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Westborough's Fisher Street Bridge Receives Municipal Small Bridge Program Award

Boston- State Representative Hannah Kane (R-Shrewsbury), who represents Precincts 4&5 in Westborough, as well as State Representatives Carolyn Dykema and Danielle Gregoire, who represent precincts 2 and 1 & 3, respectively, and Westborough's State Senator Jamie Eldridge, were all on hand Wednesday, March 29th to celebrate Westborough's award from the Baker-Polito Administration's Municipal Small Bridge Program. Westborough was one of thirty-six communities awarded funds to preserve, repair, or replace small municipally-owned bridges. Westborough Selectman Denny Drewry, Town Manager Jim Malloy, and Town Engineer Carl Balduf accepted the \$500,000 award for the Fisher Street Bridge.

"The Municipal Small Bridge Program is an innovative, well-designed method to provide crucial funds to municipalities which are not eligible for federal aid under current bridge repair or replacement programs. This is a great example of collaboration between state and local government. Through this award, Westborough can now best preserve and improve the Fisher Street Bridge, maintaining the town's infrastructure" noted State Representative Hannah Kane.

"I'm very pleased that Westborough received this important grant," said State Senator Jamie Eldridge (D-Acton). "I want to thank the Baker-Polito administration for investing in local infrastructure, and I know that these funds will be helpful to make important repairs to the Fisher Street Bridge."

Westborough was awarded the highest amount available to one municipality, and will use the \$500,000 from the Municipal Small Bridge Program to update the Fisher Street Bridge's superstructure as well as to install new guardrails. In order to qualify for an award from the program, the bridges must be between the span of 10-20 feet. Additionally, each bridge seeking

an award from the program should demonstrate either a critical need for funds or the possibility of a substantially longer lifespan due to receipt of the funds.

According to State Representative Carolyn Dykema, “This grant is a reflection of the great benefits that come when the state works with municipalities to identify and address our infrastructure needs. Thanks to the hard work of our town officials, Westborough will have the resources to proceed with the necessary maintenance to keep the Fisher Street Bridge safe and accessible.”

State Representative Danielle Gregoire echoed these sentiments, saying, “I am pleased that the Commonwealth has chosen to make such a substantial investment in the Town of Westborough. This funding will allow for the necessary improvements in our infrastructure to provide for the safety of all of our commuters”.

In addition on Wednesday, March 29th, the House of Representatives voted unanimously to authorize \$200 million in Chapter 90 funds for Fiscal Year 2018. Chapter 90 funds are dedicated to municipalities across the Commonwealth for the purpose of completing road, bridge, and infrastructure repair and improvement projects. The town of Westborough was allocated a total of \$783,399.16 in Chapter 90 funds. However, this is not yet finalized, as the Chapter 90 bond authorization has been sent to the Senate for a vote.

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