Thirteen percent of Hudson Valley bridges rated in poor/structurally deficient condition

GOSHEN – The structurally worst bridge in the Hudson Valley is the Ferry Street Bridge carrying CSX, leased by Amtrak, at Ferry Street in the City of Hudson. The second worst bridge is the Quassaick Creek Bridge on Mill Street in the City of Newburgh. Both of those structures are closed down.

Those are among a list of the top 25 worst bridges in the region as rated in a report by Washington, DC-based TRIP, a National Transportation Research Nonprofit that used federal data to rate all of the 2,551 bridges that are 20 feet or longer. Of those, 329 are rated as poor/structurally deficient.

Of the 25 worst bridges, nine are in Westchester County, five are in Orange County, three are in each Putnam and Ulster County, two are in each Rockland and Columbia County, and one is located in Dutchess County.

The Federal Highway Administration estimates it will cost $3.6 billion to replace or rehabilitate all of the structurally deficient bridges in all of New York State.

Lack of sufficient funding has been an ongoing issue across the state for years and TRIP organization Associate Director of Research and Communication Carolyn Kelly said without the necessary resources, the conditions will get worse.

“These bridges are deteriorated and many of them are aging and the longer this additional funding is delayed, the older these bridges get and the more extensive and expensive the needed repairs become,” she said. “So it would be critical that New York can provide additional funding at the local, state and federal levels to address the deteriorated bridge conditions as well as the transportation system as a whole.”

Of those Hudson Valley bridges studied, 64 percent – 1,634 – have been rated in fair condition meaning the bridge’s structural elements are sound, but minor deterioration has occurred to the bridge’s deck, substructure or superstructure. The remaining 23 percent are rated in good condition.