



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

Patrick M. Gallivan

Senators Gallivan and Young Secure Funding to Replace "Old Route 219 Bridge"

PATRICK M. GALLIVAN April 2, 2015

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Senator Patrick M. Gallivan (R-C-I, Elma) and Senator Catharine Young (R, C, I- Olean) announce they have secured \$20 million to build a state of the art bridge to replace the existing span over Cattaraugus Creek along "old Route 219." In addition, they have inserted \$300,000 in the state budget to be deposited in an escrow account that will cover Erie and Cattaraugus counties' costs for maintaining the structure for the first 22 years.

The project will create hundreds of jobs and will save more than 90 Springville businesses, which local residents depend on, and that generate significant sales tax revenue. The new bridge will preserve easy travel to Holiday Valley Ski Resort and Ellicottville, the area's top tourism attraction, and ensure first

responders can quickly provide emergency help to the region.

“This bridge is critical to the communities on both sides of Cattaraugus Creek and the residents who trek across it each day to shop, visit their doctor, go to work or conduct business,” Senator Gallivan said. “A new bridge ensures the viability of our communities well into the future.”

Under long-established state law, the new bridge must be deeded to the local governments because Erie County owns the approach in the town of Concord, while Cattaraugus County has control of the roadway in the town of Ashford.

“The establishment of the \$300,000 escrow account will give the counties security that they will have resources to address the new bridge’s maintenance for more than two decades,” Senator Young said. “This structure is eligible for federal assistance, whereby the federal government will cover 80 percent of the upkeep, while the two counties will split the remaining 20 percent. This project is extremely beneficial to Western New York because it creates new, good-paying jobs and economic growth, preserves the local economy and gives local residents emergency care and shopping access they need and deserve.”

The project is expected to create about 280 construction jobs over the two years it will take to complete.

“I can’t thank Senator Gallivan and Senator Young enough for securing funding for this project, which will provide stable employment, good wages and benefits for many of our members,” said Paul Brown, President of Buffalo Building and Construction Trades Council, which represents thousands of local workers, including ironworkers, operating engineers, carpenters and laborers.

The bridge was temporarily closed to all traffic in 2012 for safety reasons. Emergency structural repairs were accelerated by DOT at the request of Senators Gallivan and Young.

“We experienced what it was like without the bridge in the past,” said Springville Area Chamber of Commerce President Bill Gugino. “This project gives us so much more hope and gives businesses a reason to stay and expand here.”

The DOT previously announced that the current bridge is in such poor shape that it will close in two years. If not replaced, access for residents and travelers, including the Amish who cross the bridge in horse and buggy to shop in Springville, would be cut off.

“The replacement of the old Route 219 bridge is so important to the economy and vitality of the Village of Springville and the surrounding area,” said Springville Mayor William Krebs.

“I thank Senators Gallivan and Young for helping us resolve this issue,” said Concord Supervisor Gary Eppolito. “Without the new bridge, the whole region would suffer.”

Construction on the new bridge could begin as soon as this summer.