



City of Gardiner
6 Church Street
Gardiner, Maine 04345
207·582·4200
Fax 207·582·6895

Mayor
Andrew MacLean
City Manager
Jeffrey D. Kobrock

Councilors

Bryan Blanchard
Michael Giberson
Philip Hart
Chuck LeBlanc
Martha Mentall
Richard Nickless
Richard Rambo

November 17, 2008

Devin Anderson
Maine Department of Transportation
16 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333-0016

RE: New Mills Bridge Replacement

Dear Mr. Anderson:

Enclosed please find several proposals from Brian Kent of Kent Associates that seek to improve the form and function of the New Mills Bridge replacement. I am hopeful you can give these suggestions serious consideration.

I am well aware of the extraordinary lengths that you and many MDOT staff are going to in the emergency replacement of this bridge. We are extremely grateful for your great efforts on our behalf. I believe we have also been a good partner and respected your need for extreme timeliness in various local approvals and coordination.

Kent Associates led the multi-disciplinary development of the Cobbossee Corridor Master Plan for the City in 2005. This plan lays out a comprehensive vision for the Cobbossee Stream area of Gardiner. The attached suggestions arise directly from the Master Plan. In a more routine and orderly bridge design process we might have further suggestions, but under the current circumstances we have made practicality a priority. In City Council Resolutions communicated to the MDOT Commissioner and staff in 2005 and 2008 we made a strong connection between the community's adoption and implementation of the Master Plan and the New Mills Bridge, in anticipation of eventual replacement.

I have provided this background only give you the context for our enclosed suggestions – they are part of a very vigorous and comprehensive planning project that the City is methodically implementing. I know that MDOT is always very interested in leveraging their investments by capitalizing upon recent or anticipated investments by community’s hosting their projects; I believe the New Mills Bridge replacement project represents an unusually large return for both the Department and the community if we are able to incorporate both party’s highest priorities. Another MDOT project in this area arising directly from the Master Plan is under design – the Cobbossee Stream Trail – and another – a multi-modal connection to the Middle and High Schools – builds upon the Master Plan’s vision of knitting various destinations and neighborhoods throughout the City together via the Cobbossee Corridor. By addressing the gateway function defined in the Cobbossee Corridor Master Plan vision with the current opportunity represented by replacement of the New Mills Bridge both the City the Department maximize their investments of scarce resources.

Thank you for your consideration of our suggestions.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey Kobrock
City Manager

Cc: Dan Stewart, MDOT Bicycle/Pedestrian Director
State Representative Steve Hanley
State Senator Earle McCormick