



ColorBrightonGreen.org

December 13, 2017

Honorable Members
Brighton Town Board
2300 Elmwood Avenue
Rochester, NY 14620

Dear Honorable Members of the Brighton Town Board:

As you know, the New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT) is developing a project in Brighton and Pittsford referred to as "RT 96 FROM CITY OF ROCHESTER LINE TO RT 31F, (Project Identification #409661). As noted in the project description at the NYSDOT website, they are investigating a "Lane Diet", that would reduce the roadway from 4 lanes to 3-lanes, including a center turn-lane and shoulders. Our understanding of the current NYSDOT concept is that each of the 3 vehicle lanes would be 11 feet wide as opposed to the current 10 foot lanes, and that 3.5 foot bicycle lanes would be available at the road edge in both directions.

ColorBrightonGreen.org supports transportation infrastructure that will provide safe travel for non-carbon emitting vehicles such as bicycles and we are very pleased that the NYSDOT is proposing bike lanes. Bicycle infrastructure is critical to encouraging residents to reduce their carbon footprint to meet goals that the Town of Brighton is developing for its Climate Action Plan. Instead of 11 foot wide vehicle lanes, we assert that the vehicle lanes should keep their 10 foot widths, and that the bicycle lanes should be expanded to 5 foot widths. This will provide a greater margin of safety for bicycle riders and is much more likely to encourage people to use their bikes to get to important destinations along the East Avenue Corridor. This would be particularly helpful for students of St. John Fisher and Nazareth Colleges and residents of Brighton headed to other parts of the Town, the City of Rochester, and the Village of Pittsford.

In addition to the 5 foot width of Route 96 bike lanes, we also assert that it is critical to provide road markings to designate the bike lanes and to ensure that any catch basins on that roadway be installed at grade to minimize bicycle instability along the roadway.

I am here today on behalf of ColorBrightonGreen.org to ask you to support the concept of 5 foot wide bicycle lanes on East Avenue between the City of Rochester border and Route 31F. We are aware that the NYSDOT values the opinions of local governments such as the Town of Brighton and that your formal support of such a concept is likely to have considerable

influence on the final NYSDOT design. Your support of the 5 foot wide lanes will benefit the residents of the Town of Brighton as well as environmental goals for the Town of Brighton.

Thank you for consideration of this request.

On behalf of the ColorBrightonGreen.org Board,

Margy Peet, Board Member
ColorBrightonGreen.org

Copies to ColorBrightonGreen.org Board Members: Karen Berger, Kourtney Blackburn, Heather Buckley, Cheryl Frank, Jennifer Hill, Lynne Mitchell, Mitchell Nellis, Tracy Schleyer, and Rachel Rosen Simpson.