

### Press Release

#### **South Bristol's Innovative Gut Bridge**

The 80-year-old Gut Bridge, located in the idyllic coastal community of South Bristol, Maine, had undergone multiple mechanical failures. Tidal flooding had made the iconic bobtail swing structure unreliable. This vital bridge, carries Route 129 over the narrow channel, is the only route from the mainland to Rutherford Island, where the US Post Office and the South Bristol Fire Department are located. The narrow "Gut" also serves a high volume of marine traffic with over 8000 openings per year.

Working with Maine DOT and the 900 residents of South Bristol, Hardesty & Hanover designed an aesthetically pleasing, innovative bascule bridge for under the \$11,000,000 budget. The public's requirement of a small-scaled structure with operational reliability and quick openings was successfully delivered with a state-of-the-art structure.

Key design challenges included a highly congested work site, bedrock with no overburden, heavy year round navigation, extreme tidal shifts, public approval, and cost restrictions. The project included the new bridge with foundation, operator's house, traffic warning systems, and approach work.

The new Gut Bridge will keep South Bristol residents reliably moving for 70 years.