



City of Barre, Vermont

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Press Release: AOT, City of Barre announce removal of trestle bridge #308

Barre, Vermont – The Agency of Transportation (AOT) and the City of Barre jointly announce that removal of Bridge Number 308, a railroad trestle across the Stevens Branch, has begun with the preparation of the Barre City Railyard where the trestle will be moved to. Removal of the trestle will be completed by Vermont Rail Systems.

Removal of the trestle has been a flood mitigation priority for the City of Barre. The structure has been out of service since 2019. The AOT Rail Division has been engaged in a public process to assess alternatives for the structure that would improve water flow and provide less of a barrier for debris flow through this location during high flow events.

In March 2025, AOT and the City of Barre, among other interested parties, executed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) to provide for the temporary removal of the trestle to allow for the improved passage of flood water and debris. Removal of this structure would have been otherwise necessary for the eventual replacement of the trestle. The MOU also commits all parties to collaborate on an improved design that will better facilitate passage of flood water and debris in the future, in combination with additional flood mitigation work that may be undertaken by the City.

AOT Secretary Joe Flynn said, “Getting to this point has required all parties to work together, as they should. I appreciate the patience of the City of Barre who saw the complexities in doing this, and I also greatly appreciate Vermont Rail Systems for their trust and cooperation around this project.”

Barre Mayor Thom Lauzon said, “As it exists today, Bridge 308 has been long identified as a contributor to flooding in Barre’s north end neighborhoods. As the City prioritized its long-term flood mitigation projects, the trestle consistently ranked among the highest priority projects. We appreciate Secretary Flynn, our partners at AOT and Vermont Rail Systems for sharing our sense of urgency and for acting quickly to facilitate the immediate removal of Bridge 308.”

Barre City Manager Nicolas Storellicastro said, “Removal of this obsolete structure is an important and immediate step that removes a significant obstruction in the Stevens Branch. I appreciate Secretary Flynn and Mayor Lauzon’s leadership to get all parties to the table and create a solution that helps reduce flood risk in one of Barre’s most vulnerable neighborhoods, and ensures that a future replacement is climate responsive.”

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For questions, please contact:

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