

RESOLUTION NO. 505

**AUTHORIZING AN AGREEMENT WITH THE VILLAGE OF
VOORHEESVILLE REGARDING SAFETY ENHANCEMENTS TO
RAILROAD CROSSINGS ON COUNTY ROADS**

Introduced: 11/14/16

By Messrs. Duncan and Reinhardt:

WHEREAS, Two County highways with busy railroad crossings go through the Village of Voorheesville (“Village”) and the amount of train traffic has increased substantially due to the number of crude oil shipments to Albany from the Midwest as a result of increased shale oil production, and

WHEREAS, The current railroad crossings are a significant safety concern because of the high volume of vehicular traffic and the explosive nature of shale oil, and

WHEREAS, Because of recent upgrades performed by the Railroad (“CSX”) to the crossing areas, there is an opportunity to install a safety system referred to as a quad gate system, and

WHEREAS, The quad gate system creates a barrier that prevents vehicles from “zig zagging” around the gates, thus restricting potential access when a train passes and reducing the possibility of a potentially catastrophic accident and derailment in a populated area, and

WHEREAS, Because of the aforementioned improvements to the crossing areas by CSX, the anticipated cost of the quad gate system has been significantly reduced, and

WHEREAS, By Resolution No. 588 for 2013, the Albany County Legislature authorized the Albany County Executive to enter into an agreement with the Village to assist with funding (in the amount of \$27,500) of an engineering study to determine the feasibility and cost of a quad gate system, and

WHEREAS, The County and Village entered into a Memorandum of Agreement on April 15, 2014, regarding the above, and

WHEREAS, In a report dated August 10, 2016 Bergmann Associates, engineers for CSX, estimated the construction costs for quad gate systems on County Routes 201 and 306 in the Village to be \$288,962, and

WHEREAS, With engineering and legal costs it is estimated that the total costs of designing and installing quad gate systems on County Routes 201 and 306 in the Village will not exceed \$400,000, and

WHEREAS, It appears that State grant opportunities are available, which might pay for a significant part of the cost of installing these quad gate systems, and

WHEREAS, The Village has proposed partnering with the County to install these quad gate systems with the cost, after any available State grants, to be borne 80% by the County and 20% by the Village, and

WHEREAS, These quad gate systems would significantly increase safety at the CSX crossings of these two County highways and also improve quality of life in the Village, now, therefore be it

RESOLVED By the Albany County Legislature that the County Executive is authorized to enter into an agreement with the Village of Voorheesville for the installation of quad gate systems at the CSX Railroad crossing of County Routes 201 and 306 in the Village of Voorheesville with the cost thereof, after any State grants, to be borne 80% by the County of Albany and 20% by the Village of Voorheesville, and, be it further

RESOLVED That the County Attorney is authorized to approve said agreement as to form and content, and, be it further

RESOLVED That the Clerk of the County Legislature is directed to forward certified copies of this resolution to the appropriate County Officials.

Referred to Public Works Committee. 11/14/16

Favorable Recommendation – Public Works Committee 5/23/17

On roll call vote the following voted in favor: Messrs. Beston, Bullock, Burgdorf, Ms. Chapman, Messrs. Clay, Clenahan, Commisso, Crouse, Ms. Cunningham, Messrs. Drake, Duncan, Feeney, Grimm, Hogan, Mss. Lekakis, Lockart, Messrs. Mauriello, Mayo, Ms. McKnight, Messrs. Miller, Reinhardt, Stevens, Touchette, Tunny, Ward and Ms. Willingham – 26

Those opposed: Messrs. Dawson, Domalewicz, Ethier, Fein, Higgins, A. Joyce, R. Joyce, Ms. McLean Lane, Messrs. Mendick, O'Brien, Signoracci, Simpson and Smith- 13

Resolution was adopted. 6/12/17