



TOWN OF CHATHAM

OFFICE OF THE SELECTMEN

TOWN MANAGER

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Mr. Joseph A Pavao, Jr., P.E.
MassDOT – Highway Division
Accelerated Bridge Program
10 Park Plaza, Room 6500
Boston, MA 02116

June 2, 2011

Re: Mitchell River Bridge

Mr. Pavao,

I am writing on behalf of the Chatham Board of Selection to let you know that the Board met on Tuesday, May 24, to discuss the seven alternative schemes MassDOT described at the May 17 Section 106 meeting for the reconstruction of the Mitchell River Bridge and to vote the Board's preference among these alternatives. Based on the evidence presented so far by MassDOT and consulting parties, the Board voted four to one to support Alternative #3 (Timber Superstructure on Concrete-Steel Substructure, Steel Bascule Leaf on Concrete Pier) as embodying the most prudent balance of aesthetic, functional, and financial benefits for the Town of Chatham.

The Board hopes its decision will help move the Section 106 process towards the Memorandum of Agreement which will be the basis for further development of the bridge design. By making this decision, however, the Board in no way intends to create the impression that all its concerns about the bridge's ultimate design and appearance are satisfied. In particular, if Alternative #3 does indeed turn out to be the way forward, the Board requests that MassDOT provide timely information and an opportunity to comment on the total proposed width of the bridge, the coatings considered for protecting concrete-filled steel piles from superficial deterioration (rusting), and whether other concrete-encasing pile materials not subject to superficial deterioration are structurally feasible and cost-beneficial (e.g. fiber-reinforced plastic).

Very Truly Yours,

Florence Seldin, Chair
Chatham Board of Selectmen