



TOWN OF VERNON

Office of the Mayor

14 Park Place • Vernon, CT 06066

Tel: (860) 870-3600 • Fax: (860) 870-3580

www.Vernon-CT.gov

Daniel A. Champagne
Mayor

Michael J. Purcaro
Town Administrator

Dawn R. Maselek
Assistant Town Administrator

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 29, 2021

Press Contact:

David Owens, Communications Specialist

Desk (860) 870-3574

Cell (860) 494-5973

Vernon's Talcottville is Getting a New Old Bridge

(VERNON, Connecticut) – Vernon's Main Street is getting a new bridge over the Tankerhoosen River.

The historic 58-foot long elliptical truss bridge, constructed in 1891 by the Berlin Iron Bridge Company, is being replaced. The historic trusses, however, will be preserved and the new bridge will pass between them.

"This new bridge will provide safe passage for people travelling Main Street, while also preserving an important and interesting historic element in the Talcottville Historic District," Vernon Mayor Dan Champagne said.

Crews with NJR Construction of Torrington have begun working on the project. GM2 of Glastonbury designed the new bridge.

Vernon Town Engineer David Smith said the Main Street bridge is an example of what was once a common bridge constructed to replace wooden bridges. Vernon's is one of few Berlin Iron bridges still bring used.

"This ingenious design became popular throughout New England and the Midwest as steel began to replace wood as the material of choice for bridges," Smith said. "Ours is one of the few remaining in service."

Preserving the historic bridge was important because it serves a historic section of Vernon, Smith said.

"For nearly a century and a half, the Berlin iron works elliptical trusses have provided this community with a safe and secure way to cross the Tankerhoosen River as Main Street connected Talcottville with Vernon," Smith said. "When I-84 turned Main Street into a cul-de-sac, this bridge continued to link homes and families to their neighbors."

Twenty five years ago the trusses were retired and a new bridge deck was installed. The trusses, however, were preserved and will be preserved again as the bridge is replaced under the current project.

In addition to the modern bridge elements that will be installed, a new foundation will be poured to carry the load. The original stonework and the iron bridge will be preserved and the old iron work will be cleaned and

painted to provide more years of service. A single traffic lane and an area for pedestrians are included in the new bridge.

Access to homes on the northern side of the bridge will be via a temporary access drive built from Hartford Turnpike to Main Street. Access is for residents, contractors and emergency vehicles. The public is asked not due to lack of space for unauthorized vehicles and to keep the construction zone safe.

The project cost is \$1.7 million. Design, construction and inspection is covered 80 percent by the federal/state Local Bridge Program, which is administered by the Connecticut Department of Transportation. The remaining 20 percent is paid for by the Town of Vernon.

The project is scheduled to be completed in mid-October.

About the Town of Vernon

The Town of Vernon is a celebrated place to live, work and visit. From its beautiful parks and lakes, to its vast trails and historic homes and buildings, Vernon is a resilient and thriving community that promotes the health and wellbeing of its residents and values the natural environment. With a resident population of approximately 30,000 and occupying 18.03 square miles, Vernon combines a balanced appreciation of history, and a strong economic base for growth, both residential and commercial. Located 15 minutes east of the Connecticut capital of Hartford, and 25 miles from the City of Springfield, Massachusetts, the Town of Vernon is strategically located in “New England’s Knowledge Corridor” with close proximity to some of the top colleges and universities in the country.

Recently designated as a certified Sustainable Community, the Town of Vernon offers a wide range of benefits and services to its residents. The Town of Vernon is a full-service municipality that practices a management philosophy of continuous quality improvement. To learn more about the Town of Vernon, please call (860) 870- 3670 or visit www.vernon-ct.gov.

###