



Upper Delaware Scenic Byway

P.O. Box 127. Narrowsburg, NY 12764

April 26, 2021

Susan Williams, Project Manager
Pennsylvania Department of Transportation
55 Keystone Industrial Park
Dunmore, PA 18512-1516
Via skinersfallsbridge@aecom.com

Dear Ms. Williams,

The Upper Delaware Scenic Byway, Inc. (UDSB) Committee expresses our organization's steadfast support for the preservation and restoration of the 1902 Milanville, PA-Skinners Falls, NY Bridge as PennDOT studies whether to repair, replace, or eliminate this historic crossing that is located a short distance off New York State Route 97 in our member Town of Cohecton.

Replacing this architecturally unique and airy bridge featuring its single-lane, wood plank deck with an indistinctive, 40-ton concrete structure would forever change for the worse the quaint character of the bi-state communities that the bridge connects. Its well-deserved 1988 listing on the National Register of Historic Places should be honored and respected.

The 2002 UDSB Enhancement Concept corridor management plan recognizes this bridge as a special part of the river valley's cultural story: "Listed on the NRHP, this is a two-span, single-lane iron bridge with a single mortared stone pier. Its construction is a variation of a Baltimore (Petit) through truss. It was built in 1902 by the American Bridge Company for the Milanville Bridge Company and linked the industrial and commercial center of Milanville with the New York and Erie Railroad. Its construction spurred a minor development at Skinner's Falls with the construction of a station and creamery. It was a toll bridge from 1902 to 1928."

This one-of-a-kind bridge stands testament to our historic and aesthetic values. It is also perfectly adequate in size and scope for the setting it serves, including small businesses, attractions, and visitors that are economic drivers for the regional tourism industry that we promote.

The Upper Delaware Scenic Byway urges the rehabilitation and reopening of the Skinners Falls-Milanville Bridge.

Sincerely,

John Pizzolato, Chairperson
info@upperdelaware scenicbyway.org