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RESOLUTION BY THE TOWN OF CANTON

Speed Reduction – Town Roads relating to Grasse River Bridge Project

WHEREAS, anticipated construction work on the Main Street bridges spanning the Grasse River will create a significant bottleneck, which, even though the NYSDOT will not create official detours, motorists will likely create their own detours around the construction site.

WHEREAS, some of these informal detours will likely be narrow, rural roads that are not designed for an increased traffic load. The southern bypass route that has been identified by the Complete Streets Task Force, in addition to being identified and advertised by St. Lawrence University, consists of the Eddy-Pyrites and Miner Street roads.

WHEREAS, because of modern GPS routing capabilities and local entities disseminating detour routes to the public, it is almost certain that traffic will significantly increase on peripheral local roads, especially the Eddy-Pyrites / Miner detour route.

WHEREAS, it is known that the Eddy-Pyrites / Miner route is heavily trafficked by pedestrians, including, but not limited to, local cyclists and St. Lawrence University athletes. These two roads, which range between eighteen to twenty feet in width, currently do not offer enough space for pedestrians and motor traffic. This route also features many hills and turns, creating poor sight distance. The Eddy-Pyrites / Miner route has already been recognized as a hazardous route to pedestrians, and increased vehicular loads will significantly increase this danger.

WHEREAS, the Eddy-Pyrites / Miner Street roads are, for the most part, 55 mph, without centerline striping, enabling motorists to pass at will, at speeds dangerous to pedestrians.

WHEREAS, reducing the speed limit is effective remedy (evidentially supported by the FHWA and other traffic research entities) to improving safety on multi-modal roads, as reduced vehicular speeds dramatically decreases vehicular collisions with pedestrians, and the severity of injury to struck pedestrians.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Town of Canton supports the proposal to reduce the 55 mph zones on Eddy-Pyrites and Miner Street roads to 45 mph posted zones for the duration of the bridge construction project.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Town of Canton will engage with County and State police in enforcement of these new speed limits.