

**Freese Road over Fall Creek (BIN 3209800)**  
**Town of Dryden**  
**Tompkins County**

**Bridge Offer**



The Town of Dryden is seeking interested responsible parties in taking ownership of (including removing and reusing) the Freese Road Bridge. This bridge is eligible for inclusion in the New York State and National Registers of Historic Places. The primary significance of this bridge is from its engineering design as an early (c. 1886) pin-connected, Pratt pony truss iron bridge.

The bridge is a single lane, two span, Pratt truss having a total length of 166 feet. Each span is 80 feet long and supported on a concrete abutment (south abutment), a concrete pier located in Fall Creek, and a steel sheet pile abutment (north abutment). The bridge currently provides a rail-to-rail travel width of 13'-1" measured between the box beam guiderail attached to the truss members.

The bridge is structurally deficient with advanced deterioration noted to critical components of the structure. Red flags and load ratings resulted in multiple reduced load postings and eventually closing the bridge. The primary deterioration has occurred at or below the road surface including major section loss to the bottom chords, floorbeams, and stringers.

Bridge superstructure removal cost is estimated at approximately \$100,000. This estimated cost excludes the removal of the lead-based paint from the steel structure in accordance with the US Environmental Protection Agency's requirements. In lieu of removing the lead-based paint a quid pro quo agreement to accept liability for the lead-based paint may be acceptable. The bridge foundations would be removed separately by an independent contractor.

Interested parties are required to meet certain conditions, which include:

- Provide a comprehensive written plan for the preservation and future use of the bridge, including any desired modifications, and the estimated cost of rehabilitation. It is required that the new owner be able to use the entire truss superstructure.
- Maintain the structure and the features that give it historic significance according to prescribed standards.
- Assume all future legal and financial responsibility for the structure, including “hold harmless” agreements to the New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT) and to the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). Post a performance bond.
- Provide proof of ability to assume the financial and administrative responsibilities of bridge ownership throughout its existence.

At the time ownership of the bridge is transferred for reuse, the transfer deed will include a preservation covenant that requires the new owner to maintain the bridge in accordance with the “Secretary of the Interior’s Standards for Rehabilitation and Guidelines for Rehabilitation of Historic Buildings.” This covenant will remain with the bridge if it is transferred to a third party.

Agencies, jurisdictions, organizations or private owners interested in obtaining ownership of the bridge for aesthetic, historic, recreation or other uses should contact Cassie Byrnes, Town of Dryden, at (607) 844-8888 or email at [Secretary@dryden.ny.us](mailto:Secretary@dryden.ny.us). This response must be received no later than close of business on March 17, 2023. Funding to assist with relocation or rehabilitation may be provided up to the estimated cost of bridge removal. If an interested party secures its own federal funding, it is noted that any bridge preserved with federal funding shall thereafter not be eligible for any other highway funds pursuant to Public Law 100-17, Section 123(f) (Historic Bridges).