



ULSTER COUNTY LEGISLATIVE NEWS

ULSTER COUNTY NEWS INFORMATION

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Housing and Transportation Committee Approves Resolution 5 of 2026 Advancing Basin Road Bridge Replacement

The Ulster County Legislature's Housing and Transportation Committee approved Resolution No. 5 of 2026 at its February 5 meeting, advancing the replacement of the Basin Road Bridge. The resolution will be considered by the full Legislature on February 17, 2026.

This action addresses long-standing safety and operational concerns at the Basin Road crossing and reflects the Committee's responsibility to advance infrastructure improvements that prioritize public safety, accessibility, and efficient municipal operations. Under the approved plan, the existing railroad bridge will be raised and upgraded to meet AASHTO standards for pedestrian use, creating a safer, more reliable crossing.

In addition to pedestrian safety, the current bridge's low clearance restricts truck access, requiring detours that add time, mileage, and cost for entities including the Town of Hurley Highway Department, the Ulster County Department of Public Works, and the Ulster County Resource Recovery Agency. The proposed improvements address these limitations by restoring appropriate clearance and improving overall functionality at the crossing.

The Committee determined that the proposed improvements appropriately balance corridor use with the County's obligation to address known safety and operational deficiencies. The bridge is located outside the 1.8 mile undesignated corridor area and is therefore not included in the scope of the corridor study commissioned by the Legislature, which is expected to be released in July. As such, the Basin Road Bridge project proceeds independently of that study and preserves optionality for any of the potential future uses for the undesignated corridor - be that rail-only, trail-only, or rail with trail.

Importantly, the full cost of the bridge replacement and associated improvements will be borne by the New York City Department of Environmental Protection (NYC DEP), resulting in no direct financial impact on Ulster County taxpayers.

"By authorizing the NYC DEP to fund this replacement, we are securing a multi-million-dollar infrastructure upgrade at zero cost to Ulster County taxpayers. This resolution ensures a modern, AASHTO-compliant connection between the U&D Corridor and the Ashokan Rail Trail, enhancing our rail and trail network while solving a long-standing clearance issue for our highway and emergency vehicles," **said Legislator Jeff Collins, the Sponsor of the Resolution.**

"As Chair of the Housing and Transportation Committee, I support Resolution No. 5 because it addresses a clear safety and operational need with a practical, fiscally responsible solution," **said Debra Clinton, Chair of the Ulster County Legislature's Housing and Transportation Committee.** "This project improves a critical crossing, restores appropriate clearance for public service vehicles, brings the bridge up to modern pedestrian standards, and does so without placing a financial burden on county residents."

"Ulster County has a responsibility to ensure that county-owned infrastructure is safe, functional, and responsibly maintained," **said Peter Criswell, Chair of the Ulster County Legislature.** "This is a straightforward infrastructure decision grounded in safety, responsibility, and good governance. The Basin Road Bridge is county property, and it is our duty to maintain it to modern AASHTO standards for pedestrian use and vehicle clearance. The fact that these critical safety improvements can be made with full funding from NYC DEP, and without burdening local taxpayers, makes this the right decision for Ulster County."

The Housing and Transportation Committee remains committed to advancing infrastructure projects that improve safety, support municipal operations, respect existing corridor uses, and serve the long-term interests of Ulster County communities.

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