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**Public Meeting on Thursday for Proposed Replacement of Route 9N Bridge in Au Sable Forks between Essex and Clinton counties**

The New York State Department of Transportation will host a public hearing and information meeting on Thursday, Aug. 27, to discuss the proposed replacement of the Route 9N Bridge over the West Branch of the Ausable River in Au Sable Forks. The bridge connects the town of Jay, Essex County and the town of Black Brook, Clinton County.

The meeting is scheduled for the Town of Jay Community Center on 11 School Lane in Au Sable Forks. An open house will kick off the meeting at 5:30 p.m. As part of Thursday’s meeting, a formal hearing and presentation will begin at 6:30 p.m. to discuss the project and potential right-of-way impacts. Affected property owners have been notified. A comment period will follow the presentation.

The proposed bridge replacement is part of Governor Andrew M. Cuomo’s Scour-Critical/Flood Prone bridge program, which is funded through the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMPG) authorized by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). Bridges included in Governor Cuomo’s program of upgrades and retrofits were built to the codes and standards of their time and remain safe and open for everyday traffic. However, due to a variety of natural severe weather events and the increasing frequency of major storms and floods, they are now vulnerable to scour caused by the intensity and velocity of water from extreme natural events.

The public is invited to attend the meeting to hear details about the proposed work, which is tentatively scheduled to begin in the spring of 2017. Proposed work will include increasing the waterway opening underneath the structure and adding piles to the foundation to reduce the likelihood that the bridge and adjoining roadway will flood and to decrease scour vulnerability. Vehicle lane widths on the bridge are proposed to be increased from 10 feet to 12 feet.

The proposed project would replace one half of the bridge at a time. Traffic on the existing bridge would be reduced to one alternating lane controlled by temporary traffic signals. It is anticipated that a truck detour will be utilized for tractor-trailer type vehicles. Pedestrians will be accommodated during construction.

For up-to-date travel information, call 511, visit [www.511NY.org](http://www.511NY.org), or our new mobile site at [m.511ny.org](http://m.511ny.org/).

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