

RESOLUTION No. 2021-

***RELATIVE TO CONNECTING NIAGARA UNIVERSITY
TO THE NIAGARA RIVER GORGE***

BY:

Council Chairman Kenny Tompkins
Council Member William Kennedy II
Council Member Frank Soda
Council Member John Spanbauer
Council Member Christopher Voccio
Mayor Robert M. Restaino

WHEREAS, New York State now leads the nation in the creation of world class biking trails, with the goal of connecting all our communities to safe, non-automotive transportation; and

WHEREAS, in furtherance of that goal, New York State has developed the Shoreline Trail System, a network of trails that link the shores of Lake Ontario to the shores of Lake Erie; and

WHEREAS, New York State is dedicated to promoting the Shoreline Trail and creating access to the trail system from surrounding communities; and

WHEREAS, Niagara University, with an academic community of more than 4,000 students and a goal to create a bike-friendly campus and encourage active recreation, has built a bike trail from the university to Reservoir State Park (the “NU Power Trail”); and

WHEREAS, the Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Gateway Plaza at Devil's Hole, which is currently under construction, will provide new opportunities to connect Niagara University with the Shoreline Trail System and the new \$50 million Gorgeview Trail leading to the City of Niagara Falls’ downtown business district, and

WHEREAS, while making a connection from Niagara University to Devil's Hole is a fundamental part of trail access, the intersection at Route 104, Hyde Park Boulevard and

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University Drive is currently hazardous, as it lacks a safe crosswalk, signal lights and logos for the student population who would like to connect to the trails; and

WHEREAS, in addition, the portion of Route 104 from the intersection of Hyde Park Boulevard to the Niagara Falls' City line is very dangerous as well, as its design promotes many motorists to carry unsafe and excessive speeds into the Devil's Hole and residential areas nearby; and

WHEREAS, there are in place plans to reconfigure the intersection at Route 104, Hyde Park Boulevard and University Drive making this the perfect opportunity to create a safe, secure connection between Niagara University and the Shoreline Trail System, thereby giving over 4,000 students the freedom to enjoy the beautiful trails and patronize the businesses in the Niagara Falls area.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Niagara Falls City Council and Mayor Robert M. Restaino, that it is hereby requested that New York State consider a traffic calming/public access design on Route 104 (Lewiston Road), from Niagara University to the Niagara Falls City line, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Clerk of this Council is hereby directed to forward copies of this resolution to Governor Kathy Hochul, Leaders of the State Assembly and Senate, Assemblyman Angela J. Morinello, Senator Robert G. Ort, Senator Timothy M. Kennedy, U.S Congressman Brian Higgins, Lewiston Supervisor Steven Broderick, the Niagara County Legislature, and New York State Department of Transportation Regional Director Francis P. Cerillo.