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RESOLUTION #45-2025

A RESOLUTION EXPRESSING THE TOWN OF NEWFANE'S CONCERNS TO THE NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION REGARDING THE PROPOSED NY-18 (LAKE ROAD) CULVERT REPLACEMENT OVER KEG CREEK

WHEREAS, the Town of Newfane recognizes the importance of maintaining safe and reliable public infrastructure, including the repair and replacement of critical culverts and roadways within the Town; and

WHEREAS, the New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT), together with Colliers Engineering and Design, presented the proposed project for the NY-18 (Lake Road) Culvert Replacement over Keg Creek at a public informational meeting held on September 24, 2025, at the Newfane Town Hall; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board, along with numerous residents who attended the meeting, expressed several concerns regarding public safety during the construction and post-construction phases of this project; and

WHEREAS, NY-18 in the vicinity of Keg Creek contains a significant dip in the roadway that creates line-of-sight obstructions for motorists, and the narrow shoulders present along this stretch of highway further heighten safety risks—particularly for agricultural equipment that regularly travels this route; and

WHEREAS, the narrow shoulder and reduced sight distance also pose safety concerns for the proposed parking area on the southeast side of the culvert replacement, situated along the south shoulder of the eastbound lane of NY-18; and

WHEREAS, the Town is experiencing an increase in truck traffic on NY-18 as a result of ongoing industrial expansion at the former AES site, now being developed into a large-scale AI campus, an increase that is expected to continue for an estimated two years; and

WHEREAS, this increased traffic volume, combined with existing road conditions, suggests the need for NYSDOT to re-evaluate the posted speed limit to determine whether a reduction is appropriate in the interest of public safety; and

WHEREAS, the waters of Keg Creek fall within the Town of Newfane's Local Waterfront Revitalization Program (LWRP) jurisdiction, and therefore NYSDOT must consider and evaluate any potential impacts this construction project may have on the Town's adopted LWRP policies and waterfront revitalization goals; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board strongly believes that enhanced and abundant safety signage - including but not limited to hazard warnings, advance construction alerts, and flashing yellow caution lights - must be installed to alert motorists to the inherent dangers of this roadway and the construction zone; and

WHEREAS, emergency services, including primary and secondary responders, rely on timely access through this corridor, and the Town requests that NYSDOT ensure that safe, reliable detour plans and emergency routing are fully considered, implemented, and communicated in advance of construction; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Newfane respectfully requests detailed responses from NYSDOT to the concerns raised by the Town Board and members of the public, in order to promote transparency, foster collaboration, and ensure that public safety remains the highest priority.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Newfane hereby formally conveys to the New York State Department of Transportation its significant concerns regarding traffic safety, sight-distance limitations, narrow roadway shoulders, increased truck volumes, emergency vehicle access, LWRP compliance, and the safety of the proposed parking area associated with the NY-18 Culvert Replacement over Keg Creek; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town Board urges NYSDOT to:

1. Re-evaluate the posted speed limit in this corridor;
2. Install more than adequate signage and visual warnings, including flashing hazard lights or equivalent measures;
3. Provide comprehensive plans that address emergency routing and alternative access for first responders;
4. Review the project for consistency with the Town of Newfane's LWRP and provide documentation of such review; and
5. Provide timely and complete responses to community concerns and Town inquiries regarding this project; and

