

Committee Report

CONSENT CALENDAR

January 19, 2022

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

REPORT OF COMMITTEE

**The Committee on Public Works and Highways to which
was referred HB 1038,**

**AN ACT naming a bridge in Londonderry in honor of
Robert J. Prowse. Having considered the same, report
the same with the recommendation that the bill OUGHT
TO PASS.**

Rep. Michael Edgar

FOR THE COMMITTEE

COMMITTEE REPORT

Committee:	Public Works and Highways
Bill Number:	HB 1038
Title:	naming a bridge in Londonderry in honor of Robert J. Prowse.
Date:	January 19, 2022
Consent Calendar:	CONSENT
Recommendation:	OUGHT TO PASS

STATEMENT OF INTENT

In 1973, the prior Ash Street Bridge was dedicated as "The Robert J. Prowse Memorial Bridge." This bill names the new Ash Street Bridge over interstate 93 in the town of Londonderry for Robert J. Prowse. Mr. Prowse was a successful and well respected civil engineer who worked his way up through the ranks of the State Highway Department. After joining the bridge division in 1934, he quickly gained the recognition of his superiors who assigned him work of progressively greater responsibility and complexity. By January 1969, he had worked his way up to State Bridge Engineer. Mr. Prowse took full advantage of the advances in welding technology and created bridges that were recognized by his peers as among the most beautiful bridges in the United States.

Vote 17-0.

Rep. Michael Edgar
FOR THE COMMITTEE

Original: House Clerk
Cc: Committee Bill File

CONSENT CALENDAR

Public Works and Highways

HB 1038, naming a bridge in Londonderry in honor of Robert J. Prowse. **OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. Michael Edgar for Public Works and Highways. In 1973, the prior Ash Street Bridge was dedicated as "The Robert J. Prowse Memorial Bridge." This bill names the new Ash Street Bridge over interstate 93 in the town of Londonderry for Robert J. Prowse. Mr. Prowse was a successful and well respected civil engineer who worked his way up through the ranks of the State Highway Department. After joining the bridge division in 1934, he quickly gained the recognition of his superiors who assigned him work of progressively greater responsibility and complexity. By January 1969, he had worked his way up to State Bridge Engineer. Mr. Prowse took full advantage of the advances in welding technology and created bridges that were recognized by his peers as among the most beautiful bridges in the United States. **Vote 17-0.**

Original: House Clerk

Cc: Committee Bill File

Voting Sheets

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS

EXECUTIVE SESSION on HB 1038

BILL TITLE: naming a bridge in Londonderry in honor of Robert J. Prowse.

DATE: January 19, 2022

LOB ROOM: 201

MOTIONS: **OUGHT TO PASS**

Moved by Rep. Edgar

Seconded by Rep. Somero

Vote: 17-0

CONSENT CALENDAR: YES

Statement of Intent: Refer to Committee Report

Respectfully submitted,

Rep Martin Jack, Acting Clerk

EXECUTIVE SESSION on Bill # HB 1038

LOB ROOM: 201

Moved by Rep. Edgar Seconded by Rep. Somers Vote: 17-0

Moved by Rep. _____ Seconded by Rep. _____ Vote: _____

Moved by Rep. _____ Seconded by Rep. _____ Vote: _____

Moved by Rep. _____ Seconded by Rep. _____ Vote: _____

Minority Report? _____ Yes _____ No If yes, author, Rep: _____ Motion _____

Respectfully submitted:

~~Rep Natalie Wells, Clerk~~

Max L. Sack

Acting



1/10/2022 9:08:54 AM
Roll Call Committee Registers
Report

2022 SESSION

Public Works and Highways

Bill #: HB 1038 Motion: OTF AM #: _____ Exec Session Date: 01/19/2022

<u>Members</u>	<u>YEAS</u>	<u>Nays</u>	<u>NV</u>
Graham, John A. Chairman	17		
McConkey, Mark E. Vice Chairman	1		
Milz, David E. Clerk	-		
Somero, Paul J.	2		
Fedolfi, Jim L.	3		
Newton, Clifford A.	-		
Blasek, Melissa	4		
Bordes, Mike	-		
Kaczynski, Thomas L.	-		
Kilanski, Ben M.	-		
Thompson, Dennis J.	5		
Boyd, Bill	6		
Cloutier, John R.	7		
Edgar, Michael A.	8		
Ebel, Karen E.	9		
Jack, Martin L.	10		
Abbott, Michael D.	11		
Faulkner, Barry	12		
Newman, Sue A.	13		
Eaton, Daniel A.	14		
Pedersen, Michael P.	15		

Public Hearing

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS

PUBLIC HEARING ON HB1038

BILL TITLE: Naming a bridge in Londonderry in honor of Robert J. Prowse

DATE: 01/12/2022

LOB ROOM: 201

Time Public Hearing Called to Order: 9:30 am

Time Adjourned: 9:40 am

Committee Members: Reps. Graham, McConkey, Somero, Fedolfi, Blasek, Gagne, Thompson, Boyd, Cloutier, Edgar, Telerski, Jack, Abbott, Faulkner, S. Newman, Eaton, Query and Bunker

TESTIMONY

* Use asterisk if written testimony and/or amendments are submitted.

Rep. Gary Woods, prime sponsor

There is a new bridge on Route 93 North at Exit 4 named the "Ash Street Bridge" in Londonderry. Mr. Prowse's family lives in Bow. The Department of Transportation reached out about naming the new bridge. Rep. Woods is the neighbor of the family member. Mr. Prowse was a bridge engineer at DOT. He oversaw over 400 bridge projects and is nationally recognized for innovations in welded bridge construction. Rep. Abbott asked if the naming was cleared by the town. It is and Rep. Graham remarked that the committee needs a written submission before the bill can be reported out.

Kathy Mulcahey-Hampson, Department of Transportation Hearing Examiner

Appeared to answer questions. Rep. Graham asked if we need the bill if the name is the same. The response is that the family contacted DOT and was advised how to proceed. The old bridge was moved to Keene. Rep Faulkner asked if Keene will keep the bridge name. The response is that was not discussed.

Respectfully submitted,

Martin L. Jack, Acting Clerk

SIGN UP SHEET

To Register Opinion If Not Speaking

Bill # HB 1038 Date 1/12/2022

Committee Public works and Highways

**** Please Print All Information ****

[illegible]

House Remote Testify

Public Works and Highways Committee Testify List for Bill HB1038 on 2022-01-12

Support: 0 Oppose: 0 Neutral: 0 Total to Testify: 0

Export to Excel

Testimony

A

HB 1038

BIOGRAPHICAL SUMMARY OF ROBERT J. PROWSE

Excerpted by Joyce Prowse from "Robert J. Prowse – A Monograph"
(Daughter-in-law of Robert J. Prowse)

January 2010: A Monograph entitled "Robert John Prowse-A Monograph" which had been commissioned by the NH Department of Transportation was submitted by the Trans System & URS Corporation. Historians Patrick Harshbarger and Ingrid Wuebber were the writers.

That Monograph is on permanent file with the NH Department of Transportation and I will be quoting (when you see quotation marks) directly from that Monograph.

"Engineer Robert John Prowse (1906-1969), a native of Concord, New Hampshire, was a leading designer of highway bridges for the New Hampshire State Highway Department, the predecessor agency to the New Hampshire Department of Transportation. He was active from 1934 to 1969, with interludes to serve during World War Two and to work as a consulting engineer with the firm of Steinman & Robinson during 1956-1957. Prowse gained national recognition with two prize-winning bridges-- the 1958 Squamscott River Bridge (Bridge No. 106/100), carrying Route 101 in Exeter, New Hampshire, and the 1961-62 Ash Street Bridge (Bridge No. 140/120) over Interstate 93 in Londonderry, New Hampshire. Both of these showcased the economical and aesthetic advantages of welded steel girders. Prowse was among a number of bridge engineers nationally who advanced welding over riveting as the preferred modern technique for fabrication steel bridge members. His efforts helped to place New Hampshire at the forefront of welded bridge design.

Prowse was a successful and well-respected civil engineer who worked his way up through the ranks of the State Highway Department. After joining the Bridge Division in 1934, he quickly gained the recognition of his superiors who assign him work of progressively greater responsibility and complexity. His earliest opportunities to design important bridges were a result of New Deal programs, including the Works Progress Administration (WPA) program to rebuilt New England's bridges after the Great Flood of 1936. From 1934 to 1961, Prowse personally designed no fewer than 180 New Hampshire highway bridges and was the administrator overseeing the design of more than 400 bridges. Prowse applied his considerable skills in drawing, design and mathematics to a wide range of projects from minor culverts to major bridges. These projects were invariably in support of the broader goal of bringing the state's highways up to higher standards in promotion of safe and efficient travel by motor vehicles. Beginning in 1946, he taught courses in structural design to engineering programs at New England College in Henniker, New Hampshire and at Northeastern University, his alma mater, in Boston, Massachusetts.

In 1962 Prowse was promoted to Assistant State Bridge Engineer, and in January 1969 he became State Bridge Engineer. Prowse retired in 1969 and passed away following a brief illness."

In 1973 the winning Ash Street Bridge was dedicated "The Robert J. Prowse Memorial Bridge". When Interstate 93 was widened, it became necessary to remove that bridge. It

is hoped that by an Act of the New Hampshire Legislature the new and wider Ash Street Bridge can carry the name of "The Robert J. Prowse Bridge".

This would be in recognition of Prowse's work in "more than fulfilling the State Highway Department's mandate to provide economical, efficient and safe bridges. In taking full advantage of advances in welding technology, he created bridges that were recognized by his peers as among the most beautiful bridges in the United States.

His welded girder bridges, in particular, met the highest aesthetic ideals of the time with designs that emphasized function over ornamentation, lightness over heaviness and economy over excessiveness. These bridges placed New Hampshire at the forefront of the application of welded girder technology, which became the dominant technology for the fabrication of steel bridges members in the latter half of the twentieth century."

Bill as
Introduced

HB 1038 - AS INTRODUCED

2022 SESSION

22-2275

08/11

HOUSE BILL ***1038***

AN ACT naming a bridge in Londonderry in honor of Robert J. Prowse.

SPONSORS: Rep. Woods, Merr. 23; Sen. Carson, Dist 14

COMMITTEE: Public Works and Highways

ANALYSIS

This bill names a bridge in Londonderry in honor of Robert J. Prowse.

Explanation: Matter added to current law appears in ***bold italics***.
Matter removed from current law appears ~~[in brackets and struckthrough.]~~
Matter which is either (a) all new or (b) repealed and reenacted appears in regular type.

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

In the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand Twenty Two

AN ACT naming a bridge in Londonderry in honor of Robert J. Prowse.

Be it Enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court convened:

1 1 Town of Londonderry; Robert J. Prowse Bridge Named. Pursuant to RSA 4:43, the new Ash
2 Street Bridge over Interstate 93, which is bridge number 140/119 in the town of Londonderry, is
3 hereby named the Robert J. Prowse Bridge.

4 2 Signage. The cost of design, construction, maintenance, and installation of any signage,
5 replacement signage, or other markers required under section 1 of this act shall not be a charge to
6 the state. However, the design, construction, and installation of any signage or other markers
7 required under this act shall be approved by the department of transportation.

8 3 Effective Date. This act shall take effect upon its passage.