



# *Town of Chatham*

*Office of the Selectmen*

*Town Manager*

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TOWN MANAGER

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January 10, 2012

Ms. Pamela S. Stephenson  
Division Administrator  
Federal Highway Administration  
Massachusetts Division  
55 Broadway, 10th floor  
Cambridge, MA 02142

Dear Ms. Stephenson,

The Chatham Board of Selectmen wishes to thank you, as well as MassDOT, the Advisory Council and all the participants in the conference call held on Wednesday, January 4, 2012. We were pleased you provided an opportunity for every consulting party to voice for the record their various concerns or observations about the MassDOT proposals for the Mitchell River Bridge.

Although the Chatham Board of Selectmen has already endorsed by vote our support of Alternative 3, we are also most supportive of the suggestions to modify the Memorandum of Agreement to incorporate a commitment to on-going consultation among the consulting parties. We further support the suggestion for the signatories to sign the modified Memorandum of Agreement. In addition, we appreciate your willingness to continue efforts to work with the Town and "historic/preservation" groups to incorporate more wood into the final design so as to preserve the historic character of the Mitchell River Bridge.

This Board of Selectmen has an obligation to act in the best interests of all of our residents. Our primary concerns in this matter have always been to ensure the safety of our residents; provide navigable waterways; and to be fiscally prudent now, and for future generations. We greatly appreciate that MassDOT and Federal Highway have repeatedly declared their commitment to full funding for this project, which will relieve our residents and taxpayers of a significant financial burden.

We feel our majority endorsement of Alternative 3 is both responsible and reflective of the feelings of a substantial number of Chatham residents. However, this Board respects all opinions, and remains dedicated to preserving the unique historic and cultural qualities of the Town of Chatham. We look forward to working with MassDot and FHWA to ensure that these historic and aesthetic elements are considered as we move forward to make this new bridge a reality. We join with all who want the new Mitchell River Bridge to be a structure to which every Chatham resident and visitor can point with pride for decades to come.

Again, I thank you for your efforts and your commitment and good efforts on behalf of the Town of Chatham.

Sincerely,

*Lawrence Peldin*

cc. MassDot  
Advisory Council on Historic Preservation  
Massachusetts Historical Commission  
Chatham Historical Commission  
Friends of Mitchell River Wooden Drawbridge  
National Trust for Historic Preservation  
Historic Bridge Foundation  
Indiana SPANS Taskforce  
Preservation Massachusetts  
Pease Boat Works and Marine Railway  
George Myers  
Dr. James Cooper