

June 10, 2013

MEMORIALIZING THE INTENT OF THE TOWN BOARD OF THE TOWN OF SALINA, 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 Town of Salina, connecting commuters, businesses, tourists, visitors, and through-travelers alike; and

WHEREAS, among its important functions, Interstate 81 provides vital access to downtown Syracuse, all of our hospitals, Syracuse University, Destiny USA, present and future businesses in the Town of Salina and all of the residents clustered along its route; and

WHEREAS, Moody's Investors Service has assigned a Aa3 rating to a recent Town of Salina Public Improvement (Serial) Bond with the expectation of the stable tax base of \$1.6 billion continuing to experience modest growth given it's close proximity to the City of Syracuse (G.O. rated A1, negative). Acting as a transfer point between the New York State Thruway and Interstate 81, the town has a significant commercial presence (39% of tax base) consisting of hotels, gas stations, and restaurants geared in part toward travelers across these thoroughfares; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Salina sits at the "*Crossroads of New York*," where Interstate 81 and the New York State Thruway flows through Salina providing the economic lifeblood of our community. To willfully cut off one of Salina's major arteries would put at risk an already fragile economy; 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 cripple the Town of Salina's economy and corresponding employment that has grown up around the highway network; 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 sense of the Salina 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 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 the most significant advantages of living, working, doing business and visiting Onondaga County; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Salina 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 Clerk of the Town of Salina 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.