

April 29, 2022

Rick Marquis
Division Administrator
Federal Highway Administration
Leo W. O'Brien Federal Building
11A Clinton Avenue, Suite 719
Albany, NY 12207

Mark Frechette, P.E.
Project Director
New York State Department of Transportation
333 East Washington Street
Syracuse, NY 13202

Re: Interstate 81 FEIS and Need For Additional Time

Dear Mr. Marquis and Mr. Frechette:

We, the undersigned are writing on behalf of our constituents who are very concerned about Interstate 81 and the recently released Final Environmental Impact Statement.

It is absolutely critical that the public be given sufficient time to review the voluminous documentation that was posted on the I81 Opportunities website and placed in a few public venues on April 15, 2022. Accordingly, we are requesting that the residents of Syracuse and Onondaga County be given at least an additional ninety days to analyze the pushed material which includes documentation that has been changed, added to and revised.

We have heard significant concerns about adverse impacts to the environment and water quality, increased traffic on neighborhood streets, negative effects on air quality; and overall concerns about the quality of life. We should take the necessary time to make sure that the decision about Interstate 81 benefits those who live next to the Interstate, those who rely on the asset for work, public safety/health matters; as well as other considerations.

Collectively, we need to make sure that the best decision is made for the next generation of local residents. Accordingly, please grant this request to make sure we reconnect all of our communities in the most efficient manner.

Sincerely,

Cc: United States Senator Charles Schumer
United States Senator Kirsten Gillibrand
Congressman John Katko
Secretary of Transportation Pete Buttigieg
Charles Small, USDOT
Governor Kathy Hochul

Commissioner Marie Therese Dominguez, NYSDOT
Assemblymember Bill Magnarelli
Assemblymember William Barclay
County Executive Ryan McMahon