



The City of Buffalo Common Council

1413 City Hall
Buffalo, NY 14202

Meeting: 10/01/19 02:00 PM
Department: Common Council
Category: Resolution
Prepared By: Jim Montour
Initiator: Jim Montour
Sponsors: Delaware District Council Member Feroletto, North District Council Member Golombek Jr
DOC ID: 10601

REVIEWED

AGENDA ITEM (ID # 10601)

Golombek & Feroletto - Speed Limit and Redevelopment of the Scajaquada Expressway

- Whereas The Scajaquada Expressway Route 198 and Kensington have separated communities, disrupted commerce, and destroyed parkland since its construction in the 1950s;
- Whereas after extensive talks between the New York State Department of Transportation and community stakeholders, NYSDOT short term plans to calm traffic on the Scajaquada Expressway were implemented in 2015;
- Whereas these short term calming measures included reducing the speed limit from 50 to 30 miles per hour;
- Whereas as it currently stands, this speed reduction to 30 miles per hour does not match the design and traffic flow of the expressway, which has confused and frustrated commuters and made for a potentially unsafe driving environment;
- Whereas the Scajaquada Expressway was originally designed to have a 40 mile per hour speed limit, which could potentially be a safer speed limit than either 50 or 30 miles per hour;
- Whereas the permanent plans for the Scajaquada Expressway could potentially involve permanently reducing the speed limit of the 198 expressway by updating the infrastructure to reflect such a decision;
- Whereas while the permanent plan for the Scajaquada Expressway is being considered, the speed limit should be raised to an appropriate speed until construction takes place and a new design is implemented;
- Whereas in addition to speed limits and other traffic calming measures, there have been many discussions to implement urban renewal and green space preservation in a long term plan for the Scajaquada Expressway;
- Whereas the redevelopment of the Scajaquada Expressway and Humboldt Parkway is of major importance and the measures taken should reflect what is best for Buffalo and its citizens;
- Whereas Governor Andrew Cuomo recently had a nationwide competition seeking creative solutions to address the Buffalo Skyway;
- Whereas this competition provided many great plans for redevelopment and the program was a great success;

Whereas in addition to the Buffalo Niagara Regional Transportation Council's input, it would be of additional value to seek proposals for inventive redesign of the Scajaquada Expressway from across the nation: Now, Therefore Be It

Resolved that The City of Buffalo Common Council-

- 1) requests the speed limit on the Scajaquada Expressway be raised to an appropriate speed until construction takes place and a new design is implemented;
- 2) Calls on the Governor to implement a nationwide competition seeking creative ideas and plans for the 33 and 198 Expressways;
- 3) requests that copies of this resolution be sent to Governor Andrew Cuomo, the New York State Department of Transportation, the Buffalo Niagara Regional Transportation Council, the Buffalo Olmsted Parks Conservancy and Corporation Counsel for their consideration.