

ST. LAWRENCE COUNTY INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AGENCY
 Resolution No. 12-02-13
 February 22, 2012

**SUPPORTING THE ST LAWRENCE COUNTY BOARD OF LEGISLATORS’
 OPERATIONS COMMITTEE-SPONSORED RESOLUTION**

WHEREAS, on February 13, 2012, the Operations Committee of the St. Lawrence County Board of Legislators voted to recommend the acceptance by the County Legislature at its March 5, 2012 meeting of the following resolution:

“REINFORCING SUPPORT FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE INTERSTATE 98 MULTI-MODAL CORRIDOR AND SUPPORTING IMPROVEMENTS TO US ROUTE 11 AND TO GIVE PRIORITY TO THE CANTON, POTSDAM AND GOUVERNEUR AREAS”

WHEREAS, a copy of the draft resolution is attached,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the St. Lawrence County Industrial Development Agency does hereby support the action of the Operations Committee of the St. Lawrence County Board of Legislators as presented in the attached draft document, and urges the members of the St. Lawrence County Board of Legislators to adopt the resolution.

Move:	Peck			
Second:	LaBaff			
VOTE	AYE	NAY	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Blevins	X			
Hall	X			
LaBaff	X			
McMahon	X			
Peck	X			
Staples	X			
Weekes	X			

I HEREBY CERTIFY that I have compared this copy of this Resolution with the original record in this office, and that the same is a correct transcript thereof and of the whole of said original record.

/s

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Natalie A. Sweatland
 February 22, 2012

March 5, 2012

Operation Committee 2-13-2012

RESOLUTION NO. _____

**REINFORCING SUPPORT FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE
INTERSTATE 98 MULTI-MODAL CORRIDOR AND SUPPORTING
IMPROVEMENTS TO US ROUTE 11 AND TO GIVE PRIORITY TO THE
CANTON, POTSDAM, AND GOUVERNEUR AREAS**

By Mr. Peck, Chair, Operations Committee
Co-Sponsored by Mr. Burns, District 1 and Mr. Putney, District 15

WHEREAS, the New York State Department of Transportation has spent millions of dollars over the past five decades conducting feasibility studies relative to the construction of a four-lane, limited-access highway built to interstate standards through the North Country in addition to studies relative to needed upgrades and safety improvements along US Route 11, and

WHEREAS, funds spent include those used to advance, among others: the North Country Transportation Study (2002), the Northern Tier Expressway: Route 11 Corridor Study (2008) and the North Country Freight Needs Study (2010), and

WHEREAS, the study published in 2002 recommended, for the purposes of economic development, the construction of a four-lane, limited access highway built to interstate standards as part of a complete corridor development strategy for the US Route 11 corridor, and

~~**WHEREAS**, the study published in 2008 deviated from the findings published in 2002 and recommended that a series of bypasses and passing lanes be constructed along US Route 11, and~~

WHEREAS, the study published in 2008 concluded that the construction of such bypasses and passing lanes in the Canton and Potsdam areas were not warranted because traffic flow patterns in those areas were lower than the standard established by the author, and

WHEREAS, the study published in 2010 reaffirmed the recommendations of the 2002 study and further advanced the concept of developing a multi-modal corridor including rail and port upgrades and the construction of a four-lane limited access highway built to interstate standards that was specifically referred to as the Interstate 98 Project, and

WHEREAS, all three of these studies and their respective recommendations were published by the same firm, Wilbur Smith Associates, and

WHEREAS, Federal Funds in the amount of \$6.301 Million were secured by Senators Schumer and Clinton and Congressman McHugh in 2005 for the purpose of advancing a tiered environmental impact review relative to the recommendations made in the study published in

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2002 prior to the publication of the 2008 study, thereby establishing clear legislative intent for the use of those funds, and

WHEREAS, ~~it is not legal to~~ **the New York State Department of Transportation, Region 7, is not authorized to repurpose those funds beyond the scope of their legislative intent** without the approval of the United States Congress, and

WHEREAS, that Congressional approval has not been sought by any agency, and

WHEREAS, Senator Charles Schumer, one of the original Federal Legislators who requisitioned the \$6.301 million in question, has not expressed any intention of sponsoring legislation that would repurpose those funds, and

WHEREAS, the St. Lawrence County Board of Legislature and more than 550 other municipal and civic entities have adamantly supported the concept of the Interstate 98 project through resolutions and financial support on multiple occasions, and

WHEREAS, upgrades and safety improvements to US Route 11 are also desperately needed and long overdue, and

WHEREAS, the New York State Department of Transportation allocates an annual operation and maintenance budget to its Region 7 Office for the purpose of making upgrades and safety improvements such as those described in the 2008 Northern Tier Expressway: Route 11 Corridor Study, and

WHEREAS the Northern Corridor Transportation Group is advocating for the development of the multi-modal corridor that was recommended by the North Country Transportation Study and the North Country Freight Needs Study as well as necessary safety upgrades to US Route 11, and

WHEREAS, ~~the YesEleven.org Organization is advocating for safety upgrades to US Route 11, and~~

WHEREAS, ~~the St. Lawrence County Board of Legislators appreciated the work and dedication of both organizations,~~

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the St. Lawrence County Board of Legislators maintains its position that the development of a multi-modal corridor, commonly referred to as Interstate 98, must remain a local, state, and federal priority and encourage State and Federal Agencies to act with urgency in initiating the tiered environmental impact review with funds that were appropriated in 2005, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the St. Lawrence County Board of Legislators recognizes the need to upgrade and improve US Route 11, especially in the areas of Canton, Potsdam and Gouverneur, and encourages the New York State Department of Transportation to prioritize those upgrades as part of its regional operations and maintenance plan, **and in spite of**

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~~the fact that improvements in those areas were not deemed to be immediately necessary by the study that was published in 2008.~~

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the St. Lawrence County Board of Legislators hereby urges the New York State Department of Transportation to provide meaningful opportunities for the involvement of local officials in the planning, design, and implementation of both of the proposed projects, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this resolution be forwarded to President Barack Obama, United States Senator Charles Schumer, United States Senator Kirsten Gillibrand, Congressman Bill Owens, Federal Highway Administration Administrator Victor Mendez, Governor Andrew Cuomo, State Senator Joseph Griffo, State Senator Patty Ritchie, State Senator Elizabeth Little, Assemblywoman Addie Russell, Assemblyman Kenneth Blackenbush, Assemblywoman Janet Duprey, New York State Department of Transportation Commissioner Joan McDonald, New York State Secretary of Transportation Karen Rae, and New York State Deputy Secretary of Transportation Yomika Bennett, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this resolution be forwarded to every elected representative body (such as Town/Village/City/County) in St. Lawrence, Franklin, Lewis, Clinton, and Jefferson Counties and that it be accompanied by a letter requesting that they move for the adoption of the language contained therein by their respective Boards or Legislative bodies and that questions from these elected officials regarding ~~the resolution~~ **this issue** should be addressed or forwarded to Mr. Jason Clark, Chair of the Northern Corridor Transportation Group, for response ~~or~~ **to Sallie Brothers, Chair of the St. Lawrence County Board of Legislators.**

****Note: Changes made during committee reflected with strikeouts and bold.**