

## SOUND BEACH AVENUE BRIDGE

The project, including the roundabout, have been driven by the desire to use State funds to repair the Sound Beach Bridge over the east branch of Cider Mill Brook. If the project were smaller, say repairing instead of replacing or building a smaller bridge, State funds would be less of a priority and the pressure to do this whole project might be eliminated.

From the Town project statement:

The Sound Beach Avenue Bridge was built in 1925 and rehabilitated in 1977. It has rated poorly during the last series of inspections. It has continued to deteriorate and is in need of replacement. After notification was initially received of the bridge's poor rating, the Town began to gather preliminary information and seek funding for the bridge design and replacement. The Town hired Weston and Sampson, Consultant Engineers and TranSystems, Traffic Engineers to complete a preliminary assessment of the bridge and surrounding area.

Questions to be posed:

1. The project as stated was "design and replace". Were less expensive alternatives explored? Alternatives that would not require State funding? Were these cost comparisons made available to the public and to the Commission?

Do engineering studies of the existing bridge and its current condition exist and have they been made available to the Public and the Commission?

2. The bridge at Harding Road measures about 19 feet wide and a maximum clearance for flow of 4 feet high by 17 feet across. Water flows from Harding Road to the bridge at Sound Beach with only one visible storm drain adding to the flow.

The bridge at Sound Beach is 32 feet wide with half its flow blocked on the upstream side by sediment. Could the project be less expensive and less intrusive if the bridge were sized more in line with the Harding Road Bridge?

Was this alternative proposed and costs compared and were these proposals made available to the public and to the Commission?

### SUMMARY:

Why does the bridge to be repaired need to be larger than its upstream counterpart at Harding Road? Can a reduced size also reduce the cost sufficiently such that state funding and its requirements can be obviated?

Respectfully submitted on behalf of "Don't Sink the Perrot"  
Eben Walker, 36 Wesskum Wood Rd, Riverside

