

**Authorizing The Removal Of The Railroad Bridge Over Basin Road On The Ulster and Delaware Railroad Corridor To Allow For The Construction Of Improvements Associated With New York City Department Of Environmental Protection Ashokan Century Project And Replacing It With An Active Transportation Bridge Connecting On The U&D Corridor East Of Basin Road With The Ashokan Rail Trail**

Referred to: The Housing and Transportation Committee (Chairman Collins and Legislators Clinton, Corcoran, Harmon, Kitchen, McCollough, and Stewart)

Chairman of the Housing and Transportation Committee, Jeff Collins, and Deputy Chair Thomas Corcoran offer the following:

WHEREAS, this resolution has been submitted at the request of the County Executive on behalf of the Department of Public Works, and

WHEREAS, the New York City Department of Environmental Protection Ashokan Century Program (the “Program”) is the largest public works project in the Catskills Region in over five decades; and

WHEREAS, the existing railroad bridge on the Ulster and Delaware Corridor at Basin Road in the Town of Woodstock has limited height clearance that impacts the movement of large trucks and equipment needed to perform work on the Program that will create long detours and delays; and

WHEREAS, the existing bridge has already been the cause of several crashes related to its limited height clearance; and

WHEREAS, the New York City Department of Environmental Protection (the “DEP”) has requested that it be permitted to remove the existing railroad bridge over Basin Road in the Town of Woodstock to allow access to the Program activities related to the Woodstock Dike; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Resolution No. 275 of 2014, the Ulster County Legislature established a policy for uses of the U&D Corridor, which established a policy of “Trail Only” use west of the existing bridge at Basin Road; and

WHEREAS, while the County remains undecided about the future of the U&D Corridor for that segment of the Corridor that is east of Basin Road to Route 28A; and

WHEREAS, all the alternatives under consideration by the County including those proposed by the Catskill Mountain Railroad Cooperation contemplate a pedestrian connection over Basin Road to the Ashokan Rail Trail (the “ART”); and

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WHEREAS, the DEP has indicated that among the alternatives it would be willing to consider is the replacement of the existing bridge at Basin Road with a code compliant pedestrian and bicycle (active transportation) structure with the required clearance allowing a connection to the ART west of Basing Road and the U&D Corridor on the east; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Resolution No. 275 of 2014, any removal of track within the U&D Corridor requires approval of the Ulster County Legislature; and

WHEREAS, NYCDEP acting as lead agency under the NYS Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA) for the Ashokan Century Project will be responsible for any findings related to the removal of the bridge, and that no action will be taken until SEQRA is completed; and

WHEREAS, the removal of the existing bridge cannot occur until such time that an agreement is in place between the County and NYCDEP and that NYCDEP is desirous of ensuring that it can use Basin Road in planning for transportation access for the Program; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, the Ulster County Legislature hereby authorizes the removal of the existing railroad bridge and its replacement with an active transportation bridge by NYCDEP providing the following conditions are satisfied:

- the NYCDEP completes the necessary SEQRA determination concerning the removal of the bridge;
- the new bridge shall meet the required minimum height clearance for public roads and meet AASHTO standards for pedestrian and bicycle (active transportation) structures;
- the design of the new bridge will be coordinated with the County so as to be consistent with the recommendations of its consultants and not interfere with the use chosen by the County for the area of the U&D Corridor east of Basin Road;
- The removal of the existing bridge shall be coordinated with the start of construction of the Program elements that requires its removal;

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Trail**

- the installation of the new bridge will occur no later than two (2) years from the removal of the existing bridge or as approved by the County if a longer timeframe is needed; and
- the County makes no assurances that it has control over all lands needed to construct the replacement bridge; and, be it further

RESOLVED, in keeping with the above conditions, the Chair of the Ulster County Legislature is hereby authorized to execute, on behalf of the County of Ulster, all agreements and documents necessary for the removal of the Basin Road railroad bridge located on the U&D Corridor,

and moves its adoption

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES:

NOES:

Passed Committee: Housing and Transportation on \_\_\_\_\_.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

NONE