

# The New Carmine Liberta Bridge

## What You Should Know

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The construction to replace the existing Carmine Liberta Bridge beginning May 2016 is part of County Executive Hein's unprecedented \$32 million dollar "Building a Better Ulster County" transportation infrastructure improvement program. Work on the replacement bridge will begin with the approaches necessary to allow for the installation of a fully functional temporary bridge. The temporary bridge will be placed just north of the existing bridge to minimize disruption. This initial work will involve removal of trees and placement of fill on the west side of the Wallkill and the construction of temporary abutments and approach roads on both sides. The temporary bridge will be open to all vehicles prior to any demolition work on the existing bridge. Its presence will not only avoid long detours, it will also ensure the safety and economic activity of residents, visitors and businesses alike in the New Paltz area.

The new Carmine Liberta Bridge design was arrived at with the assistance of a diverse community advisory committee. The new bridge design will open up the iconic views of the Shawangunk Ridge as the current overhead grid work will be replaced with twin arches with no overhead girders. The new bridge will include much wider four foot shoulders on either side providing a safer crossing for both cyclists and vehicles. An even wider six foot sidewalk on the north side is also included and will be lighted. The new bridge combines the use of galvanized steel for its understructure with the use of weathering steel for its arches. The use of weathering steel is better for our environment and ensures that peeling paint will never be an issue during the life of the bridge. Weathering steel also creates a more natural look, and examples of the its use can be found throughout Ulster County, including the Wallkill Valley rail trail trestle in Rosendale and the Route 9w crossing of the Rondout Creek along the Kingston Waterfront.

The new bridge will also be more resilient to flooding than the existing bridge by having several of its critical components raised slightly to free them from flooding and debris accumulation.

Once the new bridge is complete the temporary bridge and its associated access roads will be removed. The eastern abutment will remain and be utilized to create a new overlook area with picturesque views of the Wallkill and the Ridge.

In addition, to replacing the bridge, the project also includes the replacement of a water line on the bridge that services the Village of New Paltz. During construction the Village will be served by a backup line that currently crosses under the Wallkill River.

The new bridge is expected to be open by December of 2016 and will continue to be dedicated to Korean War Veteran Carmine Liberta. As with any construction project, some inconveniences are likely, however, the temporary bridge is designed to safely handle the traffic anticipated and we thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Questions should be directed to:

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Michael P. Hein  
County Executive



# Building a Better Ulster County



## The New Carmine Liberta Bridge



- Designed with Community Input
  - Engineered for Future Traffic Needs
    - Safer for Pedestrians & Cyclists (6 ft wider)
    - Incorporating a New Viewing Platform
      - More Resilient to Flooding
      - Creating Picturesque Views

Temporary Bridge for Continued Access to Local Businesses and Eliminating Lengthy Detours



Michael P. Hein, County Executive