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CITY OF AMESBURY, MA

**CITY OF AMESBURY
IN THE YEAR TWO THOUSAND TWENTY-SIX**

SPONSORED BY:



Kassandra Gove, Mayor

BILL No. 2026-103

An Order to authorize the Mayor to accept and expend an amendment to the FY2024 Massachusetts Seaport Economic Council grant award in the amount of \$1,199,660.00 for the Washington Landing Boat Launch Facility Restoration and Revitalization Project.

Summary: The Massachusetts Seaport Economic Council originally awarded \$840,000.00 from the FY 2024 grant program to fund Amesbury's Washington Landing Maritime Support Facility project. This original grant award was accepted by Amesbury City Council through Council Bill 2024-131.

The Washington Landing Boat Launch Facility Restoration and Revitalization Project along the Merrimack River in Amesbury remains consistent with the original project concept and objectives. However, during the design and engineering phase, significant funding shortfalls, permitting challenges, and schedule constraints were identified that impacted the project's scope, timeline, and overall feasibility. These factors required a reevaluation of project components to ensure successful completion and long-term sustainability.

The project is intended to enhance public access to the river, improve boating infrastructure, and support water-dependent recreational and municipal operations. The initiative consists of four primary capital improvements:

1. Replacement of the existing boat ramp, including associated stormwater management and treatment measures to improve environmental protection and water quality.
2. Construction of approximately 900 square feet of landside boardwalk to support the establishment of a harbormaster office and improve operational access along the waterfront.
3. Installation of a gangway and 100-foot transient docking facility, including a finger dock to accommodate visiting recreational and commercial vessels.

4. Parking area improvements are designed to better serve boaters and other water-dependent users by enhancing accessibility, circulation, and overall site functionality.

Collectively, these improvements will modernize the facility, strengthen public access to the Merrimack River, support maritime activities, and provide long-term benefits to residents, visitors, and the local boating community. While the project's core vision has remained unchanged, the design and engineering process identified significant financial and scheduling challenges that must be addressed to achieve successful project delivery.

In May 2026, the Massachusetts Seaport Economic Council approved an amendment submitted by the City of Amesbury for an additional \$1,199,660 to support the project. The grant requires a 20% local match.

Be it Ordered by the City Council of the City of Amesbury assembled, and by the authority of the same as follows:

That the City of Amesbury authorizes the Mayor to accept and expend an amendment to the FY2024 Massachusetts Seaport Economic Council grant award in the amount of \$1,199,660.00