



STATE OF NEW YORK
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
ALBANY, N.Y. 12232
www.dot.ny.gov

JOAN McDONALD
COMMISSIONER

ANDREW M. CUOMO
GOVERNOR

March 4, 2014

Honorable Brian Higgins
United States House of Representatives
726 Exchange Street, Suite 601
Buffalo, NY 14210

Dear Representative Higgins:

Congressman

Thank you for your letter regarding the January 11, 2014 flooding in West Seneca. I empathize with the hardship created by the flooding along Buffalo Creek and share your concern for the residents who were affected. As noted in your letter, it is not clear whether the bridge was a contributing factor in the creation of the ice jam or the resulting flooding.

I am pleased to inform you that the New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT) is actively advancing the project to replace the Harlem Road (NY Route 240) bridge over the Buffalo River with a structure that will improve the flow of water at the bridge location. As noted in your letter, this project is scheduled for letting in September 2015.

The bridge over the Buffalo River is 103 years old. It has four piers in the waterway and carries two lanes of traffic in each direction. The replacement structure will be wider and have only one pier. This reduction in the number of piers will allow improved flow beneath the bridge. The new bridge will carry two lanes of traffic in each direction and will include a center turn lane that will extend the left turn bay at the intersection with Clinton Street (NY Route 354).

As NYSDOT advances this project through the design phases, we will look for opportunities to expedite the delivery of this important transportation improvement. If you have any questions or need additional information, please feel free to call me at (518) 457-4222 or you may contact Darrell Kaminski, Regional Director, at (716) 847-3238.

See you soon.

Sincerely,

Joan McDonald
Joan McDonald,
Commissioner

cc: Rod Sechrist, Assistant Commissioner Operations and Asset Management Division
Diane C. Lombardi, Director, Office of External Relations
Darrell F. Kaminski, P.E., Regional Director, Region 5, NYSDOT