

February 8, 2008

Petition: Pony Farm Road Residents Safety

We the undersigned petition the Town Board of Oneonta to recognize our concern with regards to the closure of the Rt 7 / Pony Farm Road bridge.

The closure of this bridge creates a safety concern & will have a financial impact though lower property values & possibly higher insurance premiums. The bridge on Pony Farm Road across Otego Creek is our principal access & there is one at-grade railroad crossing that can be used in emergency. The largest concern is access for fire & other emergency vehicles.

The Otego Creek bridge was built with too little clearance over the creek & is susceptible to flood damage & can be closed for long periods waiting for repair. The section of road approaching this bridge from the east is very low and easily flooded in storms of less severity than 2006 & snow storms this section of road is impassible for long periods of time. The at-grade emergency crossing is often blocked for long periods of time by stopped trains.

In September 2006 we were pleased to hear that an agreement had been reached that would result in this bridge being replaced in the summer of 2008. Also in response to a resident's petition in November 2006, the Town of Oneonta agreed to install one or two lights when the new bridge is installed. Since that time the date has been pushed back to the summer of 2009 for the new bridge & lighting. Worse yet, based on the current lack of progress this date appears to be in great jeopardy.

The Rt 7 / Pony Farm Road bridge effective represents the entrance to the Town of Oneonta for those traveling west on Rt 7. It has long been an eyesore rather than a gateway to our town we could be proud of. Please express your concern & support for action by signing the attached petition.

Name of Resident	Address	Signature	Date
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
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