

January 2025 Bridge NY Project Update



Dear Village Property Owner,

In July 2023, the Village of Shortsville was approved for funding through the 2022 Bridge NY Program in the amount of \$1,499,000 to replace of the Water Street culvert. This grant is a 100% reimbursement grant (up to the award dollar amount). When the village applied in January 2023, the goal was to receive funding to replace the current structure completely, not specifically for a covered bridge replacement.

The Village of Shortsville selected Barton & Loguidice (B&L) through a NYS DOT-approved selection process. All work completed by B&L has been and will continue to be reviewed by NYS DOT. The Village of Shortsville asked B&L to include a timber covered bridge as one of the options during the design phase. The two proposed alternatives were #1 – Precast Concrete Box Culvert (sidewalk on South side) and #2 – Timber Covered Bridge (sidewalk on South side). The initial estimated cost for Alternative #1 was \$1,129,000 and Alternative #2 was \$2,285,000. To make the most responsible fiscal decision for the taxpayers, the Village Board of Trustees decided to go with the box culvert alternative.

On December 12, 2024 the village held a public information meeting to discuss the proposed project. Representatives from B&L were available to provide information and answer questions. The public comments and questions from this meeting expressed the communities desire for sidewalks on both sides of the replacement structure and a covered bridge. However, the majority of the responses were not from village taxpayers. The village taxpayers will bear the financial burden of this project for any dollar amount above the award amount of \$1,499,000.

Since the public information meeting, the Village Board of Trustees have been following up and looking into many things, including talking with the village attorney, Ontario County Highway Dept., NYS DOT, Wyoming County Highway Superintendent, and asking B&L to modify the covered bridge option in an effort to reduce the cost.

The village recently received three alternative designs and cost workups from B&L. Contrary to other information that may be circulating in the community, the village has a signed contract with B&L that is NYS DOT approved and, therefore, will be using one of their designs. The first is a concrete culvert with a sidewalk on one side, the second is a concrete culvert with sidewalks on both sides, and the third is a covered timber bridge (shorter span than original design) with sidewalks on both sides. The current cost estimates for these options are \$1,544,000 for a culvert with one sidewalk, \$1,579,000 for a culvert with two sidewalks, and \$2,319,000 for a covered bridge with two sidewalks. These prices include a 10% contingency amount that will be eliminated at final design. Additionally, please note that when a structure is longer than 20', it is a bridge. The board continues to stand behind its decision for the concrete culvert but does support sidewalks on both sides in the interest of pedestrian safety.

The anticipated schedule for this project is for the final design to be complete by November 2025, construction to start in June 2026, and completion in November 2026.

Although there may be much disappointment within the community, as Elected Officials, we cannot reasonably make a decision that would put an additional heavy tax burden on the village taxpayers.

We welcome all comments that you may have. If you have questions, please call the Village Office or contact anyone on the Village Board. Comments can be mailed, brought into the Village Office, or dropped in the drop box on the front of the building.

Sincerely,
Mayor Ernest Corino
Trustee Ron Langdon
Trustee Sharon Trimm

Comments: _____

