

Abstract Submitted
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**Combining Citizen Involvement and Government Bureaucracy to
Illumination the Memorial Bridge between New Hampshire and Maine
with LEDs** PETER SOMSSICH, Illumination Committee, Portsmouth NH — The
innovative design and construction of the new Memorial Bridge connecting New
Hampshire and Maine has made headlines in respective professional publications.
The contributions of the Public Advisory Committee, required by federal law for such
projects, has not. A subgroup, the Illumination Committee, decided that this bridge
needs some enhancement to make it not only functional but as pleasing to the eye as
possible. They proposed an illumination design for the bridge and raised \$250,000 to
successfully install color-changeable LED lighting on this bridge, making it the first
ever illuminated bridge in New Hampshire. Using LED technology and the design
work of John Powell (Boston), the bridge illumination can now be changed in both
color scheme and switched to either static or dynamic mode, but the illumination
can also be triggered by sensors, e.g. day or night. Even though this group raised
all of the funding without public funds, federal and state bureaucracies were not
equipped to have local citizens be willing to help beautify a federal infrastructure
project. With the support of the New Hampshire Department of Transportation and
the City of Portsmouth, NH, this group was able to navigate the obstacles which
were even more difficult than the fund-raising.

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