

MAY 18, 2006

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
REPORT NO. 8

ALL MEMBERS PRESENT.

1. RESOLVED, the following items are hereby received and filed:
 - a. COMM. 5M-13 (2006)
NYPA: Copy of Letter to Congressman Higgins Re: Allocation of 37 Megawatts to the Buffalo-Niagara Region
(3-0)
 - b. COMM. 6E-2 (2006)
COUNTY EXECUTIVE: Veto of Local Law. Intro No. 1-2006
(3-0)
2. COMM. 5E-27 (2006)
COUNTY EXECUTIVE

WHEREAS, a Project for the Reconstruction and Widening of CR 290, Wehrle Drive, from CR 554, Youngs Road to NY Route 78, Transit Road, in the Town of Amherst, Erie County, P.I.N. 5755.19 (the "Project") is eligible for funding under Title 23, U.S. Code, as amended, that calls for the apportionment of the costs of such program to be borne at the ratio of 80% Federal funds and 20% non-Federal funds, and

WHEREAS, the County of Erie desires to advance the Project by making a commitment of 100% of the non-Federal share of the costs of the Preliminary Engineering (Scoping & Design I-VI), Right-of-Way Incidentals and Right-of-Way Acquisition Phases of the Project, PIN 5755.19,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the County Legislature of the County of Erie hereby approves the above subject Project, and be it further,

RESOLVED, that the County Legislature of the County of Erie hereby authorizes the County of Erie to pay 100% of the non-Federal share of the costs of the Preliminary Engineering (Scoping) Phase of the project and in the first instance 100% of the Federal and non-Federal shares of the cost of the Preliminary Engineering (Design I-VI), Right-of-Way Incidentals and Right-of-Way Acquisition Phases of the Project or portions thereof, and be it further,

RESOLVED, that the sum of \$179,100 is hereby appropriated from the 1999 Federal Aid Various Roads and Bridges Program (SAP B.00007), in addition to \$4,000 previously appropriated for the project's Preliminary Engineering (Scoping) Phase via County Resolution No. 23D-18 adopted December 19, 1996; \$181,600 previously appropriated for the project's Preliminary Engineering (Design I-VI) and Right-of-Way Incidentals Phases via County Resolution No. 9D-26 adopted May 18, 1998; and \$440,100 previously appropriated for the project's Right-of-Way Incidentals and Right-of-Way Acquisition Phases via County Resolution No. 4E-22 adopted March 6, 2003 and made available to cover the cost of participation in the above phases of the Project, and be it further,

RESOLVED, that in the event the amount required to pay the non-Federal share of the cost of the Project's Preliminary Engineering (Scoping) Phase and in the first instance 100% of the Federal and non-Federal shares of the cost of the project's Preliminary Engineering (Design I-VI), Right-of-Way Incidentals and Right-of-Way Acquisition Phases exceeds the amount appropriated \$804,800 and/or 100% of the full Federal and non-Federal shares of the cost of the Preliminary Engineering (Scoping & Design I-VI), Right of Way Incidentals and Right-of-Way Acquisition Phases exceeds \$4,024,000, the County of Erie shall convene its Legislature as soon as possible to appropriate said excess amount immediately upon the notification by the New York State Department of Transportation thereof, and be it further,

RESOLVED, that the County Executive of the County of Erie be and is hereby authorized to execute all necessary agreements, certifications or reimbursement requests for Federal Aid and/or Marchiselli Aid on behalf of the County of Erie with the New York State Department of Transportation in connection with the advancement or approval of the Project and providing for the administration of the Project and the Municipality's first instance funding of project costs and permanent funding of the local share of Federal-aid and State-aid eligible Project costs and all Project costs within appropriations therefore that are not so eligible, and be it further,

RESOLVED, that a certified copy of this resolution be filed with the New York State Commissioner of Transportation, by attaching it to any necessary Agreement in connection with the Project, and be it further,

RESOLVED, that the Clerk of the Legislature forward ten (10) certified copies of this Resolution to the Deputy Commissioner, Highways, to be forwarded to the New York State Department of Transportation, and also one copy each to the Office of the County Executive, the Commissioner of Public Works, the Division of Budget, Management & Finance, and the Office of the County Comptroller.
(3-0)

3. COMM. 7E-27 (2006)
COUNTY EXECUTIVE

WHEREAS, a project for the replacement of the Freeman Road Bridge 369-3, over Smokes Creek, BIN 3328010, in the Town of Orchard Park, Erie County, PIN 5756.38 (the "Project") is eligible for funding under Title 23, U.S. Code, as amended, that calls for the apportionment of the costs of such program to be borne at the ratio of 80% Federal funds and 20% non-Federal funds, and

WHEREAS, the County of Erie desires to advance the above Project by making a commitment of 100% of the non-Federal share of the costs of Preliminary Engineering (Scoping and Design I-VI), Right-of-Way Incidentals and Right-of-Way Acquisition Phases of the Project, PIN 5756.38, and

WHEREAS, in order to facilitate the reconstruction of the bridge, it will be necessary for the County to acquire by fee, permanent easement or temporary easement, portions of real property in the vicinity of the bridge, such property to be acquired by the County is hereinafter referred to as the "Subject Properties", and

WHEREAS, should one or more owners of the Subject Properties refuse to convey such portions of their real property to the County for an amount not exceeding fair market value, it will be necessary for the County to acquire the Subject Properties by commencing eminent domain proceedings, and

WHEREAS, the Village of Orchard Park on January 24, 2005 passed a resolution agreeing to negotiate a Memorandum of Understanding regarding the transfer of ownership of the adjacent dam to the Village of Orchard Park upon completion of the bridge/dam reconstruction.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the Erie County Legislature hereby approves the above subject project, and be it further,

RESOLVED, that the County Legislature of the County of Erie hereby authorizes the County of Erie to pay in the first instance 100% of the Federal and non-Federal shares of the costs of Preliminary Engineering (Scoping and Design I-VI), Right-of-Way Incidentals and Right-of-Way Acquisition Phases of the Project or portions thereof, and be it further,

RESOLVED, that the sum of \$375,000 previously appropriated from the 2002 Federal Aid Road and Bridge Project Program (SAP B.00044) for the project's Preliminary Engineering (Scoping & Design I-VI) and Right-of-Way Incidentals Phases via County Resolution No. 11E-20 adopted July 3, 2003 and made available to cover the cost of participation in the above phases of the Project will now also cover the cost of the Right-of Way Acquisition Phase of the Project, and be it further,

RESOLVED, that in the event the full Federal and non-Federal share cost of the of Preliminary Engineering (Scoping and Design I-VI), Right-of-Way Incidentals and Right-of-Way Acquisition Phases

exceeds the amount appropriated \$375,000, the County of Erie shall convene its Legislature as soon as possible to appropriate said excess amount immediately upon the notification by the New York State Department of Transportation thereof, and be it further,

RESOLVED, that the County Executive of the County of Erie be and is hereby authorized to execute all necessary agreements, certifications or reimbursement requests for Federal Aid on behalf of the County of Erie with the NYSDOT in connection with the advancement or approval of the Project and providing for the administration of the Project and the Municipality's first instance funding of Project costs and permanent funding of the local share of Federal-aid eligible Project costs and all Project costs within appropriations therefor that are not so eligible, and be it further,

RESOLVED, that a certified copy of this resolution be filed with the New York State Commissioner of Transportation, by attaching it to any necessary Agreement in connection with the Project, and be it further,

RESOLVED, that the Commissioner of Public Works or his authorized representatives, are hereby authorized to negotiate with the owners of the following properties towards acquiring a portion of their real property, either by fee or by temporary or permanent easement, which is necessary for the replacement of the bridge project:

<u>Parcel Number</u>	<u>Township</u>
162.18-1-14	Orchard Park
162.18-1-36	Orchard Park
162.18-1-9	Orchard Park
162.18-1-8	Orchard Park

and be it further,

RESOLVED, that the County Attorney shall prepare and the County Executive shall execute all appropriate documents relating to acquiring fee interests in the Subject Properties, and be it further,

RESOLVED, should one or more owners of the Subject Properties refuse to convey such portions of their real property to the County for an amount not to exceed fair market value, the County Executive shall be authorized to commence eminent domain procedures, and be it further,

RESOLVED, that the County Executive be authorized to transfer ownership of the adjacent dam to the Village of Orchard Park, and be it further,

RESOLVED, that the County Executive be authorized to execute all agreements relating to the dam transfer transaction between the County and the Village of Orchard Park, and be it further,

RESOLVED, that the Clerk of the Legislature forward ten (10) certified copies of this Resolution to the Deputy Commissioner of Public Works to be forwarded to the New York State Department of Transportation and also one copy each to the County Executive, the Commissioner of Public Works, the Division of Budget, Management and Finance, and the County Comptroller.
(3-0)

4. COMM. 7E-28 (2006)
COUNTY EXECUTIVE

WHEREAS, a Project for the Reconstruction of the Youngs Road (CR 554) and Aero Drive (CR 324) Intersection, in the Town of Cheektowaga, Erie County, PIN 5756.46 (the "Project") is eligible for funding under Title 23, U.S. Code, as amended, that calls for the apportionment of the costs of such program to be borne at the ratio of 80% Federal funds and 20% non-Federal funds, and

WHEREAS, the County of Erie desires to advance the Project by making a commitment of 100% of the non-Federal share of the costs of the Preliminary Engineering (Scoping and Design V-V1), Right-of-Way Incidentals and Right of Way Acquisition Phases of the Project, PIN 5756.46.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the County Legislature of the County of Erie hereby approves the above subject Project, and be it further,

RESOLVED, that the County Legislature of the County of Erie hereby authorizes the County of Erie to pay in the first instance 100% of the Federal and non-Federal shares of the cost of the Preliminary Engineering (Scoping and Design V-V1), Right-of-Way Incidentals and Right of Way Acquisition Phases of the project or portions thereof, and be it further,

RESOLVED, that a sum of \$122,000 has been appropriated from the 2002 Youngs/Aero Intersection Design Program (SAP B.00043) (for the project via County Resolution No. 9E-57 adopted May 22nd, 2003) and made available to cover the cost of participation in the above phases of the project, and be it further,

RESOLVED, that in the event the amount required to pay in the first instance 100% of the Federal and non-Federal shares of the cost of the project's Preliminary Engineering (Scoping and Design V-V1), Right-of-Way Incidentals and Right of Way Acquisition Phases exceeds the amount appropriated \$122,000 and/or 100% of the full Federal and non-Federal shares of the cost of the project's Preliminary Engineering (Scoping and Design V-V1), Right-of-Way Incidentals and Right of Way Acquisition Phases exceeds \$145,950, the County of Erie shall convene its Legislature as soon as possible to appropriate said

excess amount immediately upon the notification by the New York State Department of Transportation thereof, and be it further,

RESOLVED, that the County Executive of the County of Erie is hereby authorized to execute all necessary agreements, certifications or reimbursement requests for Federal Aid and/or Marchiselli Aid on behalf of the County of Erie with the New York State Department of Transportation in connection with the advancement or approval of the Project and providing for the administration of the Project and the Municipality's first instance funding of project costs and permanent funding of the local share of Federal-aid and State-aid eligible Project costs and all Project costs within appropriations therefor that are not so eligible, and be it further,

RESOLVED, that a certified copy of this resolution be filed with the New York State Commissioner of Transportation, by attaching it to any necessary Agreement in connection with the Project, and be it further,

RESOLVED, that the Clerk of the Legislature forward ten (10) certified copies of this Resolution to the Deputy Commissioner, Highways, to be forwarded to the New York State Department of Transportation and one copy each to the County Executive, the Commissioner of Public Works, the Division of Budget, Management & Finance, and the County Comptroller.
(3-0)

5. COMM. 7E-30 (2006)
COUNTY EXECUTIVE

WHEREAS, a Project for the Reconstruction of the Harris Hill Road (CR 276) Intersections at Wehrle Drive (CR 275) and Pleasant View Drive (CR 161) in the Towns of Clarence and Lancaster, Erie County, PIN 5756.47 (the "Project") is eligible for funding under Title 23, U.S. Code, as amended, that calls for the apportionment of the costs of such program to be borne at the ratio of 80% Federal funds and 20% non-Federal funds, and

WHEREAS, the County of Erie desires to advance the Project by making a commitment of 100% of the Non-Federal share of the costs of the Preliminary Engineering (Scoping and Design V-V1) and Right-of-Way Incidentals Phases of the Project, PIN 5756.47.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the County Legislature of the County of Erie hereby approves the above subject Project in the amount of \$225,000, and be it further ,

RESOLVED, that the County Legislature of the County of Erie hereby authorizes the County of Erie to pay in the first instance 100% of the Federal and Non-Federal shares of the cost of the Preliminary

Engineering (Scoping and Design V-V1) and Right-of-Way Incidentals Phases of the project or portions thereof, and be it further,

RESOLVED, that a sum of \$175,000 has been previously appropriated from the 2002 Harris Hill with Wehrle and Pleasant View Intersections Design Program (SAP B.00042) for the project's Preliminary Engineering (Scoping and Design V-V1) and Right-of-Way Incidentals Phases via Resolution No. 22E-25 adopted December 4, 2003, and made available to cover the cost of participation in the above phases of the project, and be it further,

RESOLVED, that the increase of \$50,000 be appropriated from the 2002 Harris Hill with Wehrle and Pleasant View Intersections Design Program (SAP B.00042) project reserves, and be it further,

RESOLVED, that in the event the amount required to pay in the first instance, 100% of the full Federal and Non-Federal shares of the cost of the Preliminary Engineering (Scoping and Design V-V1) and Right-of-Way Incidentals Phases exceeds \$225,000, the County of Erie shall convene its Legislature, as soon as possible, to appropriate said excess amount immediately upon the notification by the New York State Department of Transportation thereof, and be it further,

RESOLVED, that the County Executive of the County of Erie be and is hereby authorized to execute all necessary agreements, certifications or reimbursement requests for Federal Aid and/or Marchiselli Aid on behalf of the County of Erie with the New York State Department of Transportation in connection with the advancement or approval of the Project and providing for the administration of the Project and the Municipality's first instance funding of project costs and permanent funding of the local share of Federal-aid and State-aid eligible Project costs and all Project costs within appropriations therefore that are not so eligible, and be it further,

RESOLVED, that a certified copy of this resolution be filed with the New York State Commissioner of Transportation, by attaching it to any necessary Agreement in connection with the Project, and be it further,

RESOLVED, that the Clerk of the Legislature forward ten (10) certified copies of this Resolution to the Deputy Commissioner, Highways, to be forwarded to the New York State Department of Transportation, and also one copy each to the County Executive, the Commissioner of Public Works, the Division of Budget, Management & Finance, and the County Comptroller.
(3-0)

6. COMM. 7E-32 (2006)
COUNTY EXECUTIVE

WHEREAS, the Erie County Department of Public Works, Division of Highways, is planning to reconstruct Wehrle Drive (CR 290) between Youngs Road and Transit Road in the Town of Amherst ("Project"); and

WHEREAS, the Erie County Department of Public Works, Division of Highways, conducted a public hearing on September 12, 2002 to present and take comment on the social, economic and environmental effects of the design alternatives for the Project; and

WHEREAS, the Erie County Legislature has previously approved of the Wehrle Drive reconstruction project and appropriated funds for this public Project in its resolution dated March 6, 2003 (Reference: Comm. 4E-22), and in a resolution dated April 1, 2004 (Reference: Comm. 7E-42), the Legislature determined that the chosen design alternative would not have any significant adverse environmental, economic or social impacts and authorized the County of Erie to acquire through the payment of just compensation fee and/or easement title in the necessary "Subject Properties" as specifically identified in said resolution; and

WHEREAS, a proposed resolution was submitted to the Legislature by the County Executive on or about February 28, 2006 (Reference: Comm. 5E-27) to appropriate additional funds for this purpose; and

WHEREAS, in order to facilitate the Project, it is necessary for the County to acquire, by fee, permanent easement or temporary easement portions of real property in the vicinity of the reconstruction project, such property to be acquired by the County is hereinafter referred to as the "Subject Properties", more specifically set forth below; and

WHEREAS, the County has already acquired most of the Subject Properties at a price that equals the appraised value of such property; and

WHEREAS, six (6) property owners have disputed the appraised value of their property as calculated by the County's consultants, and these property owners have requested an "administrative settlement" which exceeds the appraised value of their property; and

WHEREAS, the Commissioner of Public Works desires to pay administrative settlements to these six property owners, since the value of the administrative settlements is far less than the cost of acquiring these properties by eminent domain; and

WHEREAS, approximately twenty-four (24) property owners have refused to convey fee and/or easement title to their properties and have refused to accept all reasonable administrative settlements proposed by the County; and

WHEREAS, in order for the Project to move forward, the Commissioner of Public Works desires that eminent domain proceedings be commenced pursuant to the Eminent Domain Procedure Law against the property owners who have refused to convey fee and/or easement title to their properties; and

WHEREAS, the acquisition of the Subject Properties are de minimus in nature so that the public interest will not be prejudiced by the construction of the public Project.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT,

RESOLVED, that the Commissioner of Public Works, or his authorized representatives, are hereby authorized to negotiate administrative settlements with the owners of the following properties towards acquiring a portion of their real property, either by fee or by easement, which is necessary for the Wehrle Drive reconstruction project:

<u>Map #:</u>	<u>Type:</u>	<u>Section-Block-Lot:</u>	<u>Total Settlement Amount:</u>
374-22 & 374-23	FEE, TE	81.01-1-14	\$6,780.00
374-32	TE	81.09-2-6	\$1,000.00
374-34 & 374-35	FEE, TE	81.01-1-13	\$52,084.00
374-39 & 374-40	FEE, TE	81.01-1-10.111 & 81.01-1-10.2	\$45,499.00
374-48 & 374-58	FEE, TE	81.01-1-12.12	\$28,568.00
374-137 & 374-152	FEE, TE	82.09-1-20	\$10,750.00

and be it further,

RESOLVED, that should one or more owners of the above-referenced properties refuse to negotiate an administrative settlement, the Commissioner of Public Works, the County Attorney and/or their authorized representatives are hereby authorized to acquire these properties pursuant to the Eminent Domain Procedure Law; and be it further,

RESOLVED, that due to the fact that the owners of the following properties have refused to convey fee and/or easement title to their properties at the properties' appraised value and have refused to accept any reasonable administrative settlements, the Commissioner of Public Works, the County Attorney and/or their authorized representatives are hereby authorized to acquire the following properties pursuant to the Eminent Domain Procedure Law:

<u>Map #:</u>	<u>Type:</u>	<u>Section-Block-Lot:</u>	<u>Township:</u>
374-9	TE	81.09-6-001	Vil. of Williamsville
374-13	TE	81.09-2-002 & 81.09-2-003.1	Vil. of Williamsville

374-15 & 374-157	TE/FEE	81.10-1-038	Vil. of Williamsville
374-28	TE	81.10-5-007	Amherst
374-29	TE	81.09-2-004	Vil. of Williamsville
374-30	TE	81.09-2-005	Vil. of Williamsville
374-37 & 374-38	FEE/TE	81.01-1-007.112	Amherst
374-41	TE	81.10-1-041	Vil. of Williamsville
374-42	TE	81.09-2-007	Vil. of Williamsville
374-45 & 374-46	FEE/TE	81.01-1-003.21	Amherst
374-65 & 374-66	FEE/TE	81.02-3-023.112	Amherst
374-71 & 374-72	FEE/TE	81.02-3-031	Amherst
374-75 & 374-76	FEE/TE	81.02-3-032	Amherst
374-78 & 374-79	FEE/TE	81.02-3-008	Amherst
374-80 & 374-81	FEE/TE	81.02-1-004	Amherst
374-86	TE	81.09-2-003.2	Vil. of Williamsville
374-96	TE	81.10-5-002	Amherst
374-97	TE	81.10-5-003	Amherst
374-100	TE	81.01-1-006.111	Amherst
374-113 & 374-114	FEE/TE	81.12-4-012.1	Amherst
374-117 & 374-118	FEE/TE	81.02-2-007.111 & 81.02-2-009.2	Amherst
374-119 & 374-120	FEE/TE	81.02-3-017.1	Amherst
374-133 & 374-134	FEE/TE	82.09-1-008	Amherst
374-146 & 374-147	FEE/TE	82.09-2-009	Amherst

and be it further,

RESOLVED, that the County Attorney or his authorized representative shall prepare, and the County Executive shall be authorized to execute, all appropriate documents relating to acquiring fee and/or easement title to the Subject Properties referenced above; and be it further,

RESOLVED, that the expenses of acquiring the Subject Properties referenced above shall be derived from funds previously appropriated by the County Legislature for the Preliminary Engineering, Right-of-Way Incidentals and Right-of-Way Acquisition Phases for the Wehrle Drive reconstruction project, such appropriations having been made by resolutions on March 6, 2003 (Reference: Comm. 4E-22), April 1, 2004 (Reference: Comm. 7E-42) and by a proposed resolution that was submitted to the Legislature by the County Executive on or about February 28, 2006 (Reference: Comm. 5E-27) and which is expected to be voted upon by the Legislature at their session on March 16, 2006; and be it further,

RESOLVED, that certified copies of this resolution shall be forwarded to the Commissioner of Public Works, County Attorney, County Comptroller and Director of Budget, Management & Finance, and the Office of the County Executive.
(3-0)

7. COMM. 8E-23 (2006)
COUNTY EXECUTIVE

WHEREAS, the Erie County Department of Public Works, Division of Highways, is planning to reconstruct Maple Road Intersections (CR 192) at Flint, North Forest and Hopkins Roads, in the Town of Amherst, County of Erie, and

WHEREAS, in order to facilitate the reconstruction of the road, it will be necessary for the County to acquire, by fee, permanent easement or temporary easement, portions of real property at Hopkins Road Intersection, such property to be acquired by the County is hereinafter referred to as the "Subject Properties", and

WHEREAS, should one or more owners of the Subject Properties refuse to convey such portions of their real property to the County for an amount not exceeding fair market value, it will be necessary for the County to acquire the Subject Properties by commencing eminent domain proceedings, and

WHEREAS, extensive community outreach, public meetings, individual property owner meetings and thorough design review with redesign as necessary and appropriate has been performed in order to minimize property acquisition, and

WHEREAS, without this property acquisition, the project cannot meet Federal Aid Guidelines and, therefore, would put an effective end to the project, and

WHEREAS, the County has invested significant time and design effort to realign Maple Road to minimize necessary property acquisition and satisfy property owner concerns, so that the Project can be moved forward in the design stage.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT,

RESOLVED, that the Commissioner of Public Works, or his authorized representatives, are hereby authorized to negotiate with the owners of the following properties towards acquiring a portion of their real property, either by fee or by temporary or permanent easement, which is necessary for the reconstruction of this road:

Parcel Number
56.17-4-3 (SW Corner Hopkins/Maple)

Township
Amherst

56.62-1-1 (NE Corner Hopkins/Maple) Amherst

and be it further,

RESOLVED, that the expenses of acquiring the Subject Properties shall be derived from funds previously appropriated in the amount of \$77,900.00 by the County Legislature for Right-of-Way Incidentals and Right-of-Way Acquisition Phases for the Reconstruction of Maple Road project, such appropriations having been made by Resolution Communication Number 9E-59 on May 22, 2003, and included in the 1999 Federal Aid Various Roads and Bridges Program (SFG 420-134), (SAP B.00007), and be it further,

RESOLVED, that the County Attorney shall prepare and the County Executive shall execute all appropriate documents relating to acquiring fee interests in the Subject Properties, and be it further,

RESOLVED, that certified copies of this resolution shall be sent to the County Executive, the Commissioner of Public Works, the Deputy Commissioner – Highways, the County Comptroller, the County Attorney, and the Director of Budget, Management and Finance.
(3-0)

8. INTRO 9-6 (2006) **AS AMENDED**
IANNELLO, REYNOLDS, WHYTE, KONST, LOCKLEAR, SMITH, MILLS,
RANZENHOFER & MAZUR

WHEREAS, attempted legislation has repeatedly, and once again, been introduced to remove the NYS Thruway tolls in the Ogden Street and Breckenridge stations; and

WHEREAS, an even more pressing situation concerns the residents of the Town of Grand Island who must pay an unfair tax to travel from their homes to their place of employment or anywhere off Grand Island; and

WHEREAS, this toll was recently raised from \$.50 to \$.75, and coupled with the spiraling fuel costs, creates a burden on those residents of the Town of Grand Island; and

WHEREAS, Western New York is struggling economically due to the many taxes forced upon us over the past decades, this being one that should have been removed long ago; and

WHEREAS, during the summer tourist season, these toll barriers cause a traffic back up and congestion causing serious delays on the New York State Thruway, Niagara Section; and

WHEREAS, this is not only an inconvenience to residents and tourists, but increases the pollutants into the environment from these idling motor vehicles; and

WHEREAS, removal of said toll barriers on the NYS Thru-way is currently a major topic of the media, elected officials and citizens, albeit the time has come for the Governor to act on removal of these tolls; and

WHEREAS, New York State Senator Coppola has introduced new legislation to discontinue the collection of tolls at the Grand Island bridges in the Niagara Section of the New York State Thru-way.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that this honorable body, the Erie County Legislature joins with Senator Coppola in support of Senate Bill No. 6965 and Assembly Bill No. A2556 in calling for the removal of the NYS Thru-way tolls on the Town of Grand Island, NY and be it further

RESOLVED that copies of this resolution be forwarded to the Honorable George A. Pataki, Governor of this great state of New York and all members of the New York State Thruway Authority, all members of the New York State Legislative delegation and Peter McMahon, Supervisor of the Town of Grand Island.

(3-0)

TIMOTHY M. KENNEDY
CHAIRMAN