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**Baker-Polito Administration Award \$500,000 to Framingham as part of the Small Bridge Program**

**Framingham, MA** – The Town of Framingham is excited to announce an award from the Baker-Polito Administration’s *Small Bridge Program* in the amount of \$500,000 to replace the bridge on Beaver Street over the Beaver Dam Brook. Framingham is one of 36 communities receiving part of the \$16 million award.

“We are grateful to the Baker-Polito Administration for awarding Framingham these critical funds to assist in our mission to maintain and repair the Town’s infrastructure” said Peter Sellers, Executive Director of Framingham Public Works.

The Beaver Street Bridge was constructed in 1922 and carries critical municipal and private utilities. Beaver Street is located in a densely populated section of Framingham. The bridge was identified in the Town’s 2012 *Townwide Bridge Inspection & Master Plan* to be replaced in ten years. With the assistance of this grant money, the process for replacing the bridge can begin sooner.

The Municipal Small Bridge Program, signed into law on August 10, 2016, by Governor Baker, is a several-year \$50 million program to aid in the replacement and preservation of municipally-owned small bridges which are not eligible for federal aid under existing bridge replacement or rehabilitation programs and are at high risk for full or partial closure in the near future due to their present conditions.

The program is a need and merit based program that seeks to fund those applications that demonstrate a critical need or substantially extend the life of an existing small bridge. Projects are evaluated according to a strict set of eligibility criteria that consider the condition, benefits, and repair status of each bridge.

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