

**A RESOLUTION TO BE SUBMITTED
BY LEGISLATOR MARINELLI**

RE: Supporting Community Input on the Proposed Scajaquada Expressway Improvements

WHEREAS, under the leadership of the Buffalo Olmsted Parks Conservancy, the last substantial community conversation regarding the New York State Department of Transportation's (NYSDOT's) proposed improvements to the Scajaquada Expressway took place 10 years ago, refreshed by an open, public meeting held three years ago; and

WHEREAS, New York State Assemblyman Sean Ryan is holding a public meeting on Wednesday, June 26, 2013 at Buffalo State College to invite community input on the future of the proposed "downgrade" of the Scajaquada Expressway to a parkway that is more in keeping with its location within Delaware Park; and

WHEREAS, the term "downgrade" may be technically correct by NYSDOT standards, but it is a misnomer as the restoration of the Scajaquada to a parkway or boulevard with a lower speed limit, improved public access and enhanced safety features are actually upgrades to the current freeway conditions that are unsafe and unsightly for pedestrians, bicyclists and motorists alike; and

WHEREAS, since the initial renderings were of a parkway or a boulevard that had tree-lined streets, bike lanes, sidewalks and at-grade crossings, it is imperative that this original design be revisited by the DOT and that the DOT listen to the public's input regarding the original design; and

WHEREAS, the Scajaquada Expressway has been overused by commercial trucks that initially accessed this roadway to avoid paying the Breckenridge Toll on the 190 (also a DOT freeway), and the toll in question was removed several years ago; and

WHEREAS, this is an optimal time to hold a community conversation on the proposed restoration plans, utilizing an approach that recognizes the Scajaquada's unique location within the flagship park of the Buffalo Olmsted Park system.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the Erie County Legislature support the efforts of New York State Assemblyman Sean Ryan to obtain testimony from the neighboring communities at a public meeting on Wednesday, June 26, 2013 regarding the "downgrade" of the Scajaquada Expressway to a parkway that would be more in keeping with the safety needs and recreational benefit of the surrounding community; and be it further

RESOLVED, that certified copies of this resolution be conveyed to New York State Assemblyman Sean Ryan, State Senator Mark Grisanti, WNY Regional Director of the NYS Department of Transportation, Greater Buffalo Niagara Regional Transportation, County Executive Mark Poloncarz, Commissioner of Public Works John Loffredo, Mayor Byron Brown, City of Buffalo Public Works Commissioner Steven Stempniak, Thomas Herrera-Mishler (Executive Director of the Buffalo Olmsted Parks Conservancy), and all others deemed necessary and proper.

FISCAL IMPACT: None for resolution.