

Temporary Site Access

SUPPORTING THE TOWN OF JOHNSBURG

Established in 1805, the Town of Johnsburg is located in the northwest corner of Warren County, New York. An engineering study conducted in 2015 found a total of four bridges needing major repairs or replacement in the next 18 months totaling an estimated \$750,000.00. Of particular concern was the 22' long x 20' wide Garnet Lake Road Bridge which was suffering significant deterioration and structural deficiencies that eventually may have resulted in bridge failure.



Immediate action was required as traffic was already restricted to one lane and winter weather was preventing any repairs until spring. It was at this time that Highway Department Superintendent, Dan Hitchcock, engaged Matrax Inc. for a temporary bridge solution. A portable temporary hinged bridge measuring 50 feet long was recommended by Matrax to be a suitable quick-fix for the winter months leading up to and during the Garnet Lake Road Bridge repair.



Weighing in at 37,000 lbs., the hinged design allows the bridge to be transported as one assembly with guardrail and timber deck pre-installed, while still hauling as a legal-width load. The bridge is designed with heavy-duty towbars, tapered beam ends, and additional reinforcing. Additionally, the design allows for installation via “skidding” via pushing/pulling with heavy equipment at one or both ends, and can also be carried between two pieces of equipment. The bridge can be set in place utilizing a crane or, if the “far” side of the crossing can be accessed with a piece of heavy equipment (ideally an excavator), they can often be pulled across and into position.

Once in place, the bridge is folded open, and four pins are installed to maintain it in the open position. Lastly a series of steel “center panels” drop in place by hand to cover the hinge location. In just under 30 minutes, the highway workers had the bridge active and ready for public use. Highway rated HS25 (45-ton, 5-axle combination vehicle load capacity) it also presented a safe solution for local traffic while the permanent bridge was undergoing repairs.

Matrax consulted with the Highway Department to determine if a rental or purchase was a better option for their specific site situation. Understanding that the town was going to have a need for multiple sites in the upcoming months, it was decided that a purchase was more economical. Matrax’s versatile contracting options allowed the Town of Johnsburg to make an insightful purchase.