

**Resolution of the Town Board of the Town of Marcellus
Pertaining to Interstate 81 Renovations**

Dated: _____

A motion was made by Councilor _____ to adopt the following Resolution and the motion was seconded by Councilor _____;

**MEMORIALIZING THE INTENT OF THE TOWN BOARD OF THE TOWN OF
MARCELLUS, 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 the local hospitals, Syracuse University, Destiny USA, present and future businesses and residents along I-81 corridor; 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 may irreparably harm the regional economy and corresponding employment dependent upon the highway network and may further negatively impact neighborhoods in close proximity to I-81; 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, redirecting Interstate 81 traffic to Route 481 will have the result of pushing traffic traveling on I-81 further to the east of Syracuse and traffic wishing to travel west on I-90 will consequently be forced further east. This may result in increased traffic through the Town of Marcellus by way of Route 175 Seneca Turnpike and Route 20 for those wishing to travel west, thereby increasing the noise and environmental pollution and otherwise having a detrimental impact on the social welfare of the Marcellus community; 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 Marcellus 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, The Town of Marcellus Board 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.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it

RESOLVED, that the Marcellus 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 Marcellus 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 the vote was as follows:

Karen Pollard	Supervisor	Voted	Yes/No
Christopher Hunt	Councilor	Voted	Yes/No
Kevin O'Hara	Councilor	Voted	Yes/No
John Cusick	Councilor	Voted	Yes/No
Laurie Stevens	Councilor	Voted	Yes/No

The foregoing Resolution was thereupon declared duly adopted.

DATED: _____, 2016

Town of Marcellus Clerk