

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING and  
NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT  
NEW YORK STATE THRUWAY AUTHORITY  
FHWA PROJECT IDENTIFICATION NO. Q92-5528-028  
NYSDOT PROJECT IDENTIFICATION NO. 5528.28.121  
EPA EIS No. 20060218, DRAFT  
WILLIAMSVILLE TOLL BARRIER IMPROVEMENT PROJECT  
DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT  
ERIE AND GENESEE COUNTIES

This is a Notice of Availability/Completion for the Williamsville Toll Barrier Improvement Project Draft Environmental Impact Statement (WTB DEIS) (FHWA-NY-EIS-06-01-D), which has been prepared in accordance with Article 8 of the NYS Environmental Conservation Law.

In accordance with the provisions of Title 23, U.S. Code, Section 128 and Title 40, Code of Federal Regulations, Parts 1500 to 1508, and the provisions of Article 8 of the NYS Environmental Conservation Law; a public hearing will be conducted by the New York State Thruway Authority at the Akron Central School, 47 Bloomingdale Avenue, Akron, New York 14001 at 7:00Pm on Tuesday July 11th, 2006 on the Williamsville Toll Barrier Improvement Project Draft Environmental Impact Statement (WTB DEIS). At the public hearing; engineering, traffic and environmental aspects of the project will be covered in a formal presentation. Please note; at the same location, an informational open house for the public will be conducted from 5:00 Pm to 7:00 Pm prior to the public hearing. Authority staff will be on hand two hours prior to the start of the hearing to discuss the project and answer any questions.

All interested persons will be given the opportunity to express their views concerning the economic and social effects of the project, the project's impact on the environment, and the project's consistency with the goals and objectives of such planning as has been promulgated by the community. The proceedings will be recorded. Persons may file written statements and other exhibits in place of or in addition to oral statements made at the public hearing. Written statements submitted at the hearing or mailed and received before Monday July 24th, 2006 by the NYSTA Chief Engineer's Office at the following address will be made part of the record:

Mr. Christopher A. Waite, P.E.  
Chief Engineer  
New York State Thruway Authority  
200 Southern Boulevard – P.O. Box 189  
Albany, New York 12201-0189

The WTB DEIS has been prepared in accordance with the provisions of Section 102(2) (c) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 P.L. 91-190 (NEPA) and 40 CFR Parts 1500-1508, Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) NEPA requirements (23 CFR Part 771) and the New York State Environmental Quality Review Act (6 NYCRR Part 617). The WTB DEIS has been developed after coordination with Federal, State and local agencies and will be available for inspection at the public hearing.

The New York State Thruway Authority, being the agency having principal responsibility for carrying out or approving the proposed project, is a NEPA joint lead agency with the FHWA pursuant to 23 CFR Part 771.109(c)(2); and is the SEQRA lead agency pursuant to Part 617.6(b) of Title 6 of the Official Compilation of Codes, Rules and Regulations of New York State.

This project has been classified as a federal NEPA Class I Action, pursuant to 23 CFR Part 771, and a New York State SEQRA Type I Action, pursuant to 6 NYCRR Part 617.

The WTB DEIS studies alternative ways of resolving existing NYS Thruway traffic congestion attributable to the existing Williamsville Toll Barrier (WTB), and studies the environmental and socio-economic consequences of the identified alternatives. The WTB Improvement Project alternatives studied include the no-build, improvement and relocation alternatives. The study corridor for the WTB Improvement Project extends from its western terminus just west of the existing WTB at milepost 419.69 to its eastern terminus at NYSTA Pembroke Interchange 48A at milepost 401.72. The total length of the project's study corridor is 18 ± miles, extending through the Towns of Amherst, Cheektowaga, Lancaster, Clarence and Newstead in Erie County, passing in close proximity to the Town of Alden in Erie County, and terminating in the town of Pembroke in Genesee County.

The relocation alternative has been presented in the WTB DEIS as the preferred alternative, and a preferred alternate relocation site has been identified. Identified as the "Milepost (MP.) 408-409" site; the Preferred Alternate Relocation Site along the mainline Thruway would begin in the proximity of the North Millgrove Road bridge over the Thruway at milepost (MP.) 409.44, extending eastward along the Thruway to approximately 3000 feet east of the South Newstead Road bridge over the mainline Thruway at milepost 407.26. A new toll facility at this site would be centered about a new tolling structure constructed at Thruway MP.408.1, which is approximately 1 mile west of the South Newstead Road bridge over the mainline Thruway.

The WTB project's DEIS under consideration may include construction which affects wetlands covered by Executive Order 11990 of the President of the United States dated May 24, 1977, "Protection of Wetlands".

The WTB DEIS is available for public examination and copying during business hours at the offices of the NYSTA Buffalo Division Director, New York State Thruway Authority, 455 Cayuga Road, Suite 800, Cheektowaga, N.Y. 14225-0121; the NYSTA Chief Engineer, New York State Thruway Authority, 200 Southern Boulevard, Albany, N.Y. 12209; the County of Erie DEP, 95 Franklin Street, Buffalo, NY 14202; and at the following locations:

Alden, New York	Town Clerk's Office, 3311 Wende Road
Alden, New York	Alden Ewell Free Library, 13280 Broadway
Amherst, New York	Town Clerk's Office, 5583 Main Street
Cheektowaga, New York	Town Clerk, 3301 Broadway
Cheektowaga, New York	Cheektowaga Public Library Anna M. Reinstein Branch, 2580 Harlem Rd.
Clarence, New York	Town Clerk's Office, 1 Town Place
Clarence, New York	Clarence Public Library, 3 Town Place
Lancaster, New York	Town Clerk's Office, 21 Central Avenue, NY
Lancaster, New York	Lancaster Public Library, 5466 Broadway
Newstead, New York	Town Clerk's Office, 5 Clarence Center Road
Newstead, New York	Newstead Public Library, 33 Main Street
Pembroke, New York	Town Clerk's Office, 1145 Main Road
Pembroke, New York	Corfu Free Library, 7 Maple Avenue
Williamsville, New York	Amherst Public Library Williamsville Branch, 5571 Main Street

The DEIS is also available online at the NYS Thruway Authority's website at [www.thruway.state.ny.us](http://www.thruway.state.ny.us). Select "more..." under PROJECTS AND STUDIES from the left navigational bar, followed by "[Williamsville Toll Improvement Project](#)" under PROJECTS from the right navigational bar.

Please advise this office if a sign language interpreter, assistive listening system or any other accommodation will be required to facilitate your participation in this public hearing. Our contact person is the NYSTA Department of Public Affairs, Albany, NY, whose phone number is (518) - 436-2983.

TDD (Telecommunications Device for the Deaf) Relay Service:

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Non-TDD User to TDD User: 1-800-421-1220

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