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COUNTY OF ERIE

MARK C. POLONCARZ

COUNTY EXECUTIVE

July 10, 2012

Honorable Lynne Dixon
Erie County Legislature
92 Franklin Street, 4th Floor
Buffalo, New York 14202

Re: Sowles Road - Town of Hamburg

Dear Legislator Dixon:

Thank you for your July 2, 2013 letter regarding your constituents' concerns about the condition of Sowles Road in the Town of Hamburg.

As the County's Commissioner of Public Works, the condition of our County roads and bridges is a deep concern of mine. As you know, Erie County has approximately 2,400 lane miles of roads (1,200 center lane miles), which is more than the states of Delaware, Rhode Island and Hawaii. For 2013, County Executive Mark Poloncarz has authorized the Division of Highways to conduct over \$34 million in road and bridge projects for approximately 60 projects in 17 municipalities across Erie County, a number of which are in the 9th Legislative District (including Rogers Road which you also noted is another repair priority).

According to the New York State Department of Transportation's (NYSDOT) biannual survey, Sowles Road, from Southwestern Boulevard to McKinley Parkway, is rated in "Poor" condition (rated 5 on a scale of 1-10, with 10 being rated "Excellent"). This section of road is approximately 2 center line miles in length. Unfortunately, there are a total of 196.6 center line miles of roads in Erie County that are rated in poor condition. I estimate it will cost approximately \$146 million to repair all of these "Poor" rated roads.

In 2005, there were 219.5 center line miles of roads rated in "Poor" condition. Since that time, a total of \$143 million in State, Federal and County funds has been spent on repairing Erie County roads and bridges. To date, this has resulted in only a 22.9 center line mile reduction in the total amount of roads rated "Poor." As you know from prior testimony in legislative committee and caucus, we prioritize roads based on their condition as rated by NYSDOT and traffic count. The Department of Public Works continues to work to address our aging infrastructure, but the needs are great and funding is limited.

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The County Legislature's actions in the 2013 Budget are a further complicating factor necessitating fiscal restraint on my department. Should unanticipated funds become available in 2013, we will certainly consider Sowles Road for rehabilitation, as we will for other roads throughout the County. The Department of Public Works is committed to improving as many miles of roads and bridges as possible despite financial constraints. Further, the Division of Highway's staff will continue to monitor Sowles Road and make urgent and necessary repairs as they develop.

As always, if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John Loffredo', written over the typed name.

John Loffredo, PE
Commissioner of Public Works

JCL/dab

cc: County Executive Mark C. Poloncarz
Erie County Legislature
Steven Walters, Supervisor Town of Hamburg