existing	
20	bridge with an added sidewalk. Alternative Number 4	
21	is everything that we just described to you in Number	
22	3 with the addition of a downstream sidewalk. I	
23	think the that's really pretty much the major	
24	difference is that does have the added sidewalk and	
25	to allow for that additional second sidewalk it would	

use a light-weight bridge deck. This would not be 1 2 just your standard concrete -- reinforced concrete 3 bridge deck, but it would be a special light-weight deck configuration. Alternative 4 is a rehab with a 4 second sidewalk. Construction duration of three 5 6 years. The traffic impacts, we would have the 7 on-site temporary detour. \$17 million construction 8 cost, \$23.2 million life cycle cost and a cumulative service lifetime cost of \$38.2 million. 9 This graphic here, again, just to get us 10 11 back to where we started with the five alternatives. 12 And with that, that concludes the presentation. 13 MS. MARTIN: Okay. Thanks, Joel. The presentation portion of the meeting is over and I 14 15 invite and encourage you to visit the various stations throughout the room. MaineDOT, FHWA and 16 consultant staff are available to answer your 17 18 specific questions and please provide your comments 19 on the project by your method of choice. Thank you for coming. 20 21 (Whereby several audience members spoke 22 simultaneously voicing displeasure in the process.) 23 COMMENTS FOR THE RECORD AUDIENCE MEMBER: Christine Macchi. 24 I have 25 a business next to the Frank Wood Bridge for 17 years

1 called Maine Fiber Arts and I'm in favor of keeping 2 the current structure and rehabbing the existing 3 bridge. And I am shocked and appalled that citizens 4 who came out tonight were not encouraged to use the 5 microphone to speak so that we could learn from them. 6 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Hi. My name a Hugh 7 Maynard. I live in Bath. I cross over the Green 8 Bridge often and I think this whole public -- it's not a public meeting. They call it an open house. 9 10 It's bullshit. It was advertised as a public 11 meeting. The format is terrible. It is 12 counterproductive. These people want answers. They want to hear it in -- the whole room wants to hear 13 14 answers to the same questions. Many of these 15 questions are not argumentative. We're trying to find out what the terminology means. We're trying to 16 17 figure out what, you know, what the project is. Ιt 18 is useful to go around to these stations, but the 19 whole thing is a travesty. An absolute travesty. Ι don't know why we -- people have said we could have 20 gotten this information online, that's right, but 21 22 we're not here to get information online. We're here 23 to hear answers. We're here to have our input not --AUDIENCE MEMBER: (Christine Macchi.) From 24 25 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.

5 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Hi. My name is Henry 6 D'Alesandris. And I think that because the historic 7 significance of the mills on both sides of the bridge 8 and the mill and the bridge itself we should keep all of that. Brunswick has a habit of getting rid of 9 10 things that they shouldn't. We got rid of the high 11 school. It was only 50 years old. I mean, I've watched these shows in Britain and I travel a lot. 12 Every town has got something historical. 13 They have 14 to pay a little extra to keep it, but they have it 15 and it's an attraction. People come to see that and we need to do something to keep this bridge. 16 We 17 really need it. It's a beautiful piece of 18 construction and please let's do whatever we can to 19 keep it. Don't worry about the -- we shouldn't worry about the money all of the time. 20 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.

25

AUDIENCE MEMBER: Hi. My name is Steve

1 Stern. I'm a party to the 106 process and the last 2 time we met, which I couldn't go to because I seem to 3 be working of the time, but we were told by Cassie that she would get information to us before the 4 meeting -- more than one day before the meeting. 5 6 Yesterday I received the itemized report from the MDOT. 7 I don't think that's very fair. We don't have 8 time to evaluate any of the data as we come in in an 9 appropriate time frame. That's all I have. My name is Steve 10 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Hi. 11 Hinchman, H-I-N-C-H-M-A-N. I am an attorney for the 12 Friends of the Frank J. Wood Bridge and I want to voice a protest that the format of this hearing as it 13 is preventing the public from having a dialogue. I 14 15 have been approached by at least six people saying they wanted to hear the back and the forth Q and A so 16

they can be better informed and understand what the 17 18 issues of concern were with regard to specifics, for 19 example, bike and pedestrian access and the cost of 20 the bridge, the assumptions that go into the cost, 21 those are just some examples so that people have been 22 looking in detail that have guestions as the 23 questions are answered the rest of the public would be better informed. The format of this meeting has 24 25 deprived people of that and many, many people are

1 complaining to me asking what can I do as a lawyer, 2 so I just want to go on record as saying this format 3 seems to be intentionally designed to suppress public 4 dialogue and minimize criticisms and comment. Thank 5 you.

6 AUDIENCE MEMBER: I just wanted to add one 7 thing. Henry D'Alesandris. You know, a friend of 8 mine just said to me, you know, they show these pictures of all of the rust on the bridge and 9 10 everything and they talk about it and say it really 11 needs to be replaced, but, you know, if you have two 12 teeth in your head that you need to pull out you don't pull them all out just because you've got two 13 14 bad teeth, you know what I mean. There is things 15 that they can fix on that bridge that they should to maintain it. And the other thing is that, you know, 16 we feel a little railroaded here because you come to 17 18 this public meeting and you want to hear the 19 questions that everyone else has, but the way they set it up with these stations that you have to go 20 around and talk to all of these experts, but nobody 21 22 hears what the questions are. Nobody hears it, so 23 they're really trying to keep us from communicating with each other, which I think is a very bad thing. 24 25 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Arlene Morris. I live

Brunswick and I own a historic commercial building in 1 2 Topsham that abuts the bridge. I just think the 3 process today is unbelievable to not let people talk and hear. I joined the Friends of the Frank Wood --4 5 of the Frank J. Bridge and we've been meeting for 6 over a year, we've been following all of your -- all 7 of the notes that come out of the MDOT and I cannot believe that you didn't give us an opportunity to 8 9 tell people what we know. We know a lot. And it's 10 just ridiculous. I'm just -- I'm just totally offended. 11

12 AUDIENCE MEMBER: John Graham. I am deeply disappointed in the format tonight. I was looking 13 forward to hearing -- to making statements and 14 15 hearing public dialogue on the bridge itself. I understand the idea of going after and having some 16 questions answered, but I think there should have 17 18 been a bit of public comment back and forth and some answers done before they did that and I believe they 19 should try to do this meeting over so that we can 20 21 have that opportunity before they close out decisions. And finally, I would like to state in the 22 23 public record I am all for rehabilitation. AUDIENCE MEMBER: My name is Wallace 24 25 Pinfold. And I came out this evening expecting a

public meeting rather than just a flat statement. 1 Ι 2 thought there would be people, engineers, designers, 3 whatever to answer public questions, but I see that that hasn't happened. I don't know what the federal 4 5 government's intentions was, but it looks like its 6 mind is made up and had decided to suppress all 7 public curiosity by giving a set presentation. So 8 that's what I have to say. 9 THE REPORTER: Thank you. AUDIENCE MEMBER: (Wallace Pinfold.) 10 11 Certainly.

I'd like 12 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Cathy Leonard. 13 to request that this be done again with an 14 opportunity for the public to ask questions in a 15 general venue where everyone gets to hear the answers from the folks who are spread around the room. 16 This 17 is extremely disappointing. Thank you.

18 AUDIENCE MEMBER: J. Phinney Baxter White. 19 My name is J. Phinney Baxter White. I was expecting 20 to be able to speak tonight. MDOT got to speak and 21 no one else got to speak. That is my complaint. We 22 had a lot of information to put forward. There is a 23 lot of new information. And a year and a week ago MDOT spoke at this meeting and said that no matter 24 25 what that the bridge could only last 30 years with

1 rehabilitation. The bridge is now a 75 year bridge with their numbers and it would have a temporary 2 3 bridge constructed the whole time so that there is no 4 traffic impact. People don't understand that and 5 don't know that because a year and a week ago those 6 weren't items that were up -- that were even 7 considered. So this was a suppression of our group, 8 the Friends of the Frank J. Wood Bridge group. I'm a consulting party with my small business in Topsham 9 10 and I feel suppressed and I think this meeting has to 11 be held again and I think it was tipped to balance MDOT's wish to do Alternative 2. Anyway, they've got 12 their thumb on the scale. 13

14 AUDIENCE MEMBER: My name is Cynthia 15 Howland. I'm a resident of Water Street in Brunswick and I came out especially to this meeting to hear the 16 17 alternatives and the comments of people and just to 18 see what the -- how the land lay. I am horrified at 19 this meeting. It's a disgrace. I was shocked that whoever organized this made no attempt to listen to 20 21 the people who came out, who spent their time from 22 doing other things to come out. They obviously did 23 not want to hear what anyone had to say and I strongly believe this meeting needs to be held again. 24 25 Thank you.

1 AUDIENCE MEMBER: My name is Karen Munson. 2 I live at 15 Summer Street and I came tonight very 3 open to hearing about the alternatives. I am first all of really annoyed that I couldn't hear what was 4 being said and this was the second meeting that 5 6 that's happened at. I made comments after the last 7 meeting, none of them were responded to. I sent 8 emails, so I'm disappointed in that. I came very open to listening to all of the alternatives and I'm 9 10 leaving furious and I have not been this furious 11 since I lived in this neighborhood. I have a very high level in the -- of trust in the intent and the 12 process of government and I am feeling like that 13 14 trust has been betrayed by the process tonight or the 15 lack of it. Thank you.

AUDIENCE MEMBER: My name is Sean Ruel. 16 First of all, I'd just like to express my displeasure 17 18 with the structure of the meeting. It was advertised as a public meeting and was absolutely not. 19 It's a 20 series of small one-on-one private meetings, which I 21 don't think is productive. The other point I would 22 like to make is the false decision we're making here 23 between rehabilitating a reasonably attractive esthetically historic bridge and replacing it with a 24 25 new bridge that's ugly. We don't need to do either

1 of those things. We could hopefully find an aesthetically pleasing signature style bridge that 2 3 could serve to represent this community for generations. Recently in Portsmouth they tried to 4 5 replace the Memorial Bridge over the Piscataquis 6 River. And similarly proposed a very dull bridge and 7 eventually after community outcry it was replaced with something that's guite pretty. And we just need 8 to take the time to think about this now so we don't 9 have an ugly bridge for the next 100 years. Thank 10 11 you.

12 AUDIENCE MEMBER: My name is Alexis Burgdorf Sullivan and we were just hoping to have a chance to, 13 14 you know, speak up in favor of the existing bridge 15 and it just doesn't seem like we really had a chance to do that, so we'd like another opportunity to be 16 able to sort of like present a case for the existing 17 18 bridge. I am really not in favor of this project, so we would like the chance to be able to do that. 19 20 Hi. AUDIENCE MEMBER: My name Tom Feeley. 21 I live right about a half mile from the bridge. I've 22 qot a 3 year old and a 6 year old and I'm concerned 23 about increased truck traffic if they're going to be putting up a new bridge and everything. Personally, 24

I think the area should be a residential pedestrian

25

1 neighborhood and I'm concerned about increased 2 traffic, increased flow of trucks and I'm 3 disappointed I didn't get a chance to voice my 4 opinion at a public hearing and I would hope that 5 they open this up to the public in a way that we can 6 actually have a dialogue. Thank you.

7 AUDIENCE MEMBER: My name is Bruce Van Note. 8 I'm a resident of Topsham and I'm the Chair of the 9 Design Advisory Committee that was formed by the 10 Topsham Selectmen and the Brunswick Town Council.

11 And first of all, I'd like to thank Federal 12 Highway and MaineDOT for thoroughly considering all the impacts before making any decision. 13 This is a 100 year decision, it's okay to take a few months and 14 15 think about it. I respect people who respect old things. The older I get, the more important that is. 16 17 So, again, it's very good that they looked at this 18 and I don't think there has been a more detailed 19 process to look at the impacts of this. I don't --20 so if it's not the most thorough process in the 21 country it's got to be close to it, so I think it was 22 worthy.

23 With that said, I've got to respectfully 24 disagree with people who think rehabbing the bridge 25 is the right thing. I fully support Alternative 2,

1 it's the new curved upstream alignment, for three principle reasons. The first is that the new bridge 2 will just be safer and more reliable. 3 There are literally pieces falling off that bridge. I actually 4 have one and I'm glad it didn't hit anybody. 5 And 6 safety and reliability is the cornerstone of anything 7 you do. It's the mission of MaineDOT, it's the 8 mission of every transportation agency in the country, so safety and reliability have to be 9 foremost. 10

11 The second major reason is financial. This is a financial no brainer for the state and federal 12 government both in terms of initial capital cost, the 13 difference that's between \$15 million and \$19.5 14 million for Alternative 2 and Alternative 4 15 respectively. If you think longer term it's even 16 more of a no brainer. \$17.3 million for 100 years of 17 18 life for Alternative 2 versus \$38 million plus for 75 years of life. Anybody who is writing that check has 19 to know the right answer. And that's just state and 20 21 federal tax payers. The business impacts of the two 22 aren't even close. A couple -- a few weeks of 23 closure for Alternative 4 versus who knows how long for alternative -- sorry, for Alternative 2 is a few 24 25 weeks of closure, Alternative 4, the rehab, much

1 longer.

2 So safety, money, those are usually reasons 3 that a lot of decisions are made, but the biggest reason, the third, is that Alternative 2, the curved 4 5 upstream alignment, would just be a better connection 6 in so many different ways. It's going to connect the 7 communities. The current bridge is a long green 8 tunnel. You go on one side and you know you're in 9 Brunswick, you have to go through a long green tunnel where you look at nothing except the trusses you go 10 11 through and then you pop out and, oh, I'm on the 12 other side. It has the effect of dividing the two. Alternative 2 is going to be low profile and totally 13 14 open up the whole area. It's going to be very 15 liberating. People are going to think of the Pejepscot Falls site, not Brunswick, bridge, Topsham. 16 It's going to be one big site that's connected. 17 18 People will be able to sit up at the Frontier and 19 look down at the Sea Dog and the Sea Dog up to the Frontier, hey, maybe we should be go down there 20 21 because it's wide open. People are going to see the 22 architecture on both side and qo, hey, why don't we qo over there. It's just a very big feeling of 23 So it's going to connect the communities, 24 openness. 25 it's going to connect all users.

1 The curved upstream alignment has much better facilities for bicycles, pedestrians than 2 3 anything you do with the old bridge can as to be They built the old bridge in 1931 using 4 expected. technology they had then. This is going to be just 5 6 wide open with very wide sidewalks that people 7 haven't even seen yet. Very well integrated into the 8 site. The railings are going to be beautiful. The lighting is going to be beautiful. It's going to be 9 a place people want to go, so it's going to connect 10 11 pedestrians to the site. It's going to connect it to 12 the parks that are there. It's going to connect it to pedestrian facilities. To the west you have the 13 14 River Walk, which will connect right to this bridge. 15 There is a potential for a pedestrian underpass so you don't even have to cross at grade. Completely 16 17 So you can go one side to the other in Topsham safe. 18 without even having to deal with a car. And it's 19 going to connect with the Pejepscot Falls. Alternative 2 actually leap frogs over the falls, so 20 21 instead of being on one side or the other it doesn't 22 cover them up. A lot of people care about the falls, 23 so do I. You're still going to be able to see them. So Alternative 2 is clearly the better 24 25 choice in my view, but I know change is hard. We sit

here on a base that was closed several years ago. 1 Ι 2 grew up in this area, I know what it was like when 3 that announcement came. There was a lot of shock, dismay, fear. Things are changing, things are bad. 4 5 Well, we're sitting in this facility, CMCC, on the 6 front page of the Times Record today they talked 7 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 8 more resilient and not subject to the whims of people 9 in DC. So change, although hard here, has been good 10 and the same thing is going to happen here. 11 If you 12 accept and embrace change it's going to be good and this is going to be very good, so I am very hopeful 13 14 that Federal Highway and MaineDOT select Alternative 15 2. With that said, that's my opinion. I'm really glad they took all of the other people's opinions 16 because this is a long-term decision that should be 17 18 thoroughly considered and I think they've done a 19 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. 1 The existing bridge is an iconic piece of our towns 2 and without it everyone would be really -- I think if 3 it was erased our communities would regret it and 4 replacement is a short-sighted decision based on 5 financial impacts and some things are more important 6 than money, so rehabilitate the bridge, please.

7 AUDIENCE MEMBER: My name is Evan Duda. Ι 8 am 100 percent for rehabilitating the Frank Wood 9 Bridge. I think in regards to the financial 10 decision, which is where these alternatives came from 11 it's undermining and short selling the landscape of 12 our community and the state. I think it's absolutely important that the bridge maintains its esthetic 13 14 properties for the historic image of these two towns. 15 Thank you.

16 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Hi. I'm Scott Hanson, resident of Topsham and I strongly support 17 18 rehabilitation of the Frank J. Wood Bridge. I also strenuously object to the format of this so-called 19 public meeting tonight. It needs to be done over and 20 21 the public needs to be able to hear each other on 22 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.

6 AUDIENCE MEMBER: All right. My name is 7 Alicia Heyburn. I'm a resident of Brunswick. In my 8 professional life I work in land conservation and 9 river restoration and so it is rare for me to 10 advocate for new construction or development, but in 11 this instance I am strongly in favor of replacing the existing bridge with Alternative Number 2. 12 The reason for that is that it's a much longer life span, 13 much better investment and use of our infrastructure 14 dollars primarily. Number two, is I feel that it's 15 16 extremely beautiful, the new simple design because it opens up the view to the river. And in my work, 17 18 opportunities to connect people to place through a direct experience such as walking across the bridge 19 and having a view of the beautiful river gives them 20 21 an opportunity to learn more about the river. I know 22 that we have the chance to build bump-outs and have 23 informative signs, which can talk about the migratory 24 fish that come up through the Androscoggin. And the 25 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.

5 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Nancy E. Randolph. Ι 6 actually have served on the board of selectmen in 7 Topsham and the town council in Brunswick. I might be the only person. I have actually served on the 8 committee and actually spearheaded that committee in 9 10 rehabilitating the Swinging Bridge that's just up 11 river from this bridge. I right now serve on a 12 non-profit that maintains the Swinging Bridge because the towns don't want to spend any local dollars 13 maintaining it even as they didn't spend any local 14 15 dollars rehabbing that bridge and therein lies the Locally, we never want to spend any local 16 problem. dollars maintaining a bridge and we go back in 17 18 history back to every main street bridge, every --19 you know, the Pedestrian Bridge, the Swinging Bridge and even the Black Bridge, both towns wanted the 20 21 other town to pay for it and it takes a long time for 22 either town to do anything, so I want a new bridge with a little maintenance for 100 years. 23 I know that when a rehab project is specified with money it's 24 25 never enough. The Swinging Bridge was twice what we

expected and that was with us really holding the 1 2 reigns on things. It always costs more. There is 3 always something that has to be done and I know that 4 although people who are -- there are people who are 5 very, very strongly wanting to keep this bridge and 6 they think the numbers are too high to rehabilitate. 7 I know that when you open up any rehab whether it's 8 bridge, building or even an old car it's always more 9 expensive because when you open it up you find rot 10 and broken parts that can't be replaced without 11 rebuilding and making. So I know we need a new 12 bridge to serve us all, serve the people who are walking, serve people who are in cars and on bicycles 13 14 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 1 2 time and then send people over to see these displays 3 because they're all wonderful and then all of the 4 other people around it that way, so I think everybody kind of felt cutoff. 5 6 THE REPORTER: Do you have a preference on 7 rehab versus new? 8 AUDIENCE MEMBER: (William Morin.) Well, I 9 definitely have a preference. 10 THE REPORTER: If you would like to state that and why, that would be great. 11 12 AUDIENCE MEMBER: (William Morin.) Well, I have in my other documents that I sent, but I think 13 14 it's -- one of the major things I think -- I know the 15 money as it was presented tonight in the five alternatives the money is a problem. Well, it's 16 17 glaring. It is a more expensive proposition to rehab 18 the bridge, but the -- it will preserve the 19 Brunswick/Topsham industrial historical district and will not negatively impact the area if it's torn down 20 21 and a girder bridge is put up. But in spite it 22 costing more at this time and maybe a little bit more 23 later on this site is basically -- I will take the 24 word basically out. It's a very attractive area and 25 Brunswick in itself is a very attractive area for

1 tourists and visitors and they visit the downtown area and they gravitate towards the falls where the 2 3 bridge is and it's very much of an attraction and only a short distance up the river from the Green 4 Bridge is the Pedestrian Bridge that was rehabbed 5 6 almost 10 years ago. The State of Maine paid 7 basically all of the costs of the federal monies and all of that. And I live very close to that and they 8 in summertime especially during the day there usually 9 10 somebody is stopped on the highway or parked on the 11 Brunswick side and sometimes on the Topsham side and 12 walking around the bridge area looking at the bridge and the river and the falls and all of that sort of 13 14 So it's turned into a great physical tourist thing. 15 attraction and then you have people down there taking pictures if they're having their prom. One night I 16 thought they were getting married, but they weren't. 17 18 It looked like a wedding scene, but it's one of these 19 attractive things and so what I'm saying is that this is a, you know, a tourist attraction. 20 There is no 21 charge for it, but people tend to gravitate. It's 22 called historical -- what do you call it -- tourism 23 or whatever, so a lot -- that is getting very, very This bridge can certainly -- the current 24 popular. 25 bridge could certainly fill that bill and would add

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.

8 AUDIENCE MEMBER: (Robert Wiener.) Μv comment is that the -- I -- I strongly favor the 9 rehabilitation option. I think the existing bridge 10 11 is an essential part of the character of both towns and the historic fabric of the historic district and 12 it's irreplaceable. I think it would be a great loss 13 to the -- as I say, to the historic character of both 14 towns and the historic district. I think it has -- I 15 think it has value in and of itself, but I understand 16 that as far as the evaluations that have been done 17 18 its primary value has been found to be -- as it is part of that fabric of the district -- the historic 19 district, but I just -- I feel strongly that it 20 should be rehabilitated. It would be a great loss 21 22 not to do that. I quess 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

Dostie Reporting 7 Morrissette Lane Augusta, ME 04330 (207) 621-2857 1 that they missed an opportunity for the public to 2 hear each other's point of view and by doing them all 3 in writing and privately I think it is a way of 4 undermining the public process. I think that's 5 unfortunate. Thank you.

6 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Donald Gower, G-O-W-E-R. 7 I don't know where to begin. I'm on two committees 8 here in the Topsham/Brunswick area, the Androscoggin River Walk and the Androscoggin Swinging Bridge 9 Committee, so my focus is on pedestrian and bicycle 10 11 safety. So I'm concerned about the develop -- I'm 12 concerned about the original bridge design because it only offers a 4 foot bike lane, which are going to 13 14 have metal railings next to you and also grating that 15 will prevent you from taking advantage of a safe ride across the bridge, so in that aspect I'm in favor of 16 the new bridge. Also on the sidewalk, I think it's 17 18 comparative to have sidewalks on each side, which the 19 new design has anyway, but also at either or both 20 ends of the bridge to have a pass-under so you have 21 safety for people who want to cross that very busy 22 road without stopping traffic, which is in itself a 23 problem. We don't want to stop the traffic. For safety, particularly for young kids and families, 24 25 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.

8 But I would make one other additional comment, which maybe is outside the scope of this 9 10 particular project, but from the Swinging Bridge in Brunswick we should determine a method to get a 11 12 sidewalk on the Topsham side of Route 1 up to the Black Bridge and connect to the sidewalk that's just 13 14 south of there up towards Pleasant Street. There is 15 a need for people particularly in Topsham to cross the bridge and go up to all kinds of businesses. 16 There is Dunkin Donuts, there is a bar in there, 17 18 there is McDonald's, there's Cumberland Farms all on 19 that right side of the road and there is no real easy way to get across Pleasant Street or Route 1 safely. 20 So if we had a continuous sidewalk from Maine Street 21 22 Brunswick all the way to Pleasant Street on the 23 Topsham river side, on the river side of Route 1 that would be a big benefit for everyone. That covers my 24 25 thoughts. Thank you. I appreciate it.

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2	(Meeting concluded at 8 p.m.)
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	Dostie Reporting 7 Morrissette Lane

CERTIFICATE 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: Court Reporter/Notary Public My Commission Expires: February 6, 2019. DATED: April 12, 2017 Dostie Reporting

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