

*Washington, DC* - Congressman Maurice Hinchey (D-NY) today announced a \$72,000 federal grant to pay for improvements and repairs to the historic Beaverkill Covered Bridge in Sullivan County. The funds come from the U.S. Department of Transportation's (DOT) Federal Highway Administration (FHA).

"I am very pleased to announce this federal funding that will pay for important improvements to the Beaverkill Covered Bridge, which will ensure that it remains safe for vehicular traffic and for visitors to the adjacent campground and fishing spots," Hinchey said. "These federal funds will help spare local taxpayers from having to pay for these much-needed repairs."

The funds will pay to improve bridge elements that have been identified by DOT inspectors as having more than minor deterioration. These elements include abutments, approaches, and the bridge superstructure. Specifically, the funds will: repair the wood drain on the north approach; repair the south side ramp including the replacement of steel stringers and decking; improve the repair of the south stone abutment inclusive of stone chinking and additional grouting; replace the wood deck as needed; replace lower deck boards; and apply pesticide and fungicide.

The Beaverkill Covered Bridge, which spans 128 feet, was constructed in 1865 and is one of only 24 covered bridges in New York. The bridge design is a Town Lattice Truss, which consists of a series of crisscross diagonal planks joined by wooden pins known as trunnels or tree nails. Beaverkill Campground is located on the Beaverkill trout fishing stream, which flows underneath the bridge. There is a deep pool in the stream adjacent to and underneath this covered bridge, creating a unique and picturesque setting.