

JUNE 14, 2007

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE
REPORT NO. 7

ALL MEMBERS PRESENT.

1. INTRO 11-2 (2007)
KONST

AS AMENDED

WHEREAS, there has been much public concern and attention drawn to the county bridge that's located in the town of Lancaster on Cemetery Road which crosses over Erie Street, and

WHEREAS, this bridge is a major connecting route between Broadway and Walden Ave., serving as a significant north-south corridor between Lancaster, Elma, Alden and Clarence, and

WHEREAS, bridges have a life expectancy of approximately 50 years, and

WHEREAS, the Cemetery Road Bridge is approximately 70 years old, and

WHEREAS, for the past 12 years this bridge has had a net attached to the underside of the bridge on Erie Street to catch large chunks of falling concrete, which causes concern to drivers and nearby residents, and

WHEREAS, Erie County has approximately 625 bridges under its jurisdiction of which 260 are inspected by the New York State Department of Transportation, and

WHEREAS, New York State Department of Transportation notified Erie County on November 16, 2006 that the Cemetery Road Bridge received a Yellow Structural Flag, a condition described as follows:

The End Bearings are expansion and are high steel rockers rotating on a pin. Both bearings have 100% paint loss which has resulted in delamination. Corrosion has extended down to the anchor bolts which have section loss. The backside anchor bolts have higher amounts of section loss. Severe spalling of the backwall behind both girders have dumped large amounts of gravel and mushy concrete onto the bearings. This has attributed to the accelerated corrosion to the backside of the bearing and the anchor bolts. Both bearings are overextended toward the backwall. The left bearing has rotated 13 degrees from plumb and the Right bearing has rotated 14 degrees from plumb. Comparing the rotation of the bearing to the 1996 inspection, the Left bearing was 11 degrees from plumb and the right was also 11 degrees from plumb. The backwall is located only 55mm from the end of the Right girder and 70mm from the left girder. Both bearing are almost maxed out.

WHEREAS, an investigative report by Luke Moretti of TV Channel 4 showed the State Report and pictures of the bridge to Dr. Aghayere, a Civil Engineer from RIT, and his response was that the bridge should be red flagged, and

WHEREAS, the Cemetery Road bridge is not the only bridge in the town of Lancaster with deplorable conditions, and

WHEREAS, Stony Road Bridge over Ellicott Creek was just reduced from 5 ton capacity to 3 ton capacity, and

WHEREAS, School buses have been ordered not to travel on the bridge, and

WHEREAS, these bridges have local traffic as well as school children traveling by bus on them each day, and

WHEREAS, these bridges have become public safety issues for the residents of Lancaster

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the Erie County Legislature recognizes the importance of having a properly maintained road and bridge system throughout all municipalities in Erie County, and be it further

RESOLVED, that this Honorable Body does hereby request that the Erie County Department of Public Works and Division of Highways (DPW) attend the next meeting of the Erie County Public Safety Committee to address this legislature on our concerns regarding the safety conditions of the Cemetery Road Bridge, what action is being taken to address the public safety concerns on the bridge, why the bridge has gone 12 years without repair, and what action is being taken to immediately remedy the situation, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Erie County Legislature request that the Department of Public Works Commissioner John Loffredo request in writing to the State DOT that they move the date of the inspection of the Cemetery Road Bridge within the next 30 days because of the danger to the public; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the DPW address its intentions for maintenance and remediation of the Stony Road Bridge and to let the members of the Erie County Legislature be informed what the procedures are to close this bridge if need be until funding can be found to fix the bridge; and be it further

RESOLVED, that certified copies of this resolution be sent to Erie County Executive Joel Giambra, Department of Public Works Commissioner John Loffredo, Division of Highways Deputy

Commissioner Gerard Sentz, Division of Budget, Management and Finance Director James Hartman,
Congressman Brian Higgins, Congressman Thomas Reynolds and the WNY Delegation.
(4-0)

DANIEL M. KOZUB
CHAIRMAN