

Agenda Summary
June 12, 2024

Agenda Item No. B3

**Vermont Emergency Management (VEM) Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP)
Pre-Application – Luce Hill Rd Bridge**

Summary: The State of Vermont Emergency Management division has received appx. \$90 million in grant funds from FEMA that are to be made available to public and non-profit entities through the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program for the purpose of supporting “mitigation planning and long-term hazard mitigation measures that enhance the State’s resilience posture, avoid loss of life, and reduce damages to improved property”. The Luce Hill Rd Bridge, because of its identified hydraulic and structural deficiencies and hazard risks, is a potentially viable candidate for this funding program.

In 2022, the Town engaged Hoyle, Tanner & Assoc.to perform a Scoping Study for the replacement of the Luce Hill Rd Bridge. It outlined the gross hydraulic inadequacy and scour conditions of the existing bridge and described the environmental and infrastructure impacts that result. The study also referenced previous studies articulating this hydraulic hazard by Milone & MacBroom (2006) and LCPC (2005). The report showed an estimated construction cost of appx. \$3.5 million for the preferred alternative, which included a sidewalk/pedestrian connection between Mountain Road Village and Chase Park.

Pre-applications are due June 21 to be evaluated for applicability for a possible full application due late 2024+/- . Complete details of the program requirements and timing of funds being released to accepted applicants are not yet know, but staff expects further opportunity to understand those details in advance of the formal application being submitted.

Town Plan Impact: Environmental Quality Task 1: Continue to prioritize and implement the recommendations of the 2007 West Branch Corridor Management Plan. According to the Stowe Town Plan, “The goal of the corridor management plan is to manage the river toward a more sustainable equilibrium condition that will reduce erosion hazards and nutrient and sediment loads, as well as to protect and restore aquatic habitat.

Fiscal Impact: The Town invested \$40k in 2022 to complete a scoping study for the replacement of the Luce Hill Rd Bridge. The HMGP for design and construction provides up to 75% reimbursement and can apply to design and construction. Should the Town proceed through the pre-application process, and have an accepted formal application, the Town will have to commit funds to provide the 25% local match (est. \$875k) prior to completing a grant agreement with VEM. The alternative to pursuing the HMGP grant is to wait for it to be programed and advanced in the State’s Bridge Replacement Program which is typically an 80/10/10 cost share (80% Federal/10% State/10% Local).

Recommendation: Move to approve the submission of a pre-application for the HMGP for the design and construction of a replacement of the Luce Hill Rd Bridge.