

The Post-Star

New bridge design selected

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CROWN POINT -- New York and Vermont have decided on a design for the new Lake Champlain Bridge.

On Tuesday, Gov. David Paterson's office announced the modified network tied arch bridge concept as the preferred choice for a replacement bridge.

The new bridge will be a steel structure that has a basket handle arch with a network cable arrangement and internally redundant box tie girders supporting a composite deck system.

This design was preferred by the public, which was one of the contributing factors that helped New York and Vermont make the choice.

An online survey and public meeting held in both December and January revealed the public's overwhelming support for the modified network tied arch bridge.

The public advisory committee also recommended the design as their No. 1 choice to New York officials in December.

The design has an expected life span of 75 years, according to New York State Department of Transportation spokeswoman Carol Breen, and will be easier to repair than the former bridge.

"This bridge is actually going to be built with multiple redundancies, which means if one piece has to be replaced, the bridge is still going to be standing," she said.

The bridge is expected to cost approximately \$75 million and construction is to begin this spring and be completed by the end of summer 2011.

A rendering of, and more details about, the modified network tied arch bridge can be found online at www.nysdot.gov/lakechamplainbridge/alternatives/