

Albany County
Department of Economic Development, Conservation and Planning
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MEMORANDUM

TO: Lisa Ramundo, Commissioner DPW
CC: William Anslow
FROM: Laura DeGaetano, Sr. Natural Resource Planner
DATE: December 26, 2019
RE: SEQR Compliance – Negative Declaration
SUBJECT: Design and Construction for replacement of Albany County Rail Trail bridge over New Scotland Rd. (NYS Route 85)

The existing structure carrying the Albany County Rail Trail is an old railroad bridge (BIN 7032650), constructed in 1912. The bridge has experienced numerous impacts, causing damage and providing an insufficient vertical clearance over New Scotland Road (NYS Route 85). Additionally, the column supports are in an advanced state of deterioration.

This project includes demolition of the existing railroad bridge and design and construction of a replacement pedestrian bridge carrying the Albany County Rail Trail over New Scotland Road (NYS Route 85) in the Town of Bethlehem in Albany County. The proposed bridge replacement project includes a demolition plan for removal of the existing structure, design of a replacement 2-girder 12-ft wide pedestrian bridge, resurfacing or replacing the existing abutments, sidewalk rehabilitation to ADA standards, and landscaping.

As described above, replacement of the bridge was determined to be a Type I Action under SEQRA 617.4 (b)(9). Accordingly, Part I of the Full Environmental Assessment Form was completed and the county took steps to establish lead agency, coordinate a review with involved agencies, and conduct a series of public outreach meetings to get feedback on design alternatives. Following the choice of the preferred design alternative, Part II and III of the Environmental Assessment Form were completed. Following this review, it has been determined that the project, as proposed, will not have a significant impact on the environment.

Should you have any questions or require additional information, please feel free to call me at your convenience.