



**Department of
Transportation**

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ANDREW M. CUOMO
Governor

MATTHEW J. DRISCOLL
Commissioner

DARRELL F. KAMINSKI, P.E.
Regional Director

September 11, 2015

Karen McCarthy,
Clerk, Erie County Legislature
County Hall
95 Franklin Street, 4th Floor
Buffalo, NY

Dear Ms. McCarthy:

Thank you for your comments regarding Route 198, the Scajaquada Expressway, in the City of Buffalo. The New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT) has been working with stakeholders to redefine the Scajaquada Corridor to make it safer, in harmony with the surrounding community, and accessible to motorists, bicyclists, and pedestrians.

NYSDOT is in the midst of a comprehensive environmental review to determine the future of the Scajaquada Corridor. The assessment includes examining a full complement of alternatives with speed limits set at 40 and 30 MPH, and providing 4 lane and 2 lane options within Delaware Park. NYSDOT also is analyzing the alternative of full removal of the roadway between Parkside Avenue and Elmwood Avenue. State and federal environmental regulations require that the effects that any changes would have on the surrounding community be studied to the fullest extent possible. We are completing our evaluations and expect to present them to the public at an information meeting on September 16, 2015.

In the meantime, NYSDOT is implementing interim measures to improve safety including reducing the speed limit to 30 mph, restriping the roadway with narrower lanes and installing guide rail to separate traffic on Route 198 from bicycle and pedestrian traffic in Delaware Park. NYSDOT is considering additional safety and traffic calming measures that will be implemented in the near future.

In addition, NYSDOT has initiated the process to change the functional classification of the roadway as a "principal urban arterial-expressway". The classification helps determine the role of the roadway, its design, speed limits, and future development. The reclassification is intended to bring the roadway into harmony with Delaware Park and other adjacent properties. The new classification will be determined through study and discussions with elected officials, the public, and other stakeholders.

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NYS DOT recognizes the uniqueness of the Scajaguada and looks forward to continuing work with all partners to achieve a safe and accessible facility for all users of the corridor. Please feel free to contact me or Craig S. Mozrall, Special Projects Manager, in the Buffalo Regional Office at 716-847-3238.

Sincerely,



for

Darrell F. Kaminski, P.E.
Regional Director

DFK/CSM/mm

cc: Craig S. Mozrall, P.E., Special Project Manager