

TOWN OF WEST SENECA



SHEILA M. MEEGAN
TOWN SUPERVISOR

To: Fellow Town Board Members

From: Sheila M. Meegan, Town Supervisor

Date: July 10, 2017

Re: **Resolution Supporting a Request for Sound Barriers for the Town of West Seneca**

Kindly move to adopt the attached resolution to request Sound Barriers for the Town of West Seneca.

REQUEST FOR SOUND BARRIERS FOR WEST SENECA

WHEREAS, West Seneca needs and is entitled to sound barriers along busy state highways as other municipalities have, and

WHEREAS, sound barriers are needed along the New York State Thruway as it passes through various West Seneca residential areas such as the Paxford-Fairfax area, the Emporium-Aurora area, the Bernadette Terrace-Fisher Court area, and along the Aurora Expressway (Route 400) where it borders the Freemont-Warren, Robin Lane and Summit Meadows areas. Some neighborhoods not only have Route 400 in their backyard but the Norfolk Southern Railway as well; causing double the disturbance and adverse health effects, and

WHEREAS, just as the Amherst-Williamsville area and the Lancaster-Depew-Cheektowaga areas have had sound barriers erected to alleviate traffic noise, so too should the areas in West Seneca which suffers from heavy traffic noise. West Seneca residents' quality of life and health are being negatively affected by the absence of sound barriers. Studies have shown residents living in high traffic areas are more likely to have higher levels of C-reactive protein. C-reactive protein may lead to various serious age-related diseases; including heart disease, some forms of cancer and neurodegenerative diseases such as Alzheimer's and Parkinson's. A panel of expert scientists looked at over 700 studies from around the world, examining the health effects. They concluded that traffic pollution causes asthma attacks in children, and may cause a wide range of other effects including: the onset of childhood asthma, impaired lung function, premature death and death from cardiovascular diseases, and cardiovascular morbidity. The area most affected, they concluded, was roughly 0.2 to 0.3 miles (300 to 500 meters) from the highway. A Danish study found that long-term exposure to traffic air pollution may increase the risk of developing chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) and,

WHEREAS a formal request should be made to the New York State Department of Transportation for such sound barriers for West Seneca,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the West Seneca Town Board does hereby request No. 5 Region Director Darrell F. Kaminski, P.E. and New York State Commissioner Matthew J. Driscoll to examine the need for sound barriers for West Seneca residents and to give this body a report of their findings and their recommendations regarding this problem of traffic noise pollution in West Seneca, and be it further

RESOLVED, that this Body, The West Seneca Town Board, would greatly appreciate this response within 90 days of passage of this resolution, and be it further

RESOLVED, that a certified copy of this resolution be sent to No. 5 Regional Director Kaminski, New York State Commissioner Driscoll and the members of the Western New York Delegation Serving in the Senate and Assembly, Senator Patrick Gallivan and Assemblyman Michael Kearns.

Hon. Sheila M. Meegan