

RESOLUTION No. 2021-

**RELATIVE TO EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR LOCALLY
ENHANCED INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS**

BY:

Council Chairman Kenny Tompkins
Council Member William Kennedy
Council Member Frank Soda
Council Member John Spanbauer

WHEREAS, the original construction of the Niagara Scenic Parkway denied residents of the City of Niagara Falls, New York the pleasure of unobstructed access to the shore of the Niagara River and the rim of the Niagara Gorge; and

WHEREAS, the construction of the LaSalle Expressway resulted in a division of traditional neighborhoods within the LaSalle section of the City of Niagara Falls and negatively impacted the residential character of this area; and

WHEREAS, the construction of one-way thoroughfares on Walnut Avenue and Ferry Avenue have created the opportunity for the excessive speed that is frequently demonstrated by motorists traveling through the adjacent residential areas; and

WHEREAS, there are several elementary schools located on streets in Niagara Falls that have been modified to accommodate increased commercial traffic thus necessitating the implementation of reduced-speed zones near these schools; and

WHEREAS, President Joe Biden has included a significant allocation of funding for infrastructure revitalization within the proposed American Jobs Plan and United States Senator Charles Schumer has included funding for similar projects in the proposed Reconnecting Communities Act; and

Kennedy_____ **Soda** _____ **Spanbauer**_____ **Voccio** _____ **Tompkins** _____

WHEREAS, in the past, transportation investments in urban areas often failed to anticipate the divisions that would be created within neighborhoods and the reduction of affordable transportation that has resulted from these infrastructure projects; and

WHEREAS, while past transportation investment has been directed toward projects that were intended to increase traffic volume and traffic flow these investments have also contributed to poor air quality and noise pollution; and

WHEREAS, future capital investment in transportation infrastructure must be focused on promoting a safe and healthy living environment for neighborhood residents;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the City Council of the City of Niagara Falls, New York does enthusiastically encourage and support the passage of the American Jobs Plan and the Reconnecting Communities Act; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the City Council does respectfully request the New York State Department of Transportation to initiate studies and make recommendations for so-called “traffic calming” modifications to those thoroughfares whose configuration has created a negative impact on the residential areas in which they are located; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Council also respectfully requests that the Mayor and the City Administrator allocate funds from the local share of the American Rescue Plan Act for infrastructure projects in those neighborhoods that have been marginalized or disadvantaged by previous federal and state highway projects; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this Resolution be sent to the offices of U. S. Senator Charles Schumer, U. S. Senator Kirsten Gillibrand, Congressman Brian Higgins, Congressman Christopher Jacobs, and the New York State Department of Transportation, Region 5.