

The economic resurgence of the City of Niagara Falls will be greatly dependant on its ability to exploit its waterfront resources over the next decades. However, New York State presently owns and operates over 80% of this city's waterfront on the Niagara River in the form of the Niagara Falls State Park and Niagara Power Project.

The Robert Moses Parkway cuts off 6.5 miles of the City's waterfront from the world-famous Niagara Gorge. Many thousands of citizens, local business and environmental organizations and block clubs have called for the past decade for removal of the Parkway and reclamation of the Niagara Gorge. You can view them all at www.niagaraheritage.org

The Parkway, which carries traffic far below levels for which it was built and solely functions as a commuter route, has several alternative roads which would carry the small amount of additional traffic resulting from removal.

It costs in the hundreds of thousands of dollars annually to maintain this road, including repairs (the nearly fifty year old parkway is rapidly deteriorating), plowing of snow and application of tons of salt. We have calculated that total removal of the Parkway from the Rainbow bridge to Devil's Hole Park would cost in the neighborhood of \$2-3 million. Parkway removal would pay for itself in savings to New York State in a very short period of time.

In the 2008-2009 New York State budget, please allocate ample funding for total removal of the Robert Moses Parkway from the Rainbow bridge to Devil's Hole State Park, extending a world famous state park along the Niagara Gorge and reconnecting the City of Niagara Falls to its waterfront.

Thank you for accepting and considering my comments on the upcoming state budget deliberations.

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