

January 9, 2017

The Town Board of the Town of Onondaga met at a regular meeting at 5:00 p.m. on Monday, January 9, 2017 at Town Hall, 5020 Ball Road, Syracuse, New York.

Present:	Supervisor	Thomas P. Andino, Jr.
	Councilman	Charles Petrie
	Councilman	Donald Hamilton
	Councilwoman	Suzanne Belle
	Councilwoman	Mary K. Ryan
	Town Clerk	Lisa M. Goodwin
	Town Attorney	Kevin Gilligan
	Town Engineer	William Perrine

MEMORIALIZING THE INTENT OF THE TOWN BOARD OF THE TOWN OF ONONDAGA, COUNTY OF ONONDAGA, REGARDING THE NEED TO MAINTAIN THE EXISTING ALIGNMENT OF INTERSTATE 81 THROUGH SYRACUSE

The following resolution was offered by Supervisor Andino, who moved its adoption, seconded by Councilman Petrie,

WHEREAS, for the last 50 years, Interstate 81 has served as a vital backbone for the economy of the Central New York, connecting commuters, businesses, tourists, visitors, and through travelers alike; and

WHEREAS, among its important functions, Interstate 81 provides vital links with access to downtown Syracuse, all of our hospitals, Syracuse University, Destiny USA, present and future businesses and residents along 81 corridor, to business and residents within the Town of Onondaga; and

WHEREAS, turning Interstate 81 to Route 481 leaves no alternative north-south Route for national defense, national disaster, and general maintenance and repairs; and

WHEREAS, although there are a variety of ways to deal with I-81's aging infrastructure, the existing "Interstate" function and designation must be preserved, because any solution which would remove I-81's vital function from its present alignment would irreparably harm the regional economy and corresponding employment dependent upon the highway network in addition to negatively impacting local neighborhoods and quality of life; and

WHEREAS, redirecting Interstate 81 to Route 481 is not smart environmental policy because the distance traveled for through traffic and further stop and go intercity commuting traffic is increased. This is polluting, inefficient, requires the use of greater amounts of petroleum based fuels, hurts the regional economy, and is detrimental to social welfare and the environment; and

WHEREAS, the future of I-81 presents one of the greatest planning decisions to face New York State in decades and the outcome will impact our region for the next 100 years; and

WHEREAS, it is the consensus of the Onondaga Town Board that any decision reached by the NYS DOT should satisfy function first, and should be closely tailored to satisfy that function; and

WHEREAS, we support smart growth and the creation of a new and welcoming entrance

to Syracuse, and the integration of the hospitals and university areas with the rest of downtown, we believe it must not be accomplished by compromising one of the most significant advantages of living, working, doing business and visiting Onondaga County;

WHEREAS, Onondaga Town Board supports a balanced, comprehensive approach, a regional transportation plan that ensures smart choices are made, a plan that can provide environmental, social and economic benefits to all of Central New York, one that promotes alternative and mass transit options including alternate fuels and electric vehicles for our suburban communities which are in dire need of a traffic diet as well; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Onondaga Town Board memorializes its determination that the existing Interstate 81 alignment through Syracuse and Central New York must remain and its function and designation as an interstate highway must not be removed or impaired; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that the Supervisor of the Town of Onondaga is hereby directed to cause a copy of this resolution to be transmitted to the New York State Department of Transportation, to the Syracuse Metropolitan Transportation Council, and to the various legislative members representing Onondaga County at the state level.

The question of the adoption of the foregoing resolution was duly put to a vote and upon roll call, the vote was as follows:

Councilman	Petrie	Voted	Yes
Councilman	Hamilton	Voted	Yes
Councilwoman	Belle	Voted	Yes
Councilwoman	Ryan	Voted	Yes
Supervisor	Andino	Voted	Yes

The foregoing resolution was thereupon declared duly adopted.

DATED: January 9, 2017