



City of Bay City Commission Officers / Bay County Officials  
Independence & Liberty Bridge Discussion

January 22, 2018

10:00 am - Room 308

301 Washington Avenue, Bay City, MI 48708

Attendees: Andrew Niedzinski, Dana Muscott, Kathi Newsham, Ernie Krygier, Kerice Basmadjian, Tom Ryder, Jim Barcia, Amber Davis-Johnson, George Martini, Neil Wackerly, Robert Dion, Bob Redmond, Mike Duranczyk, Ed Clements, Tony Reyes

Attendees were welcomed and thanked for coming. Introductions were made around the table.

The discussion centered on the failing infrastructure of both Independence (service year 1973) and Liberty (service year 1984) bridges. The structures have exceeded their lifespan and continued repair is not cost effective.

**Desired Outcome: Replace both bridges**

Potential Funding Discussed:

Millage for Bay County – beneficial to all residents

City Income Tax

Local Bridge Funding

Federal Bridge Funding

Alternative Outcomes:

Create Toll Bridge without Privatization

Close One Bridge

Toll Bridge by Privatization

The course of action determined by the group was as follows:

- Retain Bond Counsel to seek ways to lawfully fund the replacement of the bridges
- Engage other community stakeholders to assist in the process  
Potential partners include local Townships, County Road Commission, MDOT Officials, State and Federal Representatives, Bay Area Chamber and Great Lakes Bay Region Alliance.



- Develop and Provide an Education Plan for Bay City / County Residents for informed decision making based on potential funding.

All participants agreed that the next course of action would be to open the discussion to include interested members of the public and key stakeholders. Therefore a joint meeting of the City and County Officials will be held on February 5, 2018 – 10:00 am at the Doubletree Hotel Conference Center.

Respectfully submitted,  
Roberta Spencer