

STOCKBRIDGE SELECT BOARD MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, February 8, 2024
4:30 p.m.
ZOOM MEETING - TOWN OFFICES, 50 MAIN STREET

Present:

Chuck Cardillo, Jamie Minacci, Patrick White and Mike Canales

Call to Order:

Chuck called the meeting to order.

Discussion of Bridge concerns and possible closure - Glendale Middle Road Bridge Over Housatonic

Mike updated the Board by stating that he received a phone call last week from MassDOT, February 5th, informing the Town that they will be closing the Glendale bridge. The attached letter was then received. There are two beams underneath the bridge that are in poor condition which will require that the bridge be closed. The alternate plan allows for the Board to consider remedial action allowing one lane of alternating traffic on the bridge. Back in 2020 this bridge was lowly ranked as was the Tuckerman bridge that has a critical failure, yet remains safe. Engineering was moved forward on the Tuckerman and it is in Chapter 85 review. While the Tuckerman bridge is moving forward toward repairs, the Glendale bridge has been identified for closure. After meeting with the Town Fire Chief, Police Chief, Highway, Water and Sewer, the recommendation to the Board from all parties is to do the remedial method of one lane, alternating traffic. Mike has reached out to Tighe & Bond on beginning a feasibility study of this bridge and come up with options and engineering (18 – 24 months) to get to the point where construction can begin. They should be able to go out to bid for repairs of the Tuckerman in the summer of 2025. If the Board authorized the one lane closure for the Glendale bridge, Mike will submit to MassDOT tomorrow for an action plan to secure lights, put up barricades to keep vehicles off the side not in use, as well as revising the bridge signage to new tonnage requirements. The town's fire trucks have been weighed, and a waiver will be requested for those vehicles to use the bridge in emergency operations. Patrick asked what the budget is for the engineering work for the feasibility study and moving the bridge to one lane. Mike replied that the money for the feasibility study is \$30,000 and we have that money in the bridge account; he will be putting together the cost for the lights.

Tom Forbes, 9 Glendale Middle Road, asked why the sign at route 102/ West Main Street says "restricted to commercial vehicles" and this is not followed. Mike said that he will check into this.

Bob Van Olst, Yale Court, questioned the procedure and funding. Mike said the plan will be to have the engineering costs ready to bring to Town meeting and that all funding options will be explored. Last year he applied for a Mass Works grant for 1.5 Million for the Tuckerman but the Town did not receive it. He will be applying again this year and the next. At this point we do not know the necessary costs which will be needed in order to apply. Patrick reviewed the three phases of repair: the feasibility study, the engineering work to be approved at Town meeting and the actual bridge construction that will also need to be approved at Town Meeting.

Pete Bailey from Housatonic Railroad expressed the concerns of the Railroad if going to one lane, to avoid the possibility of trapping traffic on the bridge and safety when the train goes by. MassDOT said that the railroad crossing will be considered in the plan.

James Windram, Mohawk and Glendale Middle Road, asked if there would definitely be lights as opposed to only stop signs and it was confirmed.

Susan Van Olst, Yale Court, questioned the time of the full process and Mike said that even in the best of conditions, could look to construction season of the summer of 2027.

Anita Schwerner asked that they look at the suspension walking bridge that goes over the Stockbridge Bowl by the waterfall's spillway. The Board said they would look at it.

Chuck made a motion allowing Mike to move forward with the one lane and approve the feasibility study. Patrick seconded; all were in favor.

Adjournment:

With no further business, Chuck adjourned the meeting.

Please see <https://ctsbtv.org/government-channel-1303/> to view the full meeting.



Maura Healey, Governor
Kimberly Driscoll, Lieutenant Governor
Monica Tibbitts-Nutt, Secretary & CEO
Jonathan L. Gulliver, Highway Administrator



February 6, 2024

Town of Stockbridge
Board of Selectmen
P.O. Box 417 / 50 Main St.
Stockbridge, MA 01262

Attn: Hugh Page, Highway Superintendent

SUBJECT: NATIONAL BRIDGE INSPECTION STANDARDS (NBIS)
BRIDGE RATING AND POSTING
Stockbridge: GLENDALE MIDDLE ROAD / HOUSATONIC RIVER
Bridge No: S-26-004 BIN No: 02M
Structure No: S26004-02M-MUN-NBI

Dear Select Board:

The Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) - Highway Division has undertaken the inventory, inspection, and rating of municipal bridges to assist the cities and towns in complying with state and federal laws and regulations. In accordance with the provisions of M.G.L.C 85, sub-section 35, the MassDOT - Highway Division has determined the maximum load which the subject bridge may safely carry.

The above bridge was rated and it is recommended that the bridge be **CLOSED** to vehicular traffic. The reason for this recommendation is: The controlling element of the structure for both the inventory and operating stress level requirements is Span 1, Interior Beam B8, Flexural Strength at 0.5L (with section loss), for all posting vehicles.

Alternatively, as a remedial action, the bridge can remain open for one-lane alternating traffic; however, barriers shall be installed to prevent the loading of Beams B1 & B6 of Span 1 and Beams B10 & B15 of Span 2, by February 29. Lack of remedial action will result in a reassessment of this recommendation and may result in closure of the structure. If this action is taken it would then be recommended that the bridge be **POSTED** for

SINGLE UNIT TWO AXLE	(H20)	19 TONS
SINGLE UNIT THREE+ AXLES	(TYPE 3)	21 TONS
TRUCK TRAILER COMBINATION	(TYPE 3S2)	31 TONS

This letter confirms the notification to closed the bridge per a telephone conversation of February 5, 2024 between Mark DeVlyder, District 1 Bridge Engineer, of our office and Michael Canales, Town Administrator. Your immediate action is requested. Please respond in writing confirming your action not later than February 29, 2024.

A copy of the Rating Report regarding this recommendation is on file at our District Office. Francisca R. Heming, the District Highway Director, will be pleased to review the report with you and advise you of any programs available regarding this bridge.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

Alexander K. Bardow, P.E.
State Bridge Engineer

JM/jm

cc: DHD, D-1 & DBIE, D-1, BIE

Ten Park Plaza, Suite 4160, Boston, MA 02116
Tel: 857-368-4636, TTY: 857-368-0655
www.mass.gov/massdot