

CITY OF ALBANY
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
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ALBANY, NEW YORK 12207
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KATHY SHEEHAN
MAYOR

October 17, 2018

Michael Franchini
Executive Director
Capital District Transportation Committee
One Park Place, Main Floor
Albany, NY 12205-2676

Re: Request for Reclassification of Roadways Serving the Port

Dear Mr. Franchini:

I am submitting this formal request to reclassify Smith Blvd., Raft St., Normanskill St., and South Port St. from Urban Local to Urban Major Collector. Urban Major Collectors are designed to serve both land access and traffic circulation in higher density residential, and commercial/industrial areas, and to distribute and channel trips between Local Roads and Arterials.

The Port of Albany is currently served by a network of roadways that connect from the south and north. The north side of the Port is accessed via Church St., Boat St./South Seventh St., all with a functional classification of Urban Major Collector. Access to the Port from the south side, and through the Port, is achieved through a network of local streets including Smith Blvd., Raft St., Normanskill St., and South Port St.

Currently, Smith Blvd., Raft St., Normanskill St., and South Port St. are classified as Urban Local, owned by the City of Albany, and operated by the Albany Port District Commission. While at the same time Church St. and Boat St./South Seventh St. in Albany and all the port roadways in Rensselaer, including Broadway, Riverside Ave., American Oil Rd., and Stewart Port Expressway, are classified as Urban Major Collector.

As I understand, CDTC staff will assemble the needed data to process this request, such as traffic patterns along connecting and intersecting roadways, for consideration by the Planning Committee. In

addition, I offer the following points to be considered, which support the requested re-classification to Urban Major Collector:

- The roadways, by providing access to the Port of Albany, serve an important function vital to the region's economy.
- The re-classification would be consistent with functional classifications on the Rensselaer side of the Port, where all of the roadways are currently classified Urban Major Collector.
- The importance of freight and goods movement is identified as key principles in CDTC's New Visions 2040 Plan.
- The roadways provide a connection to the NHS Intermodal Connector (Church St.) and the great NHS/Interstate System.
- Reclassification of the roadways can help alleviate a prominent Environmental Justice issue on South Pearl St./NY 32 in the City of Albany. CDTC's recently completed S. Pearl St. Heavy Vehicle Travel Pattern Study identified a potential project to reconstruct Smith Blvd., Raft St., Normanskill St., and South Port St. (i.e. the "Port Route") as a bypass route for heavy vehicles. The potential project would reconstruct the subject roadways to a higher construction standard, to accommodate through heavy vehicle traffic, including reconstructing the pavement, addressing any stormwater control needs, better controlling and/or consolidating railroad crossings, better directional signage, clear pavement markings, and possible horizontal realignments to address turning radii issues.


It is my understanding from your staff that this request will be placed on the November 7, 2018 Planning Committee agenda meeting for consideration and, if the Committee is in agreement with the request, it will be forwarded to the Policy Board, and then to the NYSDOT Region 1 office for their review. NYSDOT Region 1 will review the request and, if they concur with the CDTC Planning Committee's and Policy Board's recommendation, will forward the request to NYSDOT Main Office. Likewise, NYSDOT Main Office will review and, if they concur with the NYSDOT Region 1 recommendation, will forward the request to the Federal Highway Administration for final review and approval.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you would like to further discuss this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Kathy Sheehan', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Kathy Sheehan
Mayor



PORT OF ALBANY
ALBANY PORT DISTRICT COMMISSION

GEORGETTE STEFFENS
CHAIR, BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

ALBANY-RENSSELAER
106 Smith Blvd.
ALBANY, N.Y. 12202 – (518) 463-8763
FAX NO. (518) 463-8767

RICHARD J. HENDRICK
GENERAL MANAGER

October 18, 2018

Michael Franchini
Executive Director
Capital District Transportation Committee
One Park Place, Main Floor
Albany, NY 12205-2676

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ALBANY PORT DISTRICT COMMISSION

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Please do not hesitate to contact me if you would like to further discuss this request.

Sincerely,


Richard J. Hendrick

General Manager

ADOPTED RESOLUTION #18-6

RESOLUTION OF THE CAPITAL DISTRICT TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE ENDORING FUNCTIONAL CLASSIFICATION MAP CHANGES REQUESTED BY THE CITY OF ALBANY AND THE ALBANY PORT DISTRICT COMMISSION

WHEREAS, the Capital District Transportation Committee has been designated by the Governor of the State of New York as the Metropolitan Planning Organization responsible for the comprehensive, continuing, and cooperative transportation planning process for the entire four-county Capital District of Albany, Rensselaer, Saratoga, and Schenectady counties, minus the Town of Moreau and the Village of South Glens Falls; and

WHEREAS, it is the responsibility of CDTC, to work in collaboration with the New York State Department of Transportation and other members to classify all roadways within the region according to their function or role each road plays in serving traffic flow on the region's highway network, and

WHEREAS, the New York State Department of Transportation and Federal Highway Administration previously approved an urban area boundary and functional classification map based on population and density data reported in the 2010 Census, and

WHEREAS, changes in population, settlement patterns, and travel patterns necessitate periodic review of roadway classification, and

WHEREAS, the Albany Port District Commission and the City of Albany formally requested that the roadways serving the Port of Albany including Smith Blvd, Raft St, Normanskill St, and South Port St be functionally reclassified from a Urban Local to Urban Major Collector,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT CDTC's Policy Board after thorough review and evaluation does hereby request that the functional classification of Smith Blvd, Raft St, Normanskill St, and South Port St be modified as described above

ADOPTED at a regular meeting of the Policy Board of the Capital District Transportation Committee on December 6, 2018.

Kathy M. Sheehan
Mayor, City of Albany
Chair, Capital District Transportation Committee
December 6, 2018