

Skowhegan Bridge Feasibility Study – Basic Info

Joint Planning Study between the Town of Skowhegan and Maine Department of Transportation

September 10, 2019

Study Team

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Study History

The Town's Board of Selectmen met with MaineDOT Commissioner David Bernhardt in October 2018 to discuss the need for a second bridge over the Kennebec River. Although part of the discussion included a desire to remove heavy vehicles from downtown Skowhegan, it was made very clear that the purpose of this Study is to improve the resiliency and sustainability of the state transportation system in the Skowhegan area, and that alternatives involving a second bridge across the Kennebec River in the Town of Skowhegan must be examined. Alternatives that involve bypassing the urban area of Skowhegan are not under consideration.

This study was premised on the agreement that a collaborative Town/MaineDOT approach be undertaken with efforts led by the Town.

Performance Measures (what we will be looking at)

Transportation Measures

- Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT)
- Vehicle Hours Traveled (VHT)
- Improved Level of Service and Delay at Key intersections
- Potential for Improving Bicycle and Pedestrian Conditions
- Potential for Improving Safety
- Potential for Improving Downtown Mobility
- Potential for reducing Truck Traffic in downtown
- Potential to improve Emergency Service access during roadway closures

Land Use Measures

- Number of Homes/Buildings with Direct Impact
- Number of Private Lots Impacted
- Compatibility with Local Plans
- Right-of-Way Acquisition
- Farmland Impacts
- Impacts to use of the waterway

Environmental Resource Measures

- Potential for Impacts to Archeological and Historic Resources
- Potential for Wetland Impacts
- Potential for Conservation Land and 4(f) Land Impacts
- Potential for Impacts to Rare, Threatened, Endangered, and Special Concern Plant Species and Habitats

Cost and Funding Measures

- Construction Cost
- Ease/Practicality of Construction
- Construction Funding Viability
- Benefit/Cost