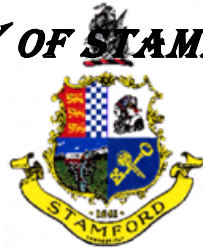


MAYOR
DAVID MARTIN

CITY OF STAMFORD



CITY ENGINEER
LOUIS CASOLO, JR., P.E.
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OFFICE OF OPERATIONS
ENGINEERING BUREAU

INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

To: Stamford Board of Representatives – Operations Committee

From: Lou Casolo, P.E. City Engineer

C: David Martin – Mayor

Cindy Grafstein – Interim Director of Operations

Re: Funding questions raised by BORs regarding the West Main Street Bridge

Date: August 23, 2018

This memo addresses two fund related questions that arose during the full Board of Representatives meeting conducted on August 6, 2018.

Question 1:

Would ConnDOT consider an application for emergency funding to pay for a vehicle bridge?

Answer:

After communicating with Mr. Francisco Fadul, P.E. Project Engineer – ConnDOT Local Bridge Program, the State would consider any emergency funding application, but it is extremely unlikely to be successful because:

- i) The bridge has been closed to traffic for 16 years. Existing traffic patterns are well established.
- ii) Multi-lane vehicle bridge crossings are available over the Rippowam River nearby on Tresser Blvd., only about 550 feet away, and on Broad Street, a little over 1/4 mile away.

Question 2:

Is the Bridge eligible for State of Connecticut Department of Transportation Local Bridge Project (LBP) funding?

Answer:

Yes, at a historical reimbursement rate of 28.22% for this vehicular bridge. It may be possible to obtain a reimbursement rate of 50%. The reimbursement would only apply to the bridge itself and probably not for other related intersection improvements or realignments.

According to Mr. Fadul, P.E. Project Engineer - ConnDOT Local Bridge Program, the the bridge has a current active "Commitment to Fund" from ConnDOT at a reimbursement rate of 28.22% of the project costs for a vehicular bridge open to the public. From prior conversations with ConnDOT, it's my understanding that these funds are eligible for bridge improvement work and not for at-grade realignment or other intersection work. This matter requires further discussion with ConnDOT concerning existing conditions.

The City could also reapply for Local Bridge Project (LBP) funds for this bridge. This may add some additional time delay, but has the potential to increase the reimbursement rate to 50% of the project costs.

Since a new vehicular bridge is estimated to cost in the range of \$6 to \$8million (excluding related intersection or realignment work), the City cost would be in the \$3 to \$4 million range if the City is granted a 50% reimbursement rate.

I might add that given the financial issues at the state, there is always some uncertainty regarding future reimbursement for capital projects.

I hope these responses adequately address the questions raised.