NOTICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINATION
NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
PROJECT IDENTIFICATION NO. 4935.79.101
NORFOLK SOUTHERN RAILWAY, PORTAGEVILLE BRIDGE
LIVINGSTON & WYOMING COUNTIES

DETERMINATION

This notice is a “positive declaration” for the purposes of Article 8 of the Environmental Conservation Law of New York State. The New York State Department of Transportation has made a determination that the project described below may have a significant effect on the environment and therefore, an environmental impact statement will be prepared on the project. The Department, being the agency having principal responsibility for carrying out or approving the project within the State, is the lead agency pursuant to Part 15 of Title 17 of the Official Compilation Codes, Rules and Regulations of New York State. A Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be prepared and made available for comment.

The project proposes the rehabilitation or replacement of Norfolk Southern Railway’s bridge over the Genesee River located at Mile Post SR 361.66 of the Southern Tier Line located in the Town of Portage, New York in Livingston County, and the Town of Genesee Falls, New York in Wyoming County. The iron bridge was built in 1875. Alternatives under consideration include rehabilitation of the existing bridge or replacement of the bridge on existing, adjacent, or off-site alignments. The expected benefits of the project include upgrading the load carrying capacity of the bridge for modern rail traffic, increasing train speeds over the bridge to 60 MPH, eliminating trespassers off the bridge for safety reasons, and reducing the cost of frequent maintenance repairs.

This determination is based primarily upon the possible impact on historic and archaeological resources, including the potential removal of the existing bridge, which is considered a contributing element to Letchworth State Park’s listing on the National Register of Historic Places; potential impacts to Letchworth State Park from construction activities; potential conversion of park and recreational lands funded by the Land and Water Conservation Fund Park Land and subject to Section 6(f) protections to railroad right-of-way; possible impacts to critical environmental areas, including the Genesee River which is designated as a Wild, Scenic and Recreational River by the NYSDEC and a Critical Environmental Area (CEA) established pursuant to 6 NYCRR 617.14(g); possible impact on transportation; and possible secondary (induced) impacts.

Further information on this project may be obtained from:

Mr. Raymond F. Hessinger, P.E.
New York State Department of Transportation
50 Wolf Road, Pod 5-4
Albany, New York 12232
(518) 457-8075

Director of Freight Bureau

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