

**Resolution #2020- \_\_\_\_\_, Emergency Resolution Calling upon State and Municipal Officials to Take Immediate Action to Protect Safety Along Hayts and Halseyville Roads.**

**WHEREAS**, the Enfield Town Board holds a primary responsibility for ensuring the safety of its Town's residents; and

**WHEREAS**, that obligation includes the protection of those driving upon our Town's roads and the pedestrians walking alongside or across those roads; and

**WHEREAS**, the New York State Department of Transportation, in conjunction with the City of Ithaca, the Town of Ithaca, and the Tompkins County Highway Department, on or about April 1, 2020 imposed a detour of traffic on New York Route 79 (also known as Hector Street and Mecklenburg Road) so as to facilitate the reconstruction of and improvements along Hector Street, largely within the City of Ithaca, but also partly within the Town of Ithaca; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Ithaca Department of Public Works has stated it expects said construction will require the closing of Hector Street, and also imposition of the NY Route 79 detour, through approximately October 1, 2020; and

**WHEREAS**, the detour established by the afore-mentioned governments and agencies directs motorists to exit NY Route 79 at "Miller's Corners," the intersection of NY Route 79 with NY Route 327 and Halseyville Road (CR 170); with traffic then proceeding north on Halseyville Road; then east on Hayts Road (CR 139) to and beyond the Enfield/Town of Ithaca line; and

**WHEREAS**, the afore-stated detour unnecessarily directs traffic to navigate a narrow and unsafe three-mile portion of Hayts Road between Halseyville and Sheffield Roads, including through two hazardous intersections, namely the intersections with Van Dorn Road North and with Applegate Road North, intersections where numerous traffic accidents have occurred in recent years; and

**WHEREAS**, the intersection of Hayts Road with Van Dorn Road North poses particular safety hazards because of the limited ability of drivers and pedestrians on Hayts Road east of that intersection to sense oncoming eastbound traffic; and

**WHEREAS**, on or about August 10, 2018, an 82-year old pedestrian, Carmen Jacks, was struck and killed along that dangerous section of Hayts Road, while crossing the road to reach her mailbox, an accident to which that dangerously limited site distance contributed; and

**WHEREAS**, the Enfield Town Board and its Town's residents fear that the addition of detoured Route 79 traffic along the afore-stated portion of Hayts Road this year could lead to similar tragic accidents and endanger the lives and the safety of our residents, including children, the disabled, and senior citizens; and

**WHEREAS**, Halseyville Road (CR 170) between Miller's Corners and Hayts Road also imposes hazards to motorists and pedestrians; and

**WHEREAS**, a safer alternate Route 79 detour route around the Hector Street construction exits, one utilizing Sheffield Road (CR 172), along the Enfield/Town of Ithaca line, from Route 79 north to Hayts Road, a shorter detour which would avoid sending Route 79 traffic over the most dangerous portions of Hayts Road, including through the two afore-stated intersections; and

**WHEREAS**, any safety concerns about relocating the NY Route 79 detour to the Sheffield Road intersection can be ameliorated by appropriate signage and/or traffic controls at that intersection; and

**WHEREAS**, the Enfield Town Board, or representatives thereof, were not properly or sufficiently consulted prior to the imposition of the established Halseyville Road/Hayts Road detour; and

**WHEREAS**, the Enfield Town Board, on behalf of its residents, believes this recently- and suddenly-imposed traffic hazard by other agencies and governments demands immediate attention; therefore be it

**RESOLVED**, that the Enfield Town Board urges and strongly recommends that the New York State Department of Transportation, in conjunction with the City of Ithaca Department of Public Works, the Tompkins County Highway Department, and the Town of Ithaca Highway Department, IMMEDIATELY REROUTE ALL DETOURED ROUTE 79 TRAFFIC by means of SHEFFIELD ROAD (CR 172), rather than via Halseyville Road (CR 170), to reach Hayts Road (CR 139), thereby providing a shorter, safer detour; and

**RESOLVED**, further, that should such an alternate detour, for whatever reason, prove unacceptable to State or other municipal authorities, that said agencies and governments take IMMEDIATE ACTION to improve safety for motorists and pedestrians on those afore-stated dangerous portions of Hayts Road for the duration of the Route 79 detour's existence; such suggested remedial actions to include, but are not limited to, reduced speed limits, four-way stops at intersections, and other comparable traffic calming devices and procedures; and

**RESOLVED**, further, that the Enfield Town Clerk shall communicate this Resolution to the following: The Regional Director, New York State Department of Transportation; The Hon. Svante Myrick, Mayor, City of Ithaca; Michael J. Thorne, P.E., City of Ithaca Superintendent of Public Works; Jeffrey Smith, Director, Tompkins County Highway Department; Rodney Howe, Supervisor, Town of Ithaca; and Richard Tenkate, Acting Highway Superintendent, Town of Ithaca.

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