TOWN OF SWANZEY

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Town of Swanzey, New Hampshire

Update on the Christian Hill Bridge Project – February 2026

The Town of Swanzey is issuing this public notice in response to the high volume of resident questions and concerns on social media regarding the status of the Christian Hill Bridge. This release provides a clear timeline of the project and its current status.

PROJECT TIMELINE

• 2014 – The NH Department of Transportation declared the bridge unsafe and required its closure.

• 2014–2020 – The Board of Selectmen created Christian Hill Bridge Advisory Committee and commissioned engineering studies; the recommendation was full replacement.

• March 2020 – Voters approved funding for engineering and construction planning with 80% state aid.

• 2021–2022 – Federal infrastructure funding fully covered construction costs, reducing the Town's share to 20% of design only.

• 2024 – Aesthetic improvements were incorporated and elements of the existing bridge were designated for reuse in repairing the Ashuelot Rail Trail washout at no cost to taxpayers. Project went through federal, environmental and historic review.

• February 2026 – Articles 15 and 16 were introduced as Petition Warrant Articles, leading to questions from the public regarding possible delays or loss of funding.

CURRENT STATUS

The State will fully fund construction of the new bridge. Design and engineering remain the Town's only cost share. Aesthetic improvements requested by abutters are included in the scope, and the project also provides a solution for repairing one of the Ashuelot Rail Trail washouts.

The Town of Swanzey continues to move forward with the Christian Hill Bridge project and will ensure that residents remain informed throughout the process.

End