



WHITMER & WORRALL



# Presentation to the I-81 Corridor Coalition

---

*Thursday, November 14, 2019*



**Martin Whitmer**

- Founding Partner of Whitmer & Worrall, LLC
- Former Deputy Chief of Staff and Senior Advisor to the Secretary at the U.S. Department of Transportation
- Served on President Donald Trump's Transition Team for transportation policy implementation from September 2016 through November 2016
- Former Vice President for the American Road and Transportation Builders Association (ARTBA)

## Overview

If its opponents are successful, I-81 in Syracuse could become the **first ever two-digit NHS highway to be decommissioned.**

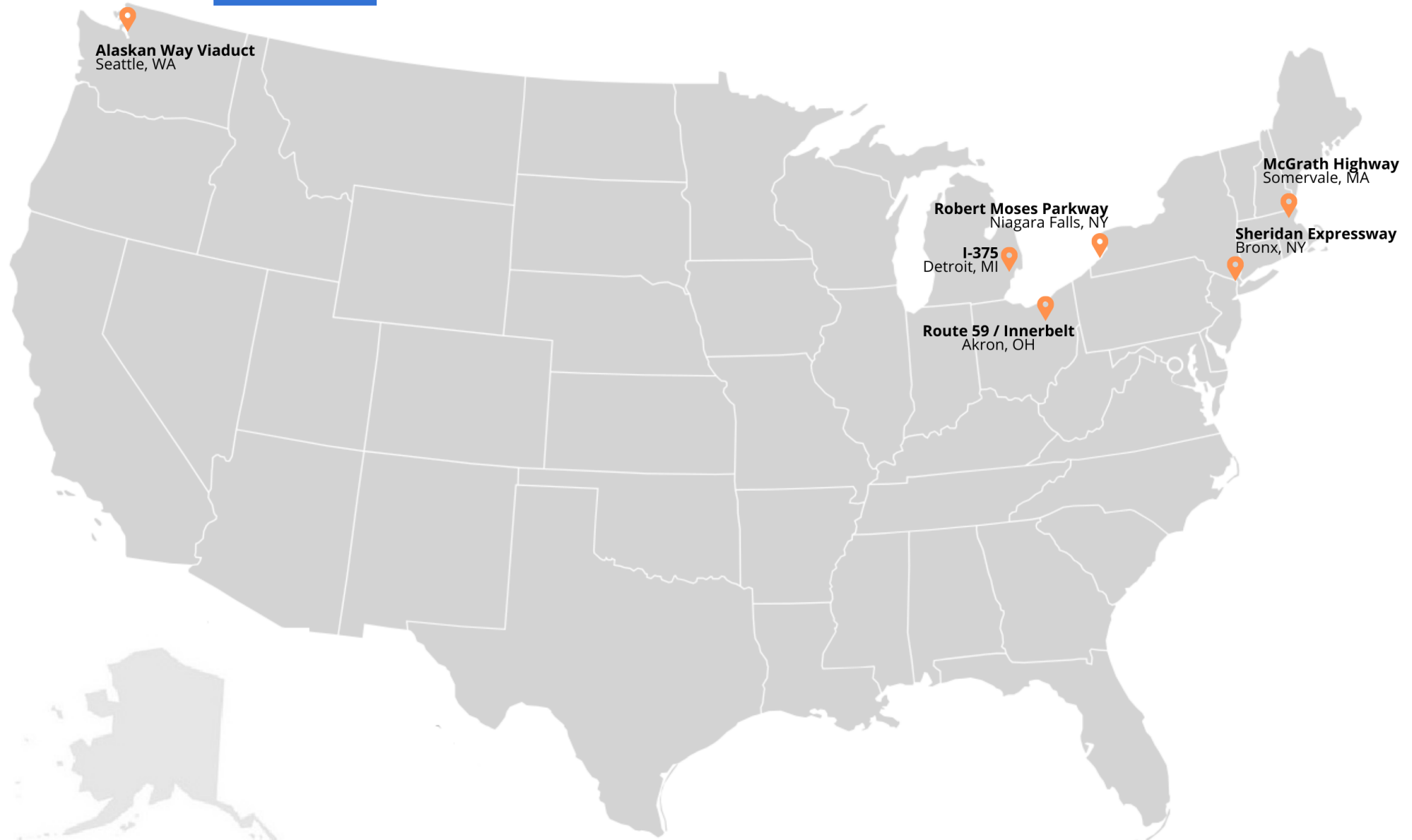
Considerations:

- Safety
- Mobility
- Environment
- Local, regional, and national economic impact
- National defense

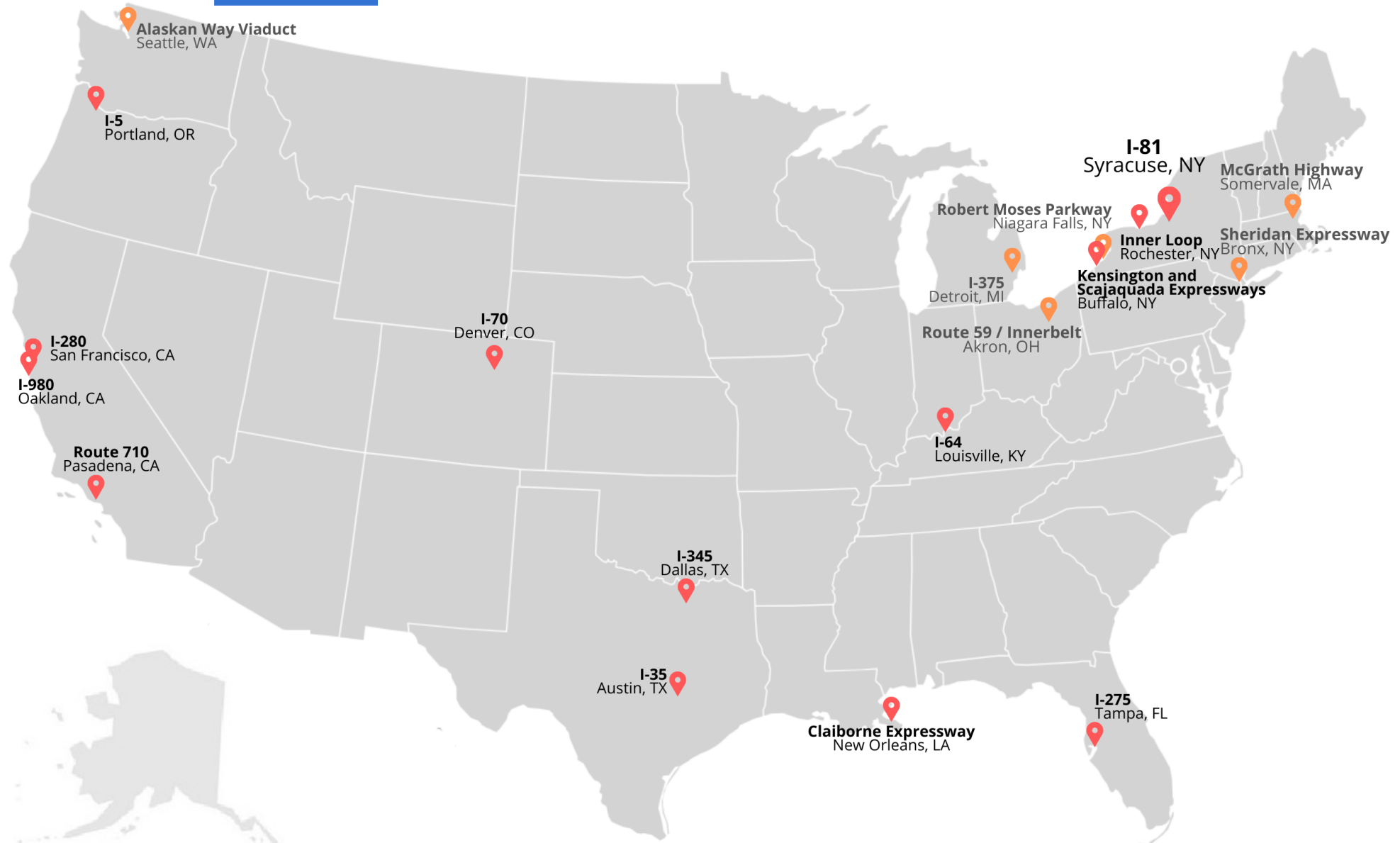


**“Freeways Without Futures** is the tale of freeways in cities coast to coast where the urban renewal movement has spawned active campaigns for transformation... **As cities consider what to do with their aging in-city highways, they should recognize the opportunities for freeway removal and transformation.”**

# 2017-2019 Graduated Removals

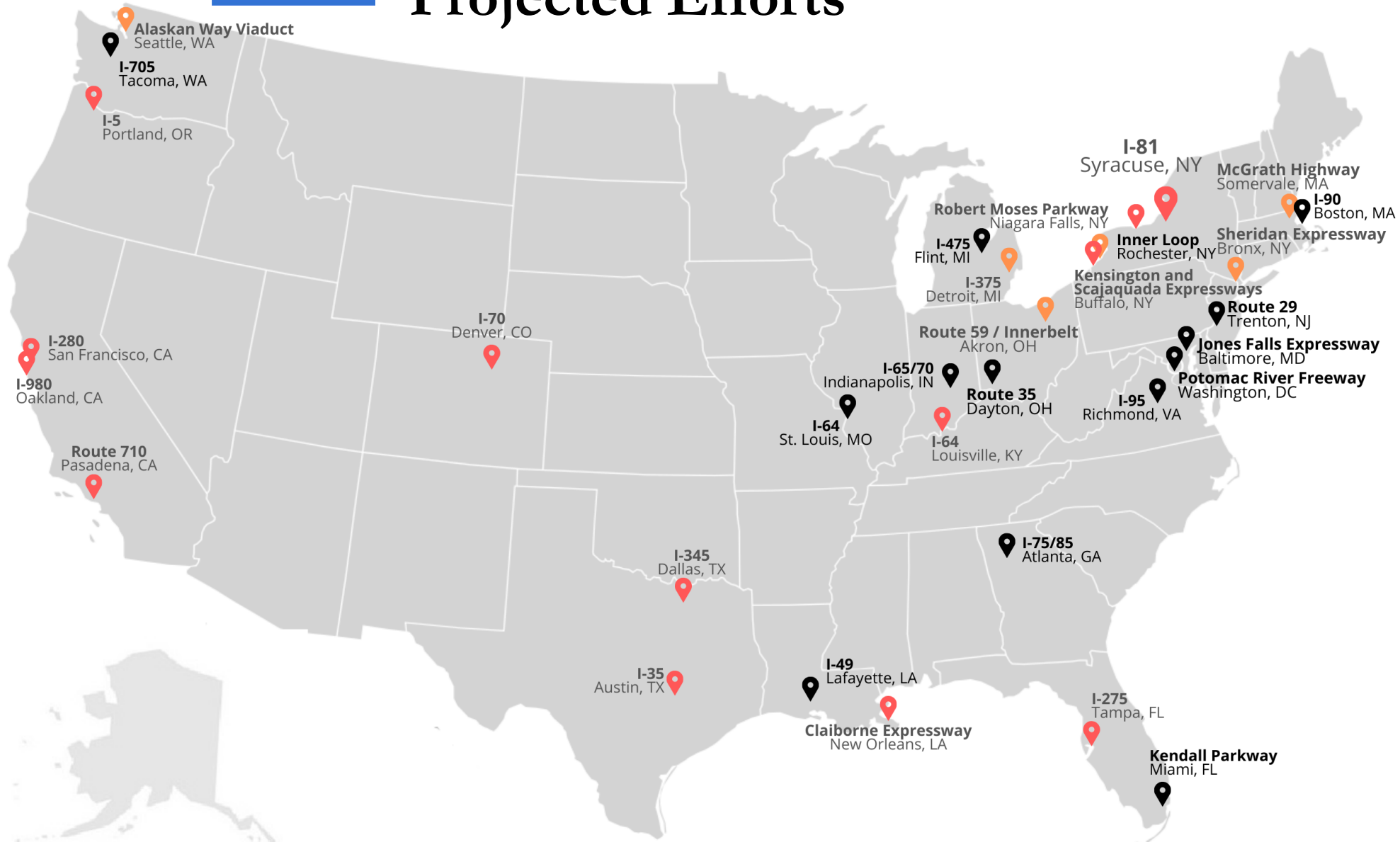


# 2017-2019 Decommissioning Campaigns





# Decommissioning Campaigns and Projected Efforts







October 20, 2019

# In Syracuse, a road and reparations

“The spine of America — its railroads, runways and highways — was often literally built on top of black neighborhoods. Many of those communities had been segregated as a result of redlining and blighted because of a lack of credit. In the 1950s, they were destroyed in the name of urban renewal.”

“More than a half-century later, some of those runways and highways are crumbling beyond repair. In Syracuse, residents are trying to leverage officials’ desire to do something about their old road into an opportunity to repair ills of the past.”

## The Washington Post

Partly cloudy 69°/59° • Temperature: Rain, 5 inches 46°/31° • Democracy Dies in Darkness

### Kurdish forces quit key city in Syria

Pelosi leads delegation to Jordan, highlighting rift over U.S. withdrawal

BY ERIK CONNORS

SYDNEY — Kurdish fighters in northeastern Syria, withdrawn from a flash-point city as part of a cease-fire agreement with Turkey, a spokesman said Sunday, a move that would ease tensions around U.S. aid efforts to quell a spreading conflict.

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, meanwhile, led a surprise congressional visit to neighboring Jordan over the weekend, highlighting her sharp disagreement with President Trump's decision to remove U.S. troops from northern Syria and Turkey's subsequent attacks on Kurdish enclaves.

U.S. Defense Secretary Mark T. Esper in Kabul on Sunday said the cease-fire in northeastern Syria is “generally seen to be holding,” despite reports of “intermittent fires.” He said the U.S. withdrawal was proceeding as planned.

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan had threatened to resume military offensives in northern Syria if Kurdish fighters didn't retreat from designated border areas by Tuesday evening. The deadline is the cease-fire goal.

A spokesman for the Kurds said they were keeping their end of the deal.

“As part of the agreement to pause military operations with Turkey... Jordan, we have reached,” the city of Ramallah, a spokesman Khaled Ghalib said. “We don't have any more fighters in the city.”

Turkey's offensive this month to force Kurdish fighters from the Syrian frontier had drawn international condemnation and set off a scramble for territory.

U.S. President Donald Trump traveled to Turkey last week to negotiate a

After being ravaged by the opioid epidemic, West Virginia fears that fighting drug companies doesn't always balance the scales.



### ‘An easy target’

BY DEBBIE CANNON, EMILY COOKE, KELLY HANCOCK AND DONALD SIVIER

PHOTO BY SALVIAN DERRICKS IN CHARLOTTE, N.C.

**THE OPINION FILES**

The word of the state was barely to include long. He kept a business with a number that tracked his heart rate and a heart rate that tracked his body. The incident room was hushed. The doctor told him that he was the first three-

“It's a lie,” read a note posted in June at the lobby of the medical center in Charlotte. He was concerned by a nurse who learned long ago to recognize the high-pitched cry of newborns suffering from opioid withdrawal.

A 3-week-old boy had been added to opioids in Charlotte, N.C. Lowells have recovered “a drop in the bucket” of the money needed to cope with the damage.

The 3-week-old was among thousands of children separated from their parents and placed into state care by an opioid epidemic that fractured families in every corner of West Virginia, claiming 3,300 lives over two decades.

In 2016, at the dawn of the crisis, West Virginia became the first state to take Opioid Abuse Prevention Program in state. Officials would go on to file three more high-profile lawsuits against opioid distributors, demanding the companies

be held accountable for the damage.

“It's a lie,” read a note posted in June at the lobby of the medical center in Charlotte. He was concerned by a nurse who learned long ago to recognize the high-pitched cry of newborns suffering from opioid withdrawal.

A 3-week-old boy had been added to opioids in Charlotte, N.C. Lowells have recovered “a drop in the bucket” of the money needed to cope with the damage.

### Trump bowed to GOP on Doral

ALICE'S ALARM LED HIM TO DROP G-7 PLAN

Many struggled to rebut allegations of self-dealing

BY TOLSON OLSON

JOHN DEWEY AND DAVID A. FARRETT

President Trump was forced to abandon his decision to host next year's Group of Seven summit at his private golf club after it became clear the move had alarmed Republicans and swiftly became part of the impeachment inquiry that threatens his presidency.

In a round of phone calls with conservative allies this weekend, Trump was told Republicans are struggling to defend him on so many fronts, according to an administration official who spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss internal matters.

Democrats, meanwhile, continued to blast Trump for sending the measure government contracts to his own company and that they might add the alleged “self-dealing” violations to the articles of impeachment they are preparing.

The White House has been struggling to explain Trump's G-7 decision since it was announced on Thursday. The president's opponents quickly seized on it as another example of Trump abusing power for the personal gain. Many Republicans seemed reluctant to offer the president any support.

After White House chief of staff Mark Meadows tried to defend the decision during a news conference but caused a new controversy when he was asked to

“It's a lie,” read a note posted in June at the lobby of the medical center in Charlotte. He was concerned by a nurse who learned long ago to recognize the high-pitched cry of newborns suffering from opioid withdrawal.

A 3-week-old boy had been added to opioids in Charlotte, N.C. Lowells have recovered “a drop in the bucket” of the money needed to cope with the damage.

“It's a lie,” read a note posted in June at the lobby of the medical center in Charlotte. He was concerned by a nurse who learned long ago to recognize the high-pitched cry of newborns suffering from opioid withdrawal.

A 3-week-old boy had been added to opioids in Charlotte, N.C. Lowells have recovered “a drop in the bucket” of the money needed to cope with the damage.

“It's a lie,” read a note posted in June at the lobby of the medical center in Charlotte. He was concerned by a nurse who learned long ago to recognize the high-pitched cry of newborns suffering from opioid withdrawal.

A 3-week-old boy had been added to opioids in Charlotte, N.C. Lowells have recovered “a drop in the bucket” of the money needed to cope with the damage.

“It's a lie,” read a note posted in June at the lobby of the medical center in Charlotte. He was concerned by a nurse who learned long ago to recognize the high-pitched cry of newborns suffering from opioid withdrawal.

A 3-week-old boy had been added to opioids in Charlotte, N.C. Lowells have recovered “a drop in the bucket” of the money needed to cope with the damage.

“It's a lie,” read a note posted in June at the lobby of the medical center in Charlotte. He was concerned by a nurse who learned long ago to recognize the high-pitched cry of newborns suffering from opioid withdrawal.

A 3-week-old boy had been added to opioids in Charlotte, N.C. Lowells have recovered “a drop in the bucket” of the money needed to cope with the damage.

“It's a lie,” read a note posted in June at the lobby of the medical center in Charlotte. He was concerned by a nurse who learned long ago to recognize the high-pitched cry of newborns suffering from opioid withdrawal.

A 3-week-old boy had been added to opioids in Charlotte, N.C. Lowells have recovered “a drop in the bucket” of the money needed to cope with the damage.

“It's a lie,” read a note posted in June at the lobby of the medical center in Charlotte. He was concerned by a nurse who learned long ago to recognize the high-pitched cry of newborns suffering from opioid withdrawal.

A 3-week-old boy had been added to opioids in Charlotte, N.C. Lowells have recovered “a drop in the bucket” of the money needed to cope with the damage.

“It's a lie,” read a note posted in June at the lobby of the medical center in Charlotte. He was concerned by a nurse who learned long ago to recognize the high-pitched cry of newborns suffering from opioid withdrawal.

A 3-week-old boy had been added to opioids in Charlotte, N.C. Lowells have recovered “a drop in the bucket” of the money needed to cope with the damage.

“It's a lie,” read a note posted in June at the lobby of the medical center in Charlotte. He was concerned by a nurse who learned long ago to recognize the high-pitched cry of newborns suffering from opioid withdrawal.

A 3-week-old boy had been added to opioids in Charlotte, N.C. Lowells have recovered “a drop in the bucket” of the money needed to cope with the damage.

“It's a lie,” read a note posted in June at the lobby of the medical center in Charlotte. He was concerned by a nurse who learned long ago to recognize the high-pitched cry of newborns suffering from opioid withdrawal.

A 3-week-old boy had been added to opioids in Charlotte, N.C. Lowells have recovered “a drop in the bucket” of the money needed to cope with the damage.

### A crumbling highway sparks a new challenge

In Syracuse, African Americans want officials to atone for the damage inflicted on their community

BY ROBERT KAMMEL

IN SYRACUSE, N.Y.

When Randall Davis heard the 1.5-mile stretch of elevated highway slicing through this city might be torn down, he had a vision about what could emerge from its dust.

He could open a restaurant, near the one his grandparents had before it was bulldozed to make space for Interstate 19. Alternatively, it could be other black-owned businesses, largely absent from the city's north side because banks' historical refusal to give loans there. Maybe, he thought, the state would give them all his credit or offer financial assistance to address the past injustice.

He could have a little office and there, a 34-year-old lawyer state agent who lives a few blocks from the highway. A black hair salon, a black grocery store, a black shopping center — places that

Shantell Lawrence, left, and Carlin Adams say the road on a summer day at Wilson Park, near Interstate 19 on the north side of Syracuse, N.Y.



### Va. Democrats fear key race will defy the odds

With balance of power at stake, GOP delegate has a bold on his blue district

BY GREGORY S. SCHNEIDER

ROPMORE, VA. — The path for Democrats to take control of the Virginia legislature runs through the Lone Star parking lot here and directly into Bennett Creek

Pharmaceuticals. Chris Jones has owned the shop since he was a high schooler — one of many who were students at Bennett Creek City Central, a public high school in the town of Roanoke, who need to turn in their state ID cards to get into the school. Jones, who is a member of the Virginia House of Delegates and the state Senate, has taken full control of the legislature. All 140 seats in the House and Senate are on the line. It's

But his political journey changed overnight when federal judges agreed a new Virginia electoral map would be drawn, one that would take the old one was radically redrawn. His district went from a 12 percent edge for Repub-

licans to a 37 percent edge for Democrats. It looks like an easy win for the Democrats.

But the way the race is playing out shows a difficult path ahead for Democrats, who need to turn in their state ID cards to get into the school. Jones, who is a member of the Virginia House of Delegates and the state Senate, has taken full control of the legislature. All 140 seats in the House and Senate are on the line. It's

But his political journey changed overnight when federal judges agreed a new Virginia electoral map would be drawn, one that would take the old one was radically redrawn. His district went from a 12 percent edge for Repub-

licans to a 37 percent edge for Democrats. It looks like an easy win for the Democrats.

But the way the race is playing out shows a difficult path ahead for Democrats, who need to turn in their state ID cards to get into the school. Jones, who is a member of the Virginia House of Delegates and the state Senate, has taken full control of the legislature. All 140 seats in the House and Senate are on the line. It's

### IN THE NEWS



THE NATION

A half-century of the 1960s was celebrated at the site of the 1960s civil rights movement. An incident during a visiting mission at a U.S. Army base in Germany led to the deaths of three soldiers. As

THE REGION

The District's opioid program has commenced with a small number of patients with heroin addiction, according to records and interviews with

THE WORLD

After Parliament voted to withdraw support for a Brexit deal, Prime Minister Boris Johnson was forced to seek an extension. Also

THE WEEK AHEAD

MONDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

THE WEEK AHEAD

MONDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

### INSIDE



STYLE

Great expectation



THE ILLUSTRATIONS

Robert Johnson and

# I-81 in Syracuse

---

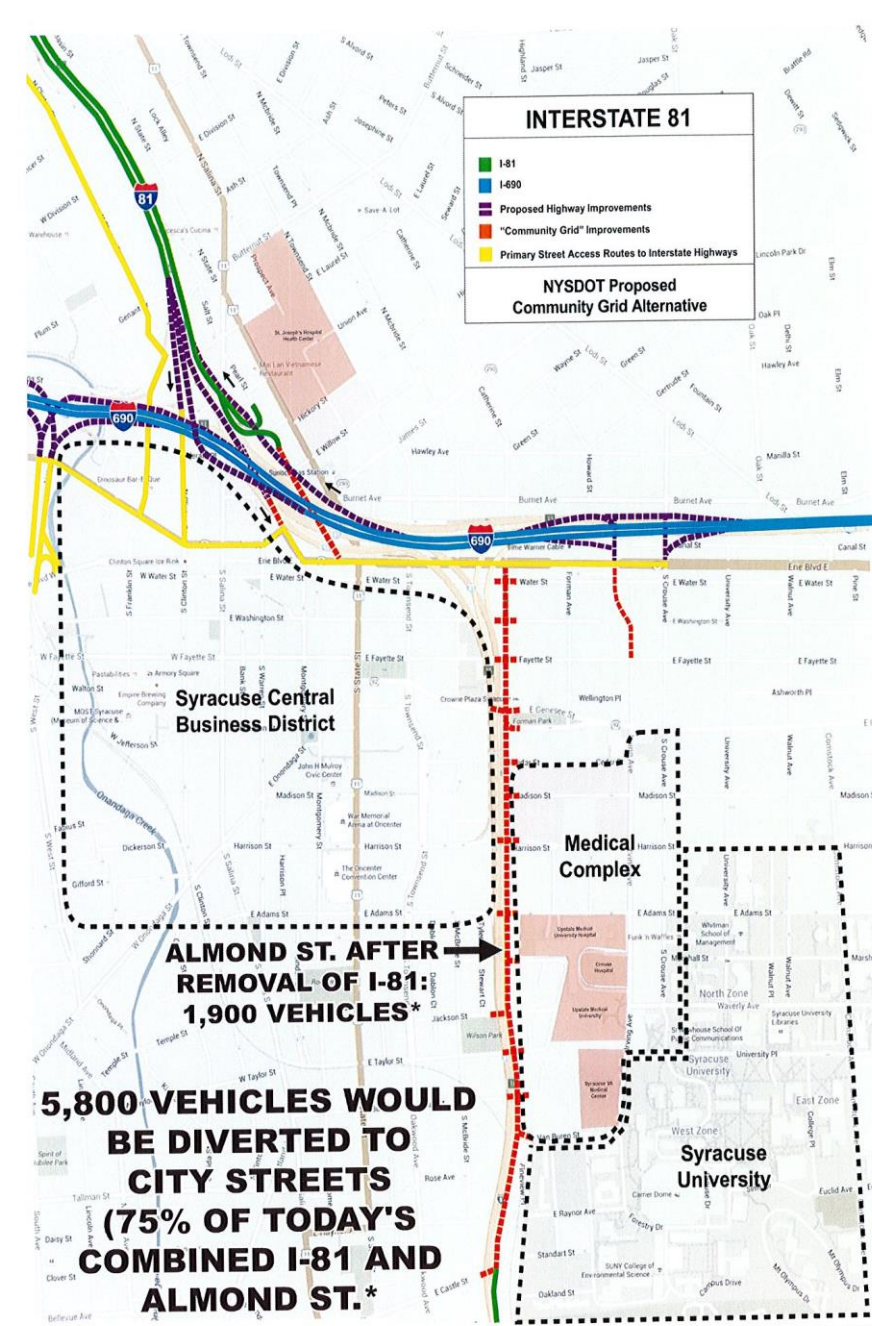
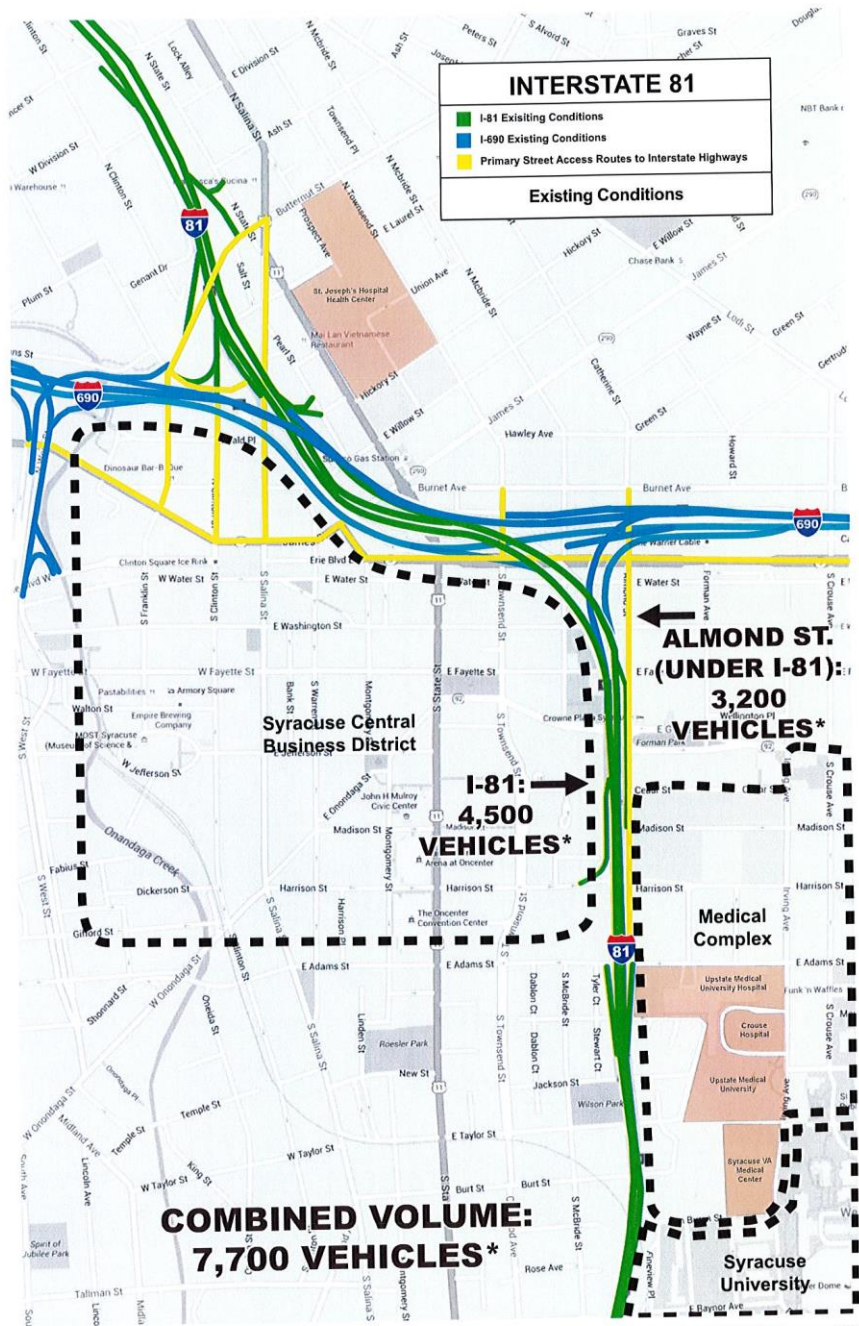
I-81 serves as a major artery to link the downtown City of Syracuse with regional suburban and rural areas.

- Five of the region's ten largest employers are adjacent to I-81.
- Sixth largest freight route in the U.S.
- An estimated 12% of the United States' GDP travels on some portion of the I-81 corridor.

Over the last fifty years, not only the obvious tourist, retail and manufacturing industries have prospered around I-81, the State's regional healthcare (including Upstate Medical Center & the VA) have as well. In short, I-81 is Syracuse's modern-day Erie Canal.









# The Problem

---

Based on the NYS DOT, portions of I-81 in CNY are at the end of their useful life and must be repaired or replaced, including the 1.4-mile stretch of elevated roadway, (the “viaduct”) through Syracuse’s Central Business District.





## Community Grid Option

---

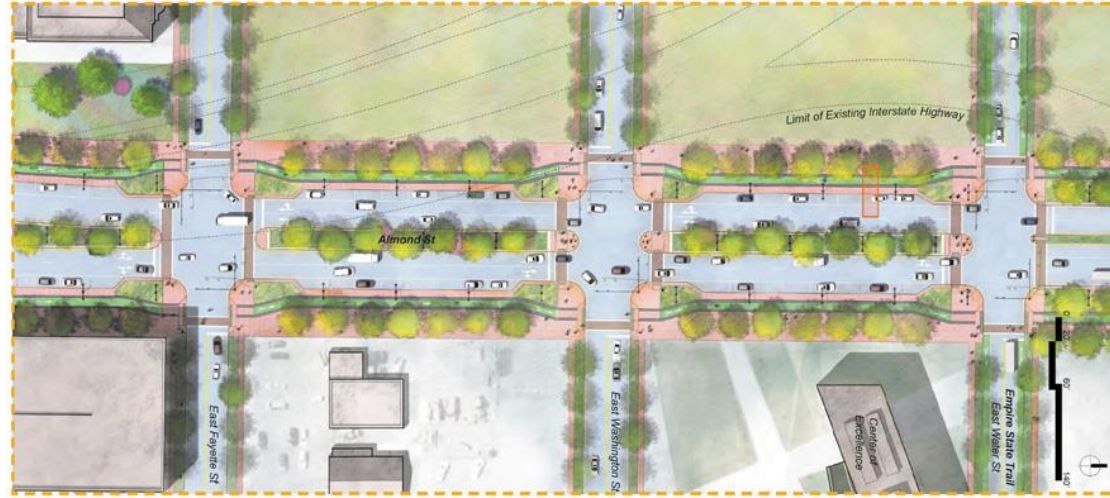
- Reduces the 1.4 mile of viaduct from a highspeed highway to a 13 signal, stop & go, 30 mile an hour boulevard
- Sends highspeed traffic on a longer route around the Syracuse Downtown.

# Community Grid Plan – Impact on Syracuse

---

1. Generate major traffic congestion throughout the city of Syracuse
2. Delay Emergency Services both en route and returning from emergencies
3. Isolate major traffic generators
4. Induce Suburban Sprawl in violation of Smart Growth mandates
5. Degrade urban and suburban air quality
6. Increase risks of environmental mishap
7. Burden local government with long-term infrastructure maintenance
8. Disrupt existing land and investment patterns
9. Cause severe harm to the already fragile Upstate New York economy, resulting in lost jobs and shrinking local and state government revenue
10. Encourage similar “removal without replacement” initiatives in urban areas across the country.





## Community Grid Plan – Impact on Business

---

I-81 is vital to the success of many of the city's downtown businesses, which rely on thru-traffic, suburban commuters and out-of-town visitors exiting from I-81.

The greatest concentration of employment in the Syracuse area (30%) lies within **one mile of I-81** (between the northern & southern I-481 interchanges).

Severing the northern and southern communities from the rest of the metropolitan area would result in longer drives, suburban relocation, the loss in value of existing infrastructure and residential patterns leading to decreased property values, decreased property tax collection, dislocation of existing businesses and facilities, and a renewed wave of suburban sprawl.



# Opposition to the Grid Plan

---



- Public opinion has consistently shown that two-thirds of respondents Do Not Support a community grid.
- With near unanimity, the Central New York state legislative delegation supports maintaining high-speed access through the city and region.
- Dozens of local towns and villages have passed resolutions in support of a hybrid solution and all 19 town supervisors have also publicly stated their support for high-speed access in Syracuse and in Central New York.

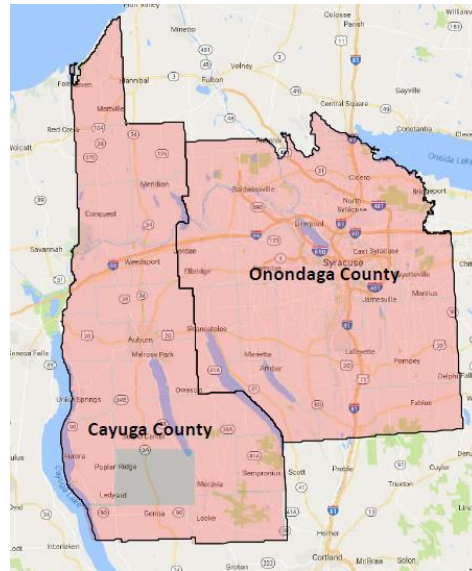
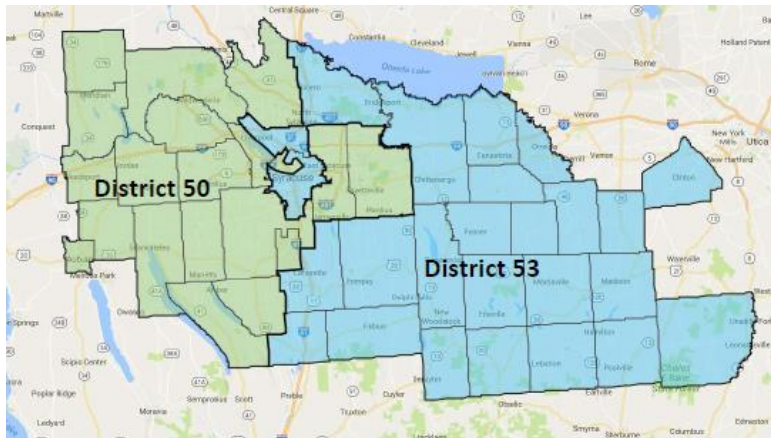
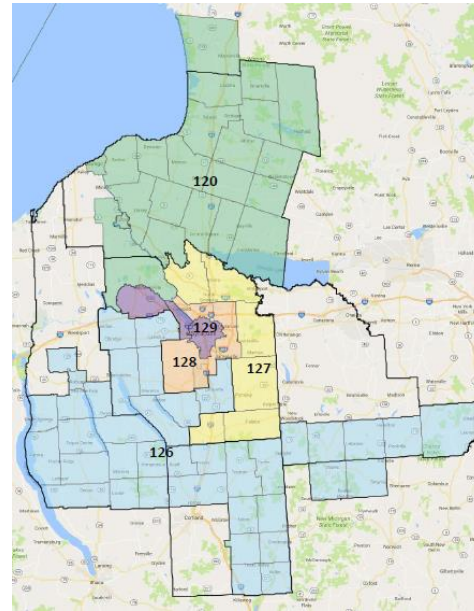
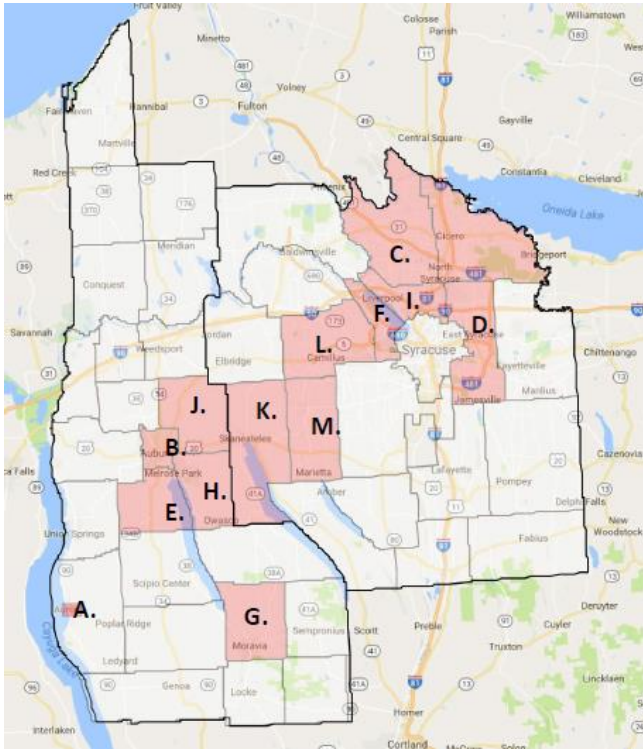
# Opposition (continued)

**Top Left:** Municipalities of Aurora (A), Auburn (B), Clay (C), Dewitt (D), Fleming (E), Geddes (F), Moravia (G), Owasco (H), Salina (I), Sennett (J), Skaneateles (K), Camillus (L), and Marcellus (M)

**Bottom Left:** State Senate districts of John Defrancis (50) and David Valesky (53)

**Top Right:** State Assembly districts of William Magnarelli (129), Pamela Hunter (128), Gary Finch (126), William Barclay (120), and Al Stirpe (127)

**Bottom Right:** Legislatures of Onondaga County and Cayuga County



# Stakeholder Meetings

---



## CropLife America

*October 2019*

---

CLA represents manufacturers, formulators and distributors of pesticides. CLA's member companies produce, sell and distribute virtually all the vital and necessary crop protection and biotechnology products used by farmers, ranchers and landowners.



## American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials

*October 2019*

---

AASHTO fosters the development, operation, and maintenance of an integrated national transportation system. AASHTO works to educate the public and key decision makers about the critical role that transportation plays in securing a good quality of life and sound economy for our nation.



## The Road Information Program

*October 2019*

---

TRIP is a private, nonprofit organization that researches, evaluates, and distributes economic and technical data on surface transportation issues. By generating traditional and social media news coverage, TRIP informs and promotes policies that improve the movement of goods and people, make surface travel safer, and enhance economic development and productivity.



# Stakeholder Meetings (continued)

---



**National Asphalt Pavement  
Association**  
*June 2019*

---

NAPA represents the interests of asphalt pavement material producers and paving contractors to improve the quality of asphalt pavements and paving techniques used in the construction of roads, streets, highways, parking lots, airports, and environmental and recreational facilities.



**American Road & Transportation  
Builders Association**  
*June 2019*

---

ARTBA develops and advocates consensus legislative and regulatory policy positions, produces cutting-edge economic reports and analyses, and represents the industry's market interests when threatened by anti-transportation opponents.



**National Stone, Sand and  
Gravel Association**  
*July 2019*

---

NSSGA is the leading voice and advocate for the aggregates industry. Members are responsible for the essential raw materials found in every home, building, road, bridge and public works project.

# Stakeholder Meetings (continued)

---



**American Trucking  
Association**

*June 2019*

---

ATA is the trucking industry's leading advocate, committed to developing and advocating innovative, research-based policies that promote highway safety, security, environmental sustainability and profitability.



**American Bus Association**

*June 2019*

---

ABA serves a thriving industry that provides nearly 600 million passenger trips annually on charters, tours, scheduled service and shuttles. ABA includes approximately 1,000 motorcoach and tour companies in the United States and Canada. Another 2,800 member organizations represent the travel and tourism industry and suppliers of bus products and services.



**American Highway Users  
Alliance**

*July 2019*

---

AHUA serves as the united voice of the transportation community promoting safe, uncongested highways and enhanced freedom of mobility. AHUA is the only coalition fighting for policies that preserve opportunities for all people to live, work, shop, and travel unencumbered. The Alliance does not represent a particular industry or special interest view.



# Stakeholder Meetings (continued)

---



**American Hotel and  
Lodging Association**

*June 2019*

---

AHLA is the singular voice representing every segment of the hotel industry including major chains, independent hotels, management companies, REITs, bed and breakfasts, industry partners and more.



**U.S. Travel Association**

*June 2019*

---

U.S. Travel represents all components of an industry that generates \$2.5 trillion in economic output and supports 15.7 million American jobs. As the united voice of the industry, U.S. Travel prioritizes high-impact issues that matter most to its collective membership.



**Deutsche Post DHL Group**

*June 2019*

---

Deutsche Post is Europe's leading postal service provider. DHL is uniquely positioned in the world's growth markets, with a comprehensive range of international express, freight transportation, e-commerce and supply chain management services.

# Stakeholder Meetings (continued)

---



## National Association of Manufacturers

*June 2019*

---

NAM is the nation's most effective resource and influential advocate for manufacturing values. NAM represents 12.8 million employees of 14,000 member companies, from small businesses to global leaders, in every industrial sector.



## Laborers' International Union of North America

*June 2019*

---

LIUNA represents a skilled and experienced union workforce trained to work safely in the construction and energy industries. Members build infrastructure - from roads, bridges, and transit to schools and skyscrapers. LIUNA also represents over 70,000 public employees.



## International Union of Operating Engineers

*June 2019*

---

IUOE primarily represents operating engineers, who work as heavy equipment operators, mechanics, and surveyors in the construction industry, and stationary engineers, who work in operations and maintenance in building and industrial complexes, and in the service industries.