



CITY OF CONCORD

REPORT TO MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL

FROM: Michael Bezanson, PE, City Engineer

DATE: November 10, 2025

SUBJECT: East Side Drive Bridge over I-393 water infrastructure improvements –Resolution appropriating supplemental funds for completion of improvements in conjunction with NHDOT bridge rehabilitation project (Concord 44556)

Recommendation:

1. Accept this report; and,
2. Set for public hearing, on January 12, 2026, the attached resolution appropriating the sum of \$100,000 for the completion of water infrastructure improvements at the East Side Drive Bridge in conjunction with the State of New Hampshire's Department of Transportation bridge rehabilitation project (Concord 44556).

Background:

The David E. Powelson Bridge (156/138), NH Route 132 / East Side Drive over I-393 / US 4 / US 202 is maintained by the New Hampshire Department of Transportation (NHDOT). The City of Concord maintains a 16-inch water main in East Side Drive that is hung underneath this bridge.

NHDOT has designed a project (Concord 44556) for the repair/ rehabilitation of East Side Drive Bridge. During development of this project, NHDOT observed portions of the City's water main near the bridge parapet walls that are in a deteriorated condition. NHDOT approached the City of Concord about coordinating repairs / improvements to the City's infrastructure in conjunction with the construction of their bridge rehabilitation project. On September 8, 2025, the City Council appropriated \$300,000 (CIP #85) for improvements to water main infrastructure near the north and south parapet walls. On September 9, 2025, a Utility Agreement was signed by both the City and NHDOT describing the agreement to include water infrastructure improvements in the State's bridge preservation project, called Concord 44556.

On October 23, 2025, NHDOT received bids for construction of the repair/rehabilitation project for East Side Drive Bridge (Concord 44556), including improvements to the City's water main infrastructure. The bids received are more than 30% higher than the engineer's cost estimate for the project. In a letter dated October 31, 2025 from NHDOT to the Concord City Engineer,

NHDOT has indicated that it is prepared to recommend award of a contract to the low bidder including the City's water infrastructure improvements, if the City approves of this action. NHDOT is asking the City to provide payment of the estimated total cost of the water infrastructure work (\$358,019.20) before the contract is awarded to include these improvements in the construction contract. Final billing will be based on actual costs.

Discussion:

The condition of the City water main at the bridge's north and south parapet wall penetrations of the East Side Drive Bridge warrants repair/ replacement of portions of the water main in the near future. Completion of water infrastructure improvements, including new 16-inch water main through both the north and south parapet walls, new 24-inch steel casing pipe on either side of the bridge, expansion joints, transition couplings, temporary 12-inch water main to maintain service during construction, and other associated fittings, is necessary to maintain water service in this area of the City. Staff continues to recommend that this work be completed during the NHDOT bridge rehabilitation project (Concord 44556) for coordination of construction. NHDOT plans to construct their bridge rehabilitation project (Concord 44556) during the 2026 construction season. NHDOT will need payment from the City of Concord prior to awarding the water infrastructure improvement work with their construction contract. A supplemental appropriation is needed as the currently appropriated budget for this work is insufficient to fund the work as bid and proposed for award. To provide necessary funding for award of this water infrastructure work as part of the NHDOT project and to provide a construction contingency, staff recommends that the City Council appropriate an additional \$100,000 to complete this work.