

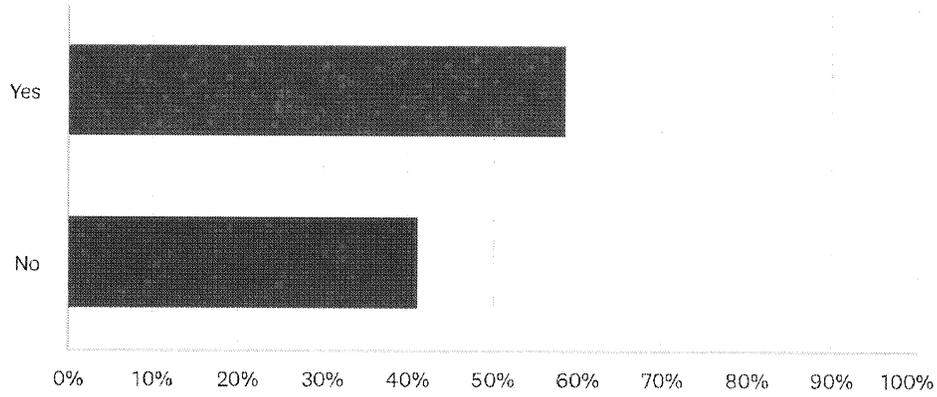
Survey Responses
Town of Skowhegan
Second Bridge Feasibility Study
October 14, 2021

Survey closed on October 13, 2021.
This contains all responses as of October 13, 2021.

140 Total Responses
58.70% The Selectmen should move forward.
41.30% The Selectmen should not move forward.
77 individual comments

Q1 Should the Board of Selectmen formally recommend to Maine DOT to move on to the next steps: environmental analysis for Alternatives 4 and 5b?

Answered: 138 Skipped: 2



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	58.70%	81
No	41.30%	57
TOTAL		138

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Q2 Comments:

Answered: 77 Skipped: 63

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	No second bridge is needed.	10/13/2021 2:50 PM
2	I do not think a second bridge is at all necessary and the proposed placements will interfere with some prime places in town. The energy going toward a second bridge might be better spent replanning the troublesome traffic patterns in downtown Skowhegan of which there are several.	10/13/2021 2:49 PM
3	Building a new bridge across the proposed spot next to the municipal building would be a huge and expensive mistake for Skowhegan in so many ways. It would not eliminate the current traffic problem and would cause an increase in accidents not to mention what it would do to the sacred grounds of the Veterans Memorial Park. To move the park would most definitely place it in jeopardy for vandalism and provide a haven for illicit drug use. Having talked with many Skowhegan citizens they have mostly been unaware of the cities proposal and are all against it.	10/13/2021 1:48 PM
4	The Rt 2 riverside entrance is too precious to allow it to be marred by a bridge. Please don't take that step. If you insist on the bridge, place it so traffic goes right up Rt 150. You can always move the veterans monument to a nice place down by the Eddy.	10/13/2021 1:46 PM
5	We am opposed to a 2nd bridge. There are a few times you have to wait thru 2 light cycles - if they are working properly. Plan ahead. If you want tourists to stop in our town, they need to see the town. Residents and truck drivers will always take teh strightest, shortest route with either option 4 or 5b, you are creating more issues turning at North Ave/High traffic on Jewitt traffic on North Ave, traffic coming on/off Rt 2 and a horrible nightmare on E Front Street when New Balance lets out. I just returned from Caribou, a town that tried to route traffic around it's downtown - it is a nightmare. We couldn't figure out how to get to it. Is that what out merchants want? We've been told for 40 years or more that we needed a new bridge. We didn't then, we don't now. Percy & Judi York	10/13/2021 11:24 AM
6	Alternative 4 is the logical choice if it is the one downstream from the Eddy! We came to that conclusion last time as well as the crossing next to the Municipal Building only pushes the traffic around the Downtown and eleiminates needed low-income housing unnecessarily. You need to state where these alternatives are in your question!!!!	10/13/2021 11:12 AM
7	East of the eddy is the best place for the bridge	10/13/2021 9:44 AM
8	I have lived in Skowhegan at various times and still pay property taxes there. There is no need for a second bridge, in my opinion. Traffic over the existing Margaret Chase Smith bridges moves well unless there is some special circumstance like closing the rotary for an event, or road construction. Emergency vehicles are able to pass as needed, in my observation. Creating another bridge is unnecessary, and would do nothing to improve the beautiful river gorge that is such a unique part of Skowhegan as we enter from the east. Also, this decision can and should be made with input from the Penobscot and Passamoquoddy nations whose traditional homelands it would affect. Please make sure to give these stewards of the Wabanaki homeland a meaningful role in making this decision.	10/13/2021 7:49 AM
9	I don't feel we need a second bridge at all. And if you all feel 100% committed to it then I would strongly prefer the option that crosses in town past the municipal bldg and moving the veterans memorial. I would strongly resist having any bridge further east of the downtown. The entrance to town is SO beautiful and shouldn't be touched.	10/12/2021 6:07 PM
10	I think the town could use that money to improve a lot of areas in Skowhegan. One place would be along the river where those beautiful trees are. They could fix the pullout and put benches and picnic tables there	10/12/2021 1:20 PM
11	The additional bridge does not solve the problem of trucks passing through town.	10/12/2021 12:23 PM
12	please do NOT ruin the landscape of the Great Eddy with a bridge T. Jeff Evans	10/12/2021 10:44 AM

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13	I remain unconvinced of the necessity for a second bridge. The volume across the present bridges is relatively high, but lower than other intersections in Maine. Although 80% of the folks responding to a prior survey supported a second bridge, they represent 3.3% of the Skowhegan population. The others seem rather indifferent. They will still be affected by increased taxes. My own experience is that the intersection is not particularly bothersome as I come into town at various times. It doesn't come close to waits that occur when driving in more suburban areas. I see it as a minor nuisance. The driving force for a new bridge appears to be the Maine DOT. They will be the final decision maker regarding location. Our local taxes will be driven by that decision. In my own experience the greatest safety issues I have faced in town have been people ignoring the pedestrian crossing signals and use of cell phones. This will not be improved by a new bridge. I think Skowhegan should just say 'No'.	10/12/2021 8:49 AM
14	Skowhegan is desperate for a 2nd bridge	10/12/2021 8:01 AM
15	Skowhegan has a wonderful natural gift in the route 2 entrance to the Great Eddy Coburn Park and town. A bridge in this area would forever change what could not be regained.	10/12/2021 7:13 AM
16	I live in Skowhegan.	10/11/2021 7:17 PM
17	Especially if it involves The Great Eddy!	10/11/2021 4:11 PM
18	Two thoughts: Firstly, people are assembling for a fight which is likely more damaging than the delays encountered by single bridge setup we currently live with. Secondly, there has been little information shared about the impact of either option on the sustainability and liveability of the town. With changes in transportation and environment quickly occurring, either option may be unnecessary prior to bridge being completed. Admitted bias; redirecting traffic on the rotary as we do for festivals as previously proposed would do alot towards improving quality of life in town without a second bridge and fight. A well done, beautifully done bridge over the gorge and unfortunately through the Veterans Memorial (which can be moved) would likely do more for liveability and sustainability of town. Good luck.	10/11/2021 12:20 PM
19	Alternative 4 is really a by-pass, not a downtown crossing, and should be dropped from consideration. In addition, it would have unacceptable significant cultural, historic, recreational and environmental impacts.	10/11/2021 9:02 AM
20	First of all you should describe those options to those not in the know. As for the options, a bridge should not go through the Veterans Memorial or the beautiful Somerset Woods property. Chris Perkins	10/10/2021 4:47 PM
21	Less talk more action to get this done and over.	10/9/2021 7:02 PM
22	Either of these bridge proposals will make the problem of heavy commercial traffic being routed through the downtown significantly worse, not better.	10/8/2021 6:00 PM
23	I prefer Alt. 5b	10/8/2021 4:35 PM
24	Not for 4	10/8/2021 12:18 PM
25	Only interested in Alternative 4. 5b would destroy the downtown area. Very bad idea.	10/7/2021 7:34 PM
26	The veterans monument is to show respect to our veterans and is like sacred ground. The other choice would impact the environment and destroy an area that should be saved. I am a skowgan resident and tax payer.	10/7/2021 3:40 PM
27	5b probably would not serve much benefit in the event of a disaster in town like the flood or in town traffic blockage.	10/7/2021 2:56 PM
28	Both locations would very disruptive to the beauty and integrity of our town.	10/7/2021 2:27 PM
29	You did not tell us what the routes are. Bad survey	10/7/2021 2:13 PM
30	put the bridge beside the municipal building	10/7/2021 12:35 PM
31	Just build it get it done with	10/7/2021 12:25 PM
32	I am a Skowhegan resident and both choices are too close to town. A crossing by Philbrick Drive would make sense and why didn't we get this survey with the tax bills?	10/7/2021 9:18 AM
33	I think we should lookat an alternative locations due to the issues with each of the ones we have.	10/6/2021 3:12 PM

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34	A no-build study should be commenced. Alternate truck routes and widening the existing bridges should be considered.	10/6/2021 10:19 AM
35	No second bridge is needed. The traffic isn't that bad. The view along the river is priceless, and there is no need to disrupt the memorial. To the extent emergency services are needed, Skowhegan has mutual aid agreements with Fairfield and Norridgewock, Madison and Canaan. If they don't have those agreements, they should have.	10/6/2021 8:47 AM
36	I am a Skowhegan resident and would like some effort to work with what we have or widen bridges and mitigate traffic at bad times. Or put it west of downtown	10/6/2021 4:59 AM
37	Skowhegan needs to test a timed release of New Balance and High school to determine new for a new bridge. Also truck route new a study- as in no trucks from Canada should be coming through Skowhegan to access I95. They need to use 201A and the Norridgewock bridge. Same with Canadian trucks heading east- they should be routed through Greenville and Bangor. A traffic circle needs to be evaluated to replace the non functional mall on the south side of the river. Fire station will be gone and the used car lot is in a very unnecessary location- removal would create space for another lane. Hights corner needs to be used so trucks can use only one lane instead of two in making the turn on to Madison Ave. WE need to look at investment in alternative routes in Someset County to build the entire county- not just what is deemed to be a traffic problem in Skowhegan. We have lots of good alternative routes that need to be utilized, origination and destination need to be analyzed.	10/5/2021 8:21 PM
38	Both locations are not acceptable as one goes through the Veteran Park and the other through conservation property and is the historic entrance to our town	10/5/2021 8:15 PM
39	Traffic congestion can be improved with timing of schools and large businesses.	10/5/2021 7:49 PM
40	If there is a bridge, do NOT want through the Eddy	10/5/2021 7:17 PM
41	It is not proven that a second bridge will have the intended benefits.	10/5/2021 7:16 PM
42	As a Skowhegan resident I want what's best for our community. The view of Skowhegan and the river as you come into town is the best part of our town. It's beautiful and shows off our spectacular quality of place. Please do not put in a bridge at the Eddy.	10/5/2021 4:57 PM
43	I cannot understand why the town would spend double the amount to have the second bridge go through by the municipal building instead of the Eddy. I do not think we are ready for next steps yet.	10/5/2021 11:14 AM
44	the veterans memorial should stay where it is, it was promised to them in 1927. The memorial is a quiet place for people to walk and talk to their loved ones, it is also close by for people who walk around town. It would be a great injustice to the people of Skowhegan residents,, it should be voted on by the people	10/5/2021 9:36 AM
45	I believe the Eddy would be a terrible place to build a bridge. This is one of the most scenic spots in Skowhegan. Why would we want to ruin that with a busy noisy bridge? It is also too close to Coburn Park where people go to relax and enjoy the peace + quiet. How will this impact the Run of the River Project? Do people want to go rafting in a beautiful spot or under a noisy bridge? If you build a bridge away form the downtown area, a lot of residential streets will see a big increase in traffic. People like to take shortcuts to stay away form the traffic and lights downtown. This will have an impact on downtown businesses. By not doing a bypass, you will be putting the burden of all that traffic on the Malbons Mills + Dr Mann Rd as well as Heleston Street. I propose they build the bridge in the downtown location.	10/5/2021 6:48 AM
46	If you put the bridge down by the Eddy without a bypass. Have we given thought to the following: - how will we deal w/extra traffic on roads/streets like Malbons Mills, Dr Mann + Hestleton Street - heavy trucks and Canadian tourist will take short cuts thru these roads/streets once discovered - If they take short cuts they will bypass downtown businesses - Ruin the scenic view coming into town from Rt 2 - People go to Coburn Park to relax, take walks, run + enjoy events. It will now be very noisy from constant traffic. How will this effect events in Coburn Park, music, River Run etc. I propose the bridge be built in the downtown area.	10/4/2021 4:04 PM
47	We think the Eddy would be a terrible place to build a bridge. This is one of the most scenic spots in Skowhegan. Why would you want to ruin that with a busy noisy bridge? It is also too close to Coburn Park where people go to relax and enjoy the peace + quiet. How will this impact the Run of the River project? Do people want to go rafting in a beautiful spot or under a	10/4/2021 2:36 PM

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48	Go back to the By-pass route !	10/3/2021 4:26 PM
49	I believe that alternative 4 (below Big Eddy) would be a good alternative. You can connect a pedestrian path to it along the river, you have to include a bike lane and walking section of to the new bridge. Possibly a nice observation deck. Downtown option will be too noisy and to awkward for Run of River. Also the bridge needs to be scenic, like Norridgewock one.	10/1/2021 9:20 PM
50	We have needed a second bridge for several years, mostly since wood started to be hauled by trucks. Ask most folks and they will say that truck traffic is terrible. I think we need a bypass for trucks if Skowhegan wants to make downtown more user friendly and better for businesses. Good Luck.	10/1/2021 8:00 AM
51	The veterans park should not be relocated	9/30/2021 7:56 PM
52	Only 4	9/30/2021 9:29 AM
53	Thank you	9/30/2021 8:23 AM
54	The bridge should place down between the Eddie and the rest area. Next to the town hall will not work and serve public transportation help	9/30/2021 7:17 AM
55	I think we need a second bridge but it should not be right next to the town office!	9/29/2021 7:15 PM
56	We live on Parkman Hill Road and #4 would be DIRECTLY in front of our house. Hope will this affect our property taxes and the value of our house?? I strongly oppose this plan as I know the Kennebec Pines are protected, especially for the eagles next closeby.	9/29/2021 5:41 PM
57	Alternative 4 would be preferable	9/29/2021 5:39 PM
58	Rt.2 location gives best options so far without disrupting Veterans Park and avoids congestion. Thanks	9/29/2021 4:52 PM
59	I'm not sure why alternative 5b reduces the traffic more than 4. It would seem to me as time moves forward alternative 4 could reduce truck traffic by improving access from 150 and Madison Avenue to alternative 4. Truckers especially want it to be easy and accessible. 5b still brings trucks into town on both sides of the bridge. Town does not only exist around Commercial and Russell St. We expect that as we improve with another bridge our downtown can expand!	9/29/2021 4:45 PM
60	A second bridge is not needed.	9/29/2021 2:33 PM
61	Where is the third option. This one will not work due to congestion. Think Voting issues. Do you want to keep your job? Because if this goes through your job may be on the line. Lets find a better solution for this problem. Like not moving the Memorial Park and yours and my pocket book.	9/29/2021 2:01 PM
62	The impact on residential homes and downtown businesses should be considered carefully.	9/29/2021 12:44 PM
63	The traffic issue has not reached a level where it would be justifiable to spend 25 million plus dollars. The longest I've ever waited to cross the bridges has been 10-15 minutes compared to city driving that is minimal wait times. Smarten up and make the right choice.	9/29/2021 11:49 AM
64	Have already wasted enough money on this and it's all based around the run of the river that is never going to happen We do not need another bridge and stop wasting tax payers money	9/29/2021 11:26 AM
65	There has been a 2nd bridge committee "talking" about a 2nd bridge for how many decades now. Enough talking about it, the studies prove we need a 2nd bridge. Time to start building now!	9/29/2021 10:58 AM
66	The bridge should be built after all the money that was spent on surveying over the years, it is about time to build and stop wasting money.	9/29/2021 10:55 AM
67	yes please proceed ASAP as a another bridge is needed badly	9/29/2021 10:35 AM
68	I understand the importance of the veterans memorial, but maybe we could move it to the	9/29/2021 10:24 AM

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Coburn park location where it will have a nice setting, more room for celebrations and plenty of quiet time for those who need it as well, the town needs a second bridge option for growth and for safety of its growing population.

69	A second bridge is needed and has been needed for a long time. Traffic has increased over the years so much . Please consider in doing so . Thank you	9/29/2021 10:19 AM
70	we need a second bridge	9/29/2021 10:15 AM
71	Veterans memorial location , relocate memorial site to space between Masonic building and dance studio lot.	9/29/2021 9:33 AM
72	The public opinion seems clear—a second bridge in Skowhegan, which reduces truck and other commercial traffic in downtown, is widely supported. While high traffic count helps a flourishing and prosperous business district, Skowhegan's downtown has become log-jammed with large vehicles. All locals, and even some visitors understand that during certain times of day (say when New Balance ends their afternoon shift, and when the school lets out) it is nearly impossible to efficiently travel across town via the M.C.S. bridge. A second bridge is a clear solution. Next steps should be taken to move this project along. Thank you.	9/29/2021 8:08 AM
73	Money isn't the issue that's needing to be decided on here it's ALWAYS BEEN how to move the MOST traffic. Let's do the right thing now because the population will only increase in years to come !	9/29/2021 6:26 AM
74	We need a second bridge!	9/29/2021 6:17 AM
75	The current amount of traffic is still minor compared to the cost of these projects.	9/29/2021 6:15 AM
76	5b is the most feasible location with less impact to residential. Bringing the crossing into town through the Vets Memorial Park and through the Water St./North Ave. Intersection will create a traffic congestion nightmare.	9/28/2021 8:53 PM
77	5b please	9/28/2021 8:01 PM