



Town of Wells Wells Harbor Pedestrian Bridge Study

"Adding the bridge as a bike and pedestrian connection would create a new destination point around which an entire industry could become more focused and centered."

Karl Ekstedt, Selectman (2012)



PARTNERS

Town of Wells Harbormaster, Wells Harbor Advisory Committee, Wells Reserve, University of Maine - Orono Engineering School and University of New Hampshire College of Business and Economics

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Town of Wells retained a team of consultants led by Wright-Pierce Engineering to work with a team of six engineering students from the University of Maine to develop a feasibility study associated with a cross-harbor pedestrian bridge.

APPROACH

A significant portion of the feasibility study was focused on the technical aspects of whether the pedestrian bridge can be built in the environmentally sensitive area of the Wells Harbor, looking at the many considerations that would restrict potential locations of the bridge alignment, as well as span length, and minimum clearance above the water and marine requirements that the bridge must not impede marine traffic or harbor maintenance (dredging) or the ecological cycle in the harbor. In addition, aspects related to Shoreline Zoning ordinances and other municipal regulations will affect alignments and design criteria. Proposed alignments may encroach on existing residential property lines.

COASTAL COMMUNITY GRANTS: Public Access

RESULTS

Based on the effort, the cost of the bridge has been estimated at between \$2.3 and \$2.95 million, not including the potential costs that may be associated with mitigating environmental impacts. Several required local, state and federal regulatory review processes were identified. In addition, economic benefits were detailed.

NEXT STEPS AND OPPORTUNITIES

Develop a better understanding with respect to costs associated with regulatory issues (compensation) and pile spacing (bearing capacity).

LESSONS LEARNED

That there is a now much more detailed understanding of the challenges and benefits associated with enhancing bicycle and pedestrian connectivity within and across Wells Harbor.

APPLICABILITY FOR OTHER MUNICIPALITIES

The process and issues evaluated in the course of the investigation, as well as many of the technical conclusions can be applied to other coastal communities in Maine.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Encourage state regulatory staff to work collaboratively toward solutions that consider the full range of benefits and impacts.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Wells Harbor Pedestrian Crossing Feasibility Study work products
<http://www.wellstown.org/472/Wells-Harbor-Pedestrian-Crossing-Feasibi>

CONTACT

Jonathan L. Carter, Town Manager
jcarter@wellstown.org and 207-646-5113 ext 301

FY12-15
3.7.17.

Financial assistance provided by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce Grant CZM NA10NOS4190188 to the Maine Coastal Program. Coastal Community Grants are awarded and administered by the Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry Municipal Planning Assistance Program.

