

**Kathleen Mecca**  
**Niagara Gateway Columbus Park Association**  
**763 Columbus Parkway**  
**Buffalo, NY 14213**  
**716-984-4218**  
[krmecca@yahoo.com](mailto:krmecca@yahoo.com)

July 15, 2010

Robert M. Davies  
Upstate District Operations Team Leader  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
Federal Highway Administration, NY Division  
Leo W. O'Brien Federal Building  
Suite 719  
Albany, NY 12207

Dear Mr. Davies

Enclosed please find a letter objecting to the contents of the Memorandum of Agreement enclosed under your letter of June 17, 2010 and addressed to Kathleen Mecca, Niagara Gateway-Columbus Park Association.

Sincerely,



Kathleen Mecca  
President  
NGCPA

Enc: returning all unsigned pages (20 identical signature pgs)  
Cc: see attached list

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Albany, NY 12207

Dear Mr. Davies

The memorandum of Agreement (MOA) enclosed under cover of the letter dated June 17, 2010 from Robert Davies has been received and reviewed by the Niagara Gateway-Columbus Park Association (NGCPA).

After more than a year of no communication or further consultation, this final MOA is unacceptable. This document is extremely disappointing to the residents of the historic neighborhood given the magnitude of the Adverse Effect.

In the absence of communication, specifically no draft for review by the consulting parties, the NGCPA refuses to sign the MOA.

Without this information it is NGCPA's position that it is impossible to justify signing an agreement where we continue to have significant and valid outstanding issues that have not been acknowledged or addressed during the consultation. The failure of the process allows a suffocating cloud of condemnation to hang over the normal and reasonable expectations for the economic health and well-being of the community.

Of greatest concern is the overall rationale for the project which has not been evaluated. The project expansion can no longer be justified due to the systemic, documented, and long-term decline in truck traffic.

Traffic studies now demonstrate that the project expansion is not defensible. The drop in traffic at the border crossing cannot be justified for the cost in dollars (approximately \$1 billion all-inclusive from all sources in US and Canada, including local government); lost property; loss of a connected, irreplaceable, historic neighborhood over 5 city blocks; the 300+ mature trees (over 100 years old) that contribute to the quality of the setting; the changes in view shed and more.

The full cost of the project will be disproportionately borne by the citizens of Buffalo, and most acutely in the NGCPA neighborhood.

The State of Michigan now recognizes the threat to national security with their outdated plan for a twinned bridge in Detroit (Bill Shreck, MDOT Director of Communications). It must be the same argument for other border cities in the US, and federal protections should be valid and consistent. Applying their logic in a post 9/11 world to our community, the proposed expansion would be devastating to the most densely populated neighborhood in the City of Buffalo.

The Null alternative remains the best alternative. Other options are viable. The Draft EIS has a fatal flaw – it only presented one viable alternative. On this basis alone the ACHP consultation should have proceeded differently.

Scapegoating the residential community for the failure of this project is beyond comprehension. Therefore, the NGCPA refuses to sign the MOA and objects to the terms and outcomes of the process.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kathleen Mecca', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Kathleen Mecca, President  
Niagara Gateway Columbus Park Association

Enc: returning all unsigned pages

Cc: see attached list

**CC via email to:**

Tania Werbizky, Preservation League of New York State  
Daniel Mackay, Preservation League of New York State  
Harvey Garrett, West Side Community Collaborative  
Kate Cody, consulting party  
Linda DeTine, consulting party  
Carole Perla, consulting party  
Mike Smith, National Trust for Historic Preservation  
Roberta Lane National Trust for Historic Preservation  
Henry McCartney, Preservation Buffalo Niagara  
Thomas Herrera Mishler, Buffalo Olmsted Parks Conservancy  
Tim Tielman, The Campaign for Greater Buffalo  
Ruth Pierpont, NYSHPO  
Mark Peckham, NYSHPO

**CC sent via USPS**

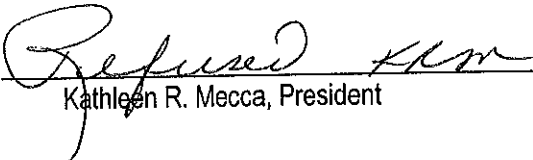
Buffalo and Fort Erie Public Bridge Authority, Ron Rienas  
NYSDOT R5, Al Taylor

PEACE BRIDGE – MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT

Execution of this Memorandum of Agreement by the FHWA, SHPO, ACHP, NYSDOT, and PBA, and implementation of its terms evidence that the FHWA has taken into account the effects of the Project on historic properties and afforded the ACHP an opportunity to comment.

**Concurring Party:**

**NIAGARA GATEWAY COLUMBUS PARK ASSOCIATION**

By  Date 7/15/2010  
Kathleen R. Mecca, President

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**NIAGARA GATEWAY COLUMBUS PARK ASSOCIATION**

By \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Kathleen R. Mecca, President