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# Town of Seabrook

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## Memorandum

To: Chair Theresa Kyle, Selectwoman Brown, Selectman Khan

From: Town Manager

CC: Kelly O'Connor

Route 1 North Project

November 16, 2020

This memo is to review some of the relevant facts on the Route 1 North project. I have attached the marked-up DOT contract from Atty. Pasay. (Some of his comments require no change) I have spoken to Wendy Johnson of DOT last week. She was ready to drop Seabrook down on the ten-year list if that was the Board choice but will wait for a final decision from the Board. A couple of points that have been of concern.

1. Finance. As you can see from the contract the anticipated cost of the project is \$2.8 million, with Seabrook responsible for 50% of that total. The Town currently has \$1.6 million allocated for the project, which is sufficient to cover the anticipated budget. It does not leave a lot of room for any potential cost increases through the bidding process. My discussion with Wendy emphasized that the Town would have no room to go beyond the \$1.6 million number if bids came in above the anticipated budget. Wendy agreed that the Town could simply walk away from the project if the \$1.6 million would not cover the 50% Seabrook share **without penalty**.

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2. Rocks Road. There has been continual talk, and desire, to place a signal at Rocks Road to make exit from that spot easier. The DOT position, that a signal will not be a part of this project, is unchanged. Some of the latest discussion centers on connecting Rocks Road to the North Access road so that traffic could exit through that signal. This potential solution would require cooperation from NextEra and would be at our expense. If bids came in below expectation I believe we could use some of the dedicated \$1.6 million, or Highway Block Grant funding. A decision on the Route 1 project will need to be made before we can determine the feasibility of a solution like this.

It is my belief that approving this project is the best option on the current menu of options. The financial commitment cannot exceed the available funds, and a commitment would only entail a willingness to spend the available funds, and no more.