



Montague Capital Improvements Committee

STM 10.22.25 Town Meeting Report

Approved by the CIC 08.27.25

Summary of Final Motions/Recommendations

Request	Amount	Recommend	Vote
Public Works- South St Culvert(s) Sliplining	\$ 50,000	Yes	4-0

1. Capital Requests Recommended for Consideration at October 22, 2025 Special Town Meeting

Public Works Department- South Street Culvert(s) Sliplining (\$50,000): The DPW is requesting funds to line two metal culverts on South Street.

The Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) did a beautiful job replacing the South Street Bridge in Montague Center. The project, which included new guardrails and paving, opened ahead of schedule on May 22 of this year. The Town is responsible for maintaining two nearby culverts beneath South Street, which have deteriorated seriously with age.

This Article will fund the re-lining of both culverts. This request is time-sensitive, as culverts are the structures that contain streams, storm runoffs, and seasonal waterflows so that water passes under a roadway without damaging it. These two culverts are at risk of failure if not addressed. If the metal pipe and surrounding stones that are invisible beneath us as we use this road begin to collapse, the pavement above is at risk of cracking or collapsing. Failure could lead to road closure and total replacement of the culvert --including engineering design and permitting.

Culvert failures also expose neighboring properties to unwanted flooding, silt, and organic debris, and can harm fish, other wildlife, and the natural processes that maintain the surrounding watershed.

Consistent with the Town's policy of having DPW staff perform as much of our infrastructure maintenance as possible, this project will integrate DPW work with that of a vendor specializing in re-lining the corrugated metal pipes in these culverts with high-density polyethylene (HDPE) pipe liners and securing the installation with high-performance cellular grout and concrete bulkheads.

For this project, DPW will remove trees and vegetation to allow access to the site; excavate each site as needed; move and slide each liner pipe into position; and handle clean-up and landscape restoration after completion.

The \$50,000 requested in this Article will cover the complete relining of two separate culverts beneath South Street at an estimated \$20,000 each, with additional funds available in case of unforeseen problems or increased material costs.

Permits will be filed in-house with the Conservation Commission. No engineering services are required, and Town staff will develop a bid package based on the specifications shown in the sample quote.

The following approximate timeline is anticipated:

- November 2025 – January 2026: Permitting
- February 2026: Bidding
- March-April 2026: Construction

Cost avoidance, Service Interruption: The culverts are at risk of failure if not addressed. The floors of the existing pipes have deteriorated significantly. Failure could lead to another closure of the road and require total replacement of the culvert including engineering design and permitting expenses.

*Capital Improvements Committee grade. **Recommend***

Respectfully,

Gregory Garrison, Chairman

Ariel Elan

Jason Burbank

Chris Menegoni

Lynn Reynolds