

**A RESOLUTION TO BE SUBMITTED BY
LEGISLATORS MILLS, GREENE, TODARO, AND MALCZWESKI**

Re: Calling for an Increase in Transparency for the New York State Thruway Authority and Opposing Any Toll Rate Hike

WHEREAS, the NYS Thruway Authority (Authority) has proposed a multi-year schedule of systemwide toll increases to beginning in 2024; and

WHEREAS, the proposal calls for a 5% increase for New York issued E-ZPass drivers and a 75% increase for non-New York EZPass drivers; and

WHEREAS, NYS Comptroller DiNapoli issued a recent report declaring that toll increases should be the last option; and, during a review of the Authority's last ten years of finances, the Comptroller found gaps in essential information necessary to evaluate the proposal. These gaps represent a potentially significant lack of transparency and raises questions as to whether the Authority is spending resident's tax dollars effectively and efficiently; and

WHEREAS, these toll increases come at a time of challenges for residents of Erie County who are faced with rising costs on everything, from food and shelter, to gas; and

WHEREAS, Erie County is home to one of the poorest metropolitan areas in the nation. Any increase in expenses is a burden on our residents, and in an area that relies on personal transportation to commute to and from work, toll increases represent an even greater burden on the people of Erie County; and

WHEREAS, the Thruway Authority also has a tremendous number of employees and expends a significant amount of funding on outside procurement for services. The Authority should review these expenses and publish their findings to determine if they are the best use of residents and motorists toll dollars and then take appropriate actions to maximize the current revenue amounts before implementing a new toll regime.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that this honorable body hereby calls on the New York State Thruway Authority to increase transparency, improve its operations, and maximize its non-toll revenues, , such as leasing fiber and cell tower spaces to third parties; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that this honorable body opposes any rate hike in tolls before all other options are examined; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that certified copies of this resolution be forwarded to the NYS Thruway Authority Executive Director Matthew Driscoll, Governor Hochul's Office, the Western New York Delegation to the New York State Legislature, NYS Comptroller DiNapoli, and any other party deemed necessary and proper.

Fiscal Impact: None