

DOT considers 49 bridges in Orleans to be 'deficient'

There are 131 bridges in county, with 37.4 percent rated in deficient condition



File photos by Tom Rivers

The Allens Bridge Road canal bridge in Albion has a weight limit of 7 tons. It is one of several canal bridges that can not carry heavy trucks. The bridge is rated a 3.34 by state engineers, the second lowest score of the 131 bridges in the county. The closed canal bridge on Hindsburg Road is rated a 3.08, the lowest of any bridge in Orleans.

By Tom Rivers, Editor Posted 1 October 2015

Orleans County has 131 bridges with some more than a century old and others built in the past two years. The bridges go over creeks, the canal, railroads, the Lake Ontario State Parkway, and other structures or water.

The state regularly inspects the bridges, using 47 different criteria, and a bridge data report from Aug. 31, 2015 considers 49 of the 131 bridges in the county to be “deficient,” or rated below 5.00 on a condition rating up to a maximum 7.00.

That average of 37.4 percent of deficient bridges is above the state-wide average of one-third of the 17,000 bridges in New York. ([Click here](#) to see data on bridges in Orleans County.)

The New York chapter of the American Society of Civil Engineers has given New York a D+ for the overall bridge condition in the state. The Civil Engineers released its inaugural Infrastructure Report Card

during on Tuesday, trying to raise awareness of the state's deteriorating infrastructure and urge more public investment in roads, bridges, and sewer and water infrastructure.

[Click here](#) to see that report from the American Society of Civil Engineers.



The canal bridge over Hindsburg Road was built in 1911 but has been closed in recent years. It is considered to be in the worst shape of any bridge in Orleans County, according to a report on bridge conditions by the state Department of Transportation.

Orleans County officials have been frustrated with the bridge conditions. The state and federal government used to fund 95 percent of the bridge replacement costs, but little of those dollars have flowed into the county in recent years.

The county removed a structural deficient bridge at the "The Bridges" in Carlton in 2013 after the span had been closed since 2011. The Village of Albion also had the Clarendon Street bridge taken down this year because replacement costs were too high.

County legislators don't just want deteriorating bridges closed or removed. The Legislature last October bonded \$8 million for infrastructure projects, with \$5 million going to replacing old bridges in poor condition.



A monstrous 400-ton crane is pictured last October along Ridge Road while Crane-Hogan Structural Systems set precast concrete pieces for a new bridge on Hulberton Road. This bridge is one of two in the county with a perfect 7.00 rating. The other is also in Murray and was built in 2007 on the Orleans/Monroe Countyline Road over Sandy Creek.

The county will replace six bridges from 2015 to 2017, doing two each year. That should bring the number of deficient bridges down from 49 to 43.

The two bridges to be replaced this year include a bridge from 1934 over Beardsley Creek on Waterport-Carlton Road in Carlton (rated a 3.80), and a bridge from 1968 in Barre over Manning Muckland Creek on Oak Orchard Road (rated a 3.85).

Other bridges to follow include one from 1959 in Kendall on Carton Road over Sandy Creek (rated a 3.72), a bridge from 1936 in Ridgeway over Fish Creek on East Scott Road (rated a 4.16), one from 1928 in Ridgeway over Fish Creek on Culvert Road (rated a 3.80), and a bridge from 1956 in Kendall over Sandy Creek on Norway Road (a 4.69).

“Failure to act on our part will result in further deterioration of our infrastructure assets and unnecessary

closures of county-owned roads and bridges,” Legislature Chairman David Callard said last October, when the county took out the \$8 million bond for the infrastructure work.