

June 5, 2015

The Honorable Chris Collins
United States Congressman for New York State, District 27
2813 Wehrle Drive, Suite 13
Williamsville, NY 14221

Dear Congressman Collins:

Clarence Highway Superintendent James Dussing and I write in reference to the substantial deterioration of Tonawanda Creek Road (C.R. 559), and to request your assistance in securing federal and state emergency funding to remediate this hazardous road.

As you may know, in June of 2014, Tonawanda Creek Road experienced a partial collapse between Westphalinger and Northfield Roads in the Town of Clarence, New York. Initially the collapse compromised the outer portion of the westbound travel lane, which led to two-way travel on the eastbound lane with control provided by portable traffic signals at each end of the affected area.

Subsequently, further collapses of the roadway have impacted the entire roadway surface necessitating complete closure of the roadway. The deterioration of the road continues even today, with a forty foot drop off into the creek bed, which is now threatening the homes across the street. With the full closure of the road, area residents have been severely impacted. Public safety is a huge concern in that emergency services cannot navigate the roadway, children must walk to school busses and home, and postal deliveries are also difficult because of the road closure.

For the above reasons, we need your help in researching and securing federal and state emergency funding to remediate this problem immediately. It is due to the complex and dangerous nature of the problem, the partnership of federal, state, county, and local resources is essential to fixing this situation.

It is our hope that dialogue can begin to discuss what resources may be available, so that we can protect the affected residents from further harm and inconvenience. We look forward to hearing and working with you.

Sincerely,



Edward A. Rath III
Legislator, 6th District

Cc: U.S. Senator Charles Schumer, U.S. Senator Kirsten Gillibrand, N.Y.S. Senator Michael Ranzenhofer, N.Y.S. Assemblywoman Jane Corwin