

Town Manager, Christine Almand

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Town of Skowhegan

Town Manager

225 Water Street
Skowhegan, Maine 04976



January 27, 2022

Bruce Van Note, Commissioner
Maine Department of Transportation
24 Child Street
16 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04330-0016

Dear Mr. Van Note;

The Skowhegan Board of Selectmen met on January 25, 2022. At this meeting, they discussed the possibility of moving forward with further study and permitting for a second bridge in Skowhegan. This item was tabled in order to obtain additional information from your office.

Some of their concerns were that this study may not be taking into consideration other DOT projects and non-DOT projects currently being planned in Skowhegan; for example:

the Jewett Street/Madison Avenue project, the Commercial Street/Madison Avenue project, the Norridgewock Avenue sidewalk project, the new MSAD 54 school planned for Heselton Street, with the bus garage being moved to Jewett Street, Skowhegan River Park project, the Public Safety Building project, the Ballfield Compound project, the Opera House Renovations, two large mixed-use properties located on Court Street and Island Avenue, etc.

The Selectmen want to make sure that DOT takes the Town, as a whole, into account when planning and designing all projects, including the possibility of a second bridge.

I am writing to you on behalf of the Board of Selectmen to make sure that, if we move forward with the additional study and permitting for a second bridge, the Town's Comprehensive Plan and Strategic Plan as well as all of the projects listed above are taken into consideration.

Additionally, we are looking to engage in the Village Partnership Initiative. I have been in contact with Matthew Drost in regard to this.

The Selectmen are particularly concerned about moving forward with this project because they want to make sure that the Town retains the right to decide against a second bridge if they feel it is not in the Town's best interest.

Please advise if this can be accomplished, and what the best plan forward is.

Thank you for your time and attention. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Christine Almand".

Christine Almand
Town Manager