

**Pompey Town Board Resolution**  
**12/5/16**

Motion by Councilor Carl Dennis, seconded by Councilor Gregory Herlihy.

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

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 Pompey; and

WHEREAS, turning Interstate 81 to Route 481 leaves no alternative north- south Route for emergency access, 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 Pompey's neighborhoods and its residents quality of life; and

WHEREAS, Pompey is close to the eastern border of Syracuse and its neighborhoods already suffer the consequences of commuter traffic to and from the City of Syracuse. Consequently, moving Interstate 81 to Route 481 will only exacerbate local traffic leaving a heavy toll on already taxed Pompey resources. Namely, increasing the wear and tear on Pompey's local roads and infrastructure that are already insufficient and underfunded; and

WHEREAS, increased traffic causes increased noise, dust, toxic emissions and atmospheric deposition of pollutants on land and water, business, homes, and schools; 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 Pompey 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, Pompey supports a balanced, comprehensive approach, a regional transportation plan is necessary to ensure 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, electric vehicles, and a light rail system; for our suburban communities are in dire need of a traffic diet as well; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Pompey 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 Pompey 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.

Adopted