

Donald Nowak
7852 Kuhn Road
West Valley, NY 14171
October 7, 2021

Gary Mathe
7457 Brennan Road,
Ellicottville, NY 14731

RE: Town of Ellicottville Comprehensive Plan
ATT: 2010 Letter from NYSDOT Regional Design Engineer to Director of Cattaraugus
County Real Property Services

Dear Gary,

I am writing to you in your role as a member of the Town of Ellicottville Planning Board. Recently I happened upon the on-line version of the "Town of Ellicottville Comprehensive Plan", 2018 update. In reading this document, I was somewhat surprised to see that the 219 Freeway Project still plays such a prominent role in the town's 10-year plan.

As stated in Chapter 10, "A Comprehensive Plan is only useful if it reflects current conditions". I could not agree more. Yet this document uses the word "freeway" eleven (11) times, and the word "interchange" (as in Bryant Hill) twenty-six (26) times throughout the report.

Most alarming to me, however, is the "Comprehensive Plan Map" at the end of Chapter 8. There, overlaid on a map of all of the town's parcels and zoning boundaries is a purple ribbon depicting what it labels as "Freeway Alternative", bisecting my property and that of many others. The fact is that eighteen years after the project's initial approval and twelve years after its suspension, there are no alternatives. The project remains suspended pending a Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS). Re-starting the project will require evaluation of a new set of alternatives which may or may not include the one displayed in the Comprehensive Plan and might not even traverse the town.

While this project may remain on many peoples' wish list, it is on no one's to-do list. WNY's capital needs now focus on covering the Kensington Expressway, re-designing the Scajaquada, or building a new stadium. With a trillion dollar infrastructure bill pending in Washington, there is not even a whisper regarding the 219, even among its most ardent supporters. The project is dead and should not figure into the Ellicottville's ten-year plan.

As regards the Comprehensive Plan Map, I had a near identical concern with Cattaraugus County's on-line Interactive Parcel Map in 2010. There too, the county continued to overlay the "Preferred Alternative" freeway path over its map of county properties after the project's suspension. It was not until they received a letter from the NYSDOT Regional Engineer that they finally removed all references to the freeway from the map.

I am writing this letter to request the following from the Town of Ellicottville Planning Board as regards the town's Comprehensive Plan:

1. Remove the "Proposed Route 219 Corridor" and "Proposed Route 219 Expressway Interchange" from the "Comprehensive Plan Map" at the end of Chapter 8.
2. Remove all discussion of the Route 242/Bryant Hill Road expressway interchange from the plan. There may be many reasons for wanting to plan development along Route 242 east, but a freeway interchange is not one of them.
3. Reword the discussion of the Route 219 corridor and proposed upgrades so that they are generic and not route-specific.
4. Incorporate these requests in the next annual update of the Comprehensive Plan.

As supporting documentation, I am attaching a letter dated August 16, 2010 from NYSDOT Regional Design Engineer Darrell Kaminski to the Director of Cattaraugus County Real Property Services to explain the status of the 219 project and the uncertain status of any route depictions. If the Board finds this letter insufficient reason to honor my requests, I encourage it, or its consultants, to contact the NYSDOT for further clarification.

Thank you for your consideration, and I look forward to seeing these issues resolved.

Regards

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