

Authorizing The Chair Of The Ulster County Legislature To Execute Agreements In Relation To The Replacement Of The Bridge Over Basin Road On The Ulster and Delaware Railroad Corridor

Referred to: The Housing and Transportation Committee (Chairwoman Clinton and Legislators Berardi, Grossman, Kovacs, Marino, McCollough, and Sperry)

Chair of the Legislature, Peter J. Criswell, and Chairman of the Ways and Means Committee, Jeff Collins, offer the following:

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 and as well as vehicles used for deliveries and projects in the area that 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 the height restriction caused by the existing railroad bridge over Basin Road in the Town of Woodstock be remedied to allow access for large construction and other vehicles to the area; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Resolution No. 488 of 2015, the Ulster County Legislature amended the policy for uses of the U&D Corridor to designate “Trail Only” use from Basin Road to Route 28A in Boiceville; and

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

WHEREAS the existing Basin Road rail bridge does not conform to the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) Pedestrian Bridge design standards; and

WHEREAS, the DEP has indicated that it would be willing to fund the replacement of the existing bridge at Basin Road with a code compliant pedestrian and

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bicycle (active transportation) structure with the required clearance allowing a connection to the ART west of Basin Road and the U&D Corridor on the east; and

WHEREAS, regardless of a change in Legislative policy regarding the Undesignated Section of the U&D Corridor to be Trail-only, Rail-only, or Rail with Trail, any connection from the Undesignated Corridor to the Ashokan Rail Trail will require an AASHTO-compliant bridge to cross Basin Rd; and

WHEREAS, the replacement of the existing bridge cannot occur until such time that an agreement is in place between the County and NYCDEP, and 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 replacement of the existing railroad bridge with an active transportation bridge paid for by NYCDEP providing the following conditions are satisfied:

- Completion of 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 replacement of the existing bridge shall be coordinated with the start of construction of the Program elements that requires its replacement;
- 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 replacement of the Basin Road railroad bridge located on the U&D Corridor,

and moves its adoption

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ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES:

NOES:

Passed Committee: Housing and Transportation on February 5, 2026

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

NONE