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October 18, 2011

Dear Resident of White Mills Road,

It has come to our attention that information relating to the White Mills Road bridge project may not be reaching you in a timely or accurate fashion. We understand and share in your frustration with the situation.

To backtrack for a moment, effective October 5, 2007, the White Mills Road Bridge over the CSX Railroad in Town of Chatham was permanently closed because of extensive deterioration. The White Mills Road Bridge was selected for federal funding and the Town is currently following NYS Department of Transportation steps toward bridge replacement. We are required by the NYS DOT to follow their instructions step-by-step and to the letter to ensure that we remain eligible for project funding reimbursement.

At this time, the Town is currently in the right-of-way acquisition and final design process of the project. As you may be aware, the main property owner adjacent to the bridge recently passed away and the easement process has slowed, however, the Town is aggressively working to keep the project on track. As such, with all the necessary puzzle pieces coming together, we are informed by our engineers that bridge replacement continues to be on track for a 2012 construction date.

Updates on the bridge project will continue to be posted on the Town website at www.chathamnewyork.us. Also, please do not hesitate to contact us at any time with your concerns.

Thank you.

Joseph Rickert
Highway Superintendent
794-7281

Jesse DeGroot
Town Supervisor
392-0044