

Dear Supervisor Knott,

Thank you for submitting your correspondence regarding the Town's concerns with the recent load posting of the Stuyvesant Falls Bridge.

The Engineering Department understands the importance of this structure to the local community as well as the importance to the County's transportation network.

Please allow me to provide an update as to the recent actions taken by the Engineering Department in an effort to address both short term and long-term solutions to the structural issues with the Bridge. Once the load rating report was received by the Engineering Consultant on March 25, 2022 the County was required to post the reduced load rating of 12 tons on the structure to protect the public.

The bridge rehabilitation/replacement is currently on the State Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP) and is eligible for federal funding through the STBG Off-system Bridge program. The project was originally scheduled to begin preliminary design in 2023 with construction anticipated to begin in 2025-2026.

On April 28, the County Transportation Advisory Committee (CTAC) convened a meeting with representatives of the NYSDOT to discuss the status of the current State Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP). During this meeting, the County Engineering Department discussed the need for additional funding for various projects as well as presented proposed modifications to the TIP including revising the schedule for several projects. At that meeting the CTAC voted to approve the proposed TIP modifications that included a proposed modification to the Stuyvesant Falls Bridge that would allow preliminary engineering to begin in 2022. Last week I reached out to the NYSDOT Transportation Analyst responsible for initiating the project. She confirmed that based on the CTAC's approval, the funds are pending on the TIP for 10/2022. She also indicated that the Engineering Department could expect to receive the initial paperwork on the project in the next few weeks, this includes the Initial Project Proposal that provides an overview of the project scope, funding and schedule. Once the Initial Project Proposal (IPP) is received by the County, the Engineering Department may begin the Engineering Consultant Solicitation process. It is anticipated that this will take place during the summer of 2022 so that the preliminary design, as well as short term repairs to the bridge may begin once the funds become available in this fall.

At this time, it is the intent of the Engineering Department to include the design of the short-term repairs to the consultant's scope of work. In addition, as we look forward towards the preparation of the 2023 County Budget process, the Engineering Department will be requesting the County consider allocating \$250,000 to fund the short-term repair of the structure to allow the load rating to be potentially lifted by the end of 2023. This would potentially allow for the unrestricted use of the structure until the long-term improvements are implemented.

During the preliminary design of the long-term improvements the Consultant will be evaluating the extent of the required bridge rehabilitation as well as the potential of the replacement of the structure for consideration by the County.

I hope the above information is found useful, and as always, I'll make myself available to address any additional comments or concerns as we move forward with this project.

Ray Jurkowski