



TOWN OF BALLSTON

323 Charlton Road, Ballston Spa, NY 12020

MAIL TO: P.O. Box 67, Burnt Hills, NY 12027

Supervisor Eric Connolly
Town of Ballston
323 Charlton Road
Ballston Spa, NY 12020

February 22nd, 2023

Capital District Transportation Committee
One Park Place, Main Floor
Albany, NY 12205-1606

Dear CDTC,

This letter is in response to the Draft CDTC Bridge NY Program Project Evaluation and Proposed Funding Summary dated January 5th, 2023. The Town of Ballston is deeply concerned the scoring mechanism CDTC utilized omits consideration of shovel-ready, low risk projects, a key component of both NYSDOT's previous evaluation method and any meaningful capital planning process that effectively prioritizes projects.

The Town of Ballston proactively financed and completed design and engineering efforts (including environmental permitting and utility coordination) to expedite the reconstruction of the Finley Road Bridge (CDTC Project ID #4) in order to maximize scoring potential for future BridgeNY funding. Unfortunately, it would appear to have missed the total score required to qualify for Bridge NY grant funding by only three points, despite featuring the lowest condition rating of all the Saratoga County structures considered.

Additionally, the emphasis on STEP Model scores unfairly favors projects with higher traffic volumes making bridges on low volume roads virtually ineligible. The original intent of the BridgeNY grant program was to provide local bridge owners with a funding source for bridge projects that would not otherwise be eligible for federal funding based upon their low traffic volume.

The Town of Ballston respectfully requests that this project be re-considered based upon its poor condition and the fact that the project is extremely low risk.

Sincerely,

Eric Connolly
Town Supervisor

Cc: Joseph Whalen, Highway Superintendent, Town of Ballston
Scott Ostrander, Town Supervisor, Town of Milton
Joseph Grasso, Town Supervisor, Town of Charlton