



June 22, 2026

Mr. James Hufnagel
4725 Miller Road
Niagara Falls, NY 14304

Dear Mr. Hufnagel:

I am writing today on behalf of Governor Kathy Hochul regarding your email about the Niagara Scenic Parkway. We appreciate your comments and your commitment to ensuring that any improvements balance public access, environmental stewardship and safety.

State Parks has been diligent in collecting public comments on the proposed alternatives and we believe a downgrade from a four-lane, high-speed parkway to a two-lane, low-speed park road addresses the safety, accessibility, emergency and maintenance needs in the best possible way.

One of the project's primary goals is to create a more welcoming and ecologically resilient landscape that improves safe connectivity for pedestrians and cyclists, supports local wildlife and enhances opportunities for visitors to engage with the area's natural beauty--just like the section from Main Street to Findley, which you have regarded as "one of the best things the Office of State Parks has ever done here for the city and the region." (Niagara Reporter, July 8, 2023)

We also understand your concerns regarding the proximity of the proposed design to New York Power Authority facilities and the importance of maintaining appropriate security measures. As the project advances, security considerations have been and will remain a critical component of the planning and design process. State Parks is committed to working closely with the New York Power Authority and other stakeholders to ensure that any proposed improvements meet applicable safety and security requirements while enhancing the visitor experience.

There will be additional public meetings once the Federal Highway Authority completes its work and you may submit comment at the project information page located here: <https://www.niagaraparkwayreimagined.com>.

Thank you again for your engagement and for helping us create a parkway that serves residents, visitors and future generations.

Sincerely,

Mark V. Mistretta, RLA
Director, Niagara Region