



STATE OF NEW YORK
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

DAVID A. PATERSON, Governor · Stanley Gee, Acting Commissioner

NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Wednesday, August 12, 2009

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NYSDOT ANNOUNCES CONSTRUCTION OF ECONOMIC RECOVERY PROJECT New Genesee River Trail Pedestrian Bridge Project in Mt. Morris Begins

New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT) Acting Commissioner Stanley Gee and Rochester Acting Regional Director Robert Traver today announced construction is beginning on a \$1.7 million project to construct a new pedestrian bridge as part of the 90-mile Genesee Valley Greenway Trail, over the Genesee River along State Route 36, in the towns of Mt. Morris and Leicester, Livingston County.

The construction contract was awarded to Slate Hill Constructors, Inc. of Warners, Onondaga County. The project is funded through the federal American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA).

“This bridge work is one of many DOT projects that will improve our transportation system and bring jobs to communities across the state,” Acting Commissioner Gee said. “I thank Governor David Paterson for certifying this important infrastructure project and our Congressional Delegation for bringing critical economic-recovery funding to New York State.”

Of the \$1.1 billion New York State received for highway and bridge projects under ARRA, a total investment of \$74 million in economic-recovery funding is expected to be certified for Rochester area communities.

The project will construct a new bridge over the Genesee River slightly west of the Route 36 highway bridge using abandoned railroad piers already in the river. The new bridge will be a prefabricated steel truss. The structure will be 12 feet wide and approximately 450 feet long with a concrete deck. Landscaping and a park bench will be added to the parking area, which will be expanded as part of the project. The trail will be constructed on both approaches to tie into the existing trails to the north and south of the structure.

This project begins the week of August 17 to prepare the construction site and is anticipated to be complete by August 2010. Much of the visible bridge work will take place beginning next spring.

“Constructing a new pedestrian bridge over the river as part of the Genesee Valley Greenway trail will be a welcomed addition for the many nature enthusiasts who enjoy getting outside and exploring our region by bicycle or on foot,” Acting Regional Director Robert Traver said. “This bridge project would not be undertaken, at this time, without the federal economic recovery money.”

Traver noted the significant support of Senators Catharine Young, Michael Ranzenhofer and Assembly member Daniel Burling in delivering this regional transportation project.

Jeff Hamlon with Slate Hill Constructors said, "We're happy to have the work and are looking forward to doing a good job for the DOT and the community of Mt. Morris."

NYS DOT worked closely with New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC), New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (NYS Parks) and the Friends of the Genesee Valley Greenway Trail throughout the design phase. The plans for the pedestrian bridge were developed at the same time as the highway plans to reconstruct State Route 36 and State Route 408 in the village of Mt. Morris.

New State Department of Environmental Conservation Regional Director Paul D'Amato said, "DEC is pleased with the upcoming construction of a pedestrian bridge over the Genesee River in Mt. Morris. One of the original goals of the Genesee Valley Greenway was to develop a continuous trail from the City of Rochester to Hinsdale in Cattaraugus County. This project is a significant step toward achieving this goal."

New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation Commissioner Carol Ash said, "I am grateful to the Department of Transportation for spearheading this project, which will provide an important connection for the cyclists, runners, hikers and other Genesee Valley Greenway Trail users. The new link will not only improve a tremendous recreational resource for the residents of the Genesee Valley, it will further strengthen the Greenway's tourism potential."

"We have looked forward to this DOT project since plans were completed in 2002," said Ned Holmes, President of the Friends of the Genesee Valley Greenway. "This bridge will allow both Mount Morris residents and trail users a safe means to cross the Genesee River and provide continuity of the Greenway in this area. Currently, about 62 miles of trail are open in what will be a 90 mile multi-use trail from Rochester to Cattaraugus County."

The economic-recovery funds coming to New York State for transportation projects must follow the same process required for distributing all federal transportation funds. The funds are allocated to projects that are selected by the 13 regional Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) across the state, which are comprised of local elected officials, local transit operators and NYS DOT representatives. MPOs vote unanimously on projects for their Transportation Improvement Program, and the projects are candidates for economic-recovery funds. The bridge project was approved by the Genesee Transportation Council to be eligible to receive ARRA funding.

Similarly, regions of New York State without MPOs are served by NYS DOT, which consults with local elected officials and selects projects for the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program. The department worked with local officials and the Governor's Economic Recovery Cabinet to identify shovel-ready projects eligible for recovery funds.

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