



Infrastructure Services

Prepared for	Council-in-Committee	Report No.	IS-29-2021
Agenda Date	June 14, 2021	File No.	360509

Subject	ONE-WAY TRAFFIC ON ERIE ROAD BETWEEN RIDGEWAY ROAD AND SCHOOLEY ROAD
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Recommendations	THAT Council chooses Option _____ for one-way traffic on Erie Road between Ridgeway Road and Schooley Road on Fridays and Mondays inclusive of July 2 through September 7.
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Relation to Council's 2018-2022 Corporate Strategic Plan	
Priority:	4: Promoting Business, Economic Growth and Employment Opportunities
Objective:	Implementing an effective Economic Development strategy that promotes and improves Fort Erie's competitive advantage, invests in strategic infrastructure and ultimately supports business development, job growth, talent attraction and the local labour market
Initiative:	4.1 Review Economic Development service delivery models (options) to identify the best model that meets the Town's economic development objectives • Economic Development strategy development • Business resources/supports for existing businesses

List of Stakeholders	
1. Mayor and Council 2. Crystal Beach Business Improvement Area 3. Users of Roads in the Crystal Beach Neighbourhood 4. Economic Development and Tourism Services 5. Other BIA's and Businesses	

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Purpose of Report

To provide options for Council to make an informed decision to contemplate one-way traffic on Erie Road between Ridge Road and Schooley Road for each weekend between July 2 and September 7 inclusive, as requested by the BIA.

Analysis

The Crystal Beach BIA have requested one-way traffic on Erie Road as a way to create a more pedestrian friendly atmosphere through summer weekends. The analysis that follows is staff commentary on the proposed endeavour.

EDTS comments

The Crystal Beach BIA passed a formal resolution at the June 1, 2021 Board meeting supporting the temporary request to turn Erie Road into a one-way street on weekends throughout the summer months.

In order to provide businesses and residents with the opportunity to provide feedback to Council and staff on the proposed temporary changes to Erie Road, a Let's Talk Fort Erie page was created.

The Let's Talk Fort Erie page ran from May 31, 2021 to June 8, 2021 and 51 feedback submissions were received.

From the 51 submissions that were analyzed, 33 (64.7%) of the respondents were in support of the proposal, 11 (21.6%) of the respondents were opposed to the proposal, and 7 (13.7%) of the respondents had a neutral view of the proposal based on their feedback.

For those who spoke in support of the proposal, there were a few general themes that emerged, such as that the one-way road closure would allow create an excellent atmosphere for people visiting the Crystal Beach area, would help to attract more people to the area and businesses, increase foot traffic and help businesses recovery from COVID-19.

As for those who spoke in opposition or neutrally of the proposal, the major concerns included anticipated issues related to traffic diversion, the rerouting of vehicles through the Crystal Beach residential areas and parking constraints. 6 respondents cited concerns for the redirection of travelers through residential streets, with 3 of those respondents being specifically concerned with increases of traffic on Schooley Road. 3 of those who spoke in opposition cited that speed limit reductions, speed bumps or other traffic calming measures be implemented to offset traffic complications that may result from the proposed closure.

Additional comments were received that highlighted some areas where clarification of the proposal was requested, such as whether bikes will be classified as vehicles or pedestrians and where they would be permitted. One respondent asked why the

proposed closure could not be permanent for the entire summer while another comment contrasted this by asking if the closures could be limited to the long weekends of the summer.

Infrastructure Services Commentary

IS have many reservations regarding the implementation of one-way traffic regarding traffic management and the installation of any traffic management plan.

On busy weekends, the Town can expect 2000-3000 vehicles entering Crystal Beach. Most will travel through Erie Road to the beach and need to egress somewhere. The most suitable detour road is Schooley northbound to Michener/Farr. Although Schooley is a collector road, you are increasing traffic from approximately 1000 vehicles per day in summer by adding the near total beach volume near the end of the day. Staff expect this traffic will also migrate onto other local roads that are not intended to handle this volume. Expect a flood of complaints.

Parking is already at a premium along Erie. By creating of a one-way street, all on-street parking from Ridgeway Road to the beach will be lost.

Fort Erie Transit currently proceeds in a counter-clockwise direction on Rebstock, Lakewood, Erie and Ridgeway. This will need to be reversed to maintain service in the area. Signage will need to be altered to suit. The change will be permanent all week.

The BIA is looking to create a 'pedestrian promenade' type road. Notwithstanding the loss of parking noted above, IS staff believe the goal can be achieved by closing the parking lane only. This will allow two-way traffic to be maintained eliminating our reservations about traffic volume shifting elsewhere. There would be pedestrian pinch points where parking stalls are occupied by businesses, but this occurs in similar situations in other municipalities without undue conflict.

The execution of a proper traffic management plan is very difficult and the requirements should not be underestimated. Town staff have reviewed the work and staffing required and believe the best and most consistent course of action is to contract the work to a company that is experienced in this type and magnitude of work. Town staff face the following issues in self-execution:

- Town staff work compressed four-day weeks, only half of the staff are available on a Monday or Friday.
- Consideration should be given to vacation scheduling. Most staff have already booked vacation and it may be difficult to properly execute the plan without drawing from other divisions within Infrastructure Services who do not have as great of experience working in live traffic.
- This work is incremental; the existing work must still be undertaken so it is assumed the work would be outside of normal hours or overtime would be required to complete the regular tasks.

The costs to contract the work are noted in 'Financial/Staffing Implications' below. They are high for the season but in line with expectations/order of magnitude for the actions required. Although the BIA volunteered to undertake the traffic management, this is

best left to professionals. There has been no discussion of cost appropriation with the BIA at this point.

Traffic control will be obtained through the use of [TC-54](#) flexible drums spaced at 5 meters as per the Ontario Traffic Manual Book 7 (Temporary Conditions). This is not the most eye appealing and will create the look of a construction zone. If the intent is to have this become an annual feature, the use of concrete barricades is likely more prudent to protect pedestrians from traffic and create a more pleasing look to the area.

Costs can be mitigated somewhat through alternate arrangements such as a permanent one way for the summer so that there is only one set-up and tear-down required, or by blocking only the parking lane as noted above.

Another option to reduce costs is for the Town to procure the equipment but the BIA undertakes the labour to the setup/teardown every weekend with the exception of the first weekend, for quality control purposes. The work would be done under the supervision of the Town and subject to our approval of all works.

Fort Erie Fire Department

The Fort Erie Fire Department identify the potential for increased response time due to the inability of traffic to allow for emergency vehicle passing. If implanted, they will monitor the situation and consult with the BIA as time progresses and improvements are required.

Options for Approval

Based on the discussion above, Staff suggest that Council select an option for implementation for the list below:

Option 1A for approval is to permit one-way traffic westbound on the weekends from July 2-September 7 with the BIA responsible for the cost and to not be implemented until agreement with the Town can be made for such.

Option 1B for approval is to permit one-way traffic westbound full-time from July 2-September 7 with the BIA responsible for the cost and to not be implemented until agreement with the Town can be made for such.

Option 2A for approval is to permit one-way traffic westbound on the weekends from July 2-September 7 with the BIA responsible for the partial cost and to not be implemented until agreement with the Town can be made for such. Council should state the amount of money the Town is willing to absorb.

Option 2B for approval is to permit one-way traffic westbound full-time from July 2-September 7 with the BIA responsible for the partial cost and to not be implemented until agreement with the Town can be made for such. Council should state the amount of money the Town is willing to absorb.

Option 3 is to defer a decision on one-way traffic to this winter in a report to Council for implementation in 2022, rather than this summer. We are so close to summer at the

time of meeting and the BIA may need to gain approval from the membership to proceed with expenses that they have presumably not budgeted for 2021.

Option 4 for approval is to deny one-way traffic.

Financial/Staffing and Accessibility (AODA) Implications

IS staff have obtained an informal estimate from a firm with significant experience in traffic management. The initial estimates are \$66,000 for ten weekends of set-up and tear-down. This works out to about \$6,600 per weekend which is within order-of-magnitude range in staff's opinion for the services requested. Operations for this will occur Friday afternoons and Monday mornings (Tuesday's for long weekends) from July 2 – September 7 inclusive. The initial BIA request for Saturday 7 am to Sunday 8 pm requires overtime rates and approaches \$100,000.

If approved to go forward, Town staff will work with the BIA to find ways to reduce this cost such as getting competitive quotes on the work.

Source funding for this project has not been budgeted by the Town. Staff are very sensitive to the magnitude of cost but feel that as this initiative supports business development, business should bear the cost. If Council is in support of this position, but feels one-way traffic is worth an experimental season, staff do not feel the process will proceed as hoped in terms of timing and suggest that we enter into discussions with the BIA as to their willingness to support the project financially in 2022 and report through the budget process.

As an alternative, less costly endeavour, Council may wish to authorise a permanent one-way road from July 2 – September 7. The cost can be reduced to the rental of the barrels and signs, plus one major set-up and tear-down, plus daily inspections which can be completed by staff in the course of daily activities. The estimate for this cost is \$20,000. The same concerns noted in the analysis hold, but the cost is reduced.

The cost for the BIA undertaking the labour would be similar to the immediate above.

The Town is expending approximately \$10,000 to re-paint Erie Road in support of business development as identified in [IS-18-2021](#).

The creation of a Beach Crawl along Erie is expected to remove barriers for those with mobility issues.

Policies Affecting Proposal

By-law No. 124-2019 adopted Council's 2018-2022 Corporate Strategic Plan.

This report supports Council's Strategic Plan, Strategic Priority 4: Promoting Business, Economic Growth and Employment Opportunities. Implementing an effective Economic Development strategy that promotes and improves Fort Erie's competitive advantage, invests in strategic infrastructure and ultimately supports business development, job

growth, talent attraction and the local labour market. Along with 4.1 Review Economic Development service delivery models (options) to identify the best model that meets the Town's economic development objectives:

- Economic Development strategy development
- Business resources/supports for existing businesses

By-law 2000-89 being a By-law to regulate traffic and parking on the highways of the Town of Fort Erie.

Comments from Relevant Departments/Community and Corporate Partners

Results of comments from www.letstalk.forterie.ca can be found in Appendix 1.

This report was circulated to the CBBIA on June 2, 2021 for comment. A telephone conversation with Kirk Fretz, president of the BIA ensued on June 3. The crux of the conversation was that the BIA would now like to pursue the one-way option only on the August long weekend.

Communicating Results

Following the meeting, the option decided by Council will be communicated directly with the BIA, and also published on www.letstalk.forterie.ca for the general public.

Alternatives

There are several alternatives addressed throughout the report that were developed by staff.

As a result of comments from the CBBIA, **Option 5A** and **5B** should be presented as one-way traffic on Erie from Thursday, July 29, 4:00 pm to Tuesday, August 3, 7:00 am. The estimated cost for a one weekend set-up is \$6,000 to \$7,000. 5A is the option with the BIA absorbing costs, 5B is the Town absorbing costs.

Conclusion

The CBBIA request to institute one-way traffic on Erie Road has generated many concerns from staff identified in this report. Council is asked to support one option for staff to act on.

Attachments

Appendix '1' – Comments from letstalk.forterie.ca

Let's Talk Fort Erie: Proposed Temporary One-Way Changes to Erie Road, Crystal Beach

The Let's Talk Fort Erie page ran from May 31, 2021 to June 8, 2021 and received 51 feedback submissions.

1. Which way will traffic be allowed to travel on the south side of Erie Road.
2. I think it is a great idea and if it is promoted properly will generate more traffic (customers) and visitors to the area.
3. Think it's a great idea!
4. Love the idea of closing the north side of Erie for pedestrian traffic on weekends, will make the town more vibrant and hopefully attract additional customers the businesses here desperately need.
5. It's a great idea. For two reasons. Increase his foot traffic to the local businesses but more importantly will slow people down. There is so much speeding on Erie Road especially in front of the chill shack (ice cream store). Someone will be killed! Also speeding down Beachwood is an issue even in the off-season. I hope you ask police to step up surveillance. Someone will be killed and it won't be pretty. There's so many people at the park, children and elderly people. Please reduce the limit on Erie to 30km/h, permanently!
6. Great idea for businesses and patrons alike. I will definitely support this.
7. Love it. Don't forget to string those lights/ lanterns across the street. Make it magical.
8. I totally agree with the temporary closure of Erie Road. Our local businesses have struggled the last 18 months and we need to support them however possible. I do not feel they should be required to pay for the concrete barriers previously suggested. This would bring a further undue hardship that would not be helpful.
9. Great idea. Concerned about parking?
10. Love the idea of creating open streets for people and fewer cars!
11. Is there a reason for the stop and start dates proposal? Why not right through until September.
12. Seems as though this may cause some backup confusion placing added unnecessary traffic in tight road residential areas.
13. I think that this is an excellent idea overall. It will encourage more people on foot to enjoy the local establishments on Erie Rd and stroll through downtown Crystal Beach. In reviewing the information provided on the proposed temporary closures, I do not see any specific details with regard to people on bikes - are bicycles considered vehicles in this sentence? "Pedestrians will have access to the north side of the street with vehicles occupying the south side of Erie Road." Also, has there been any consideration to leasing space to pop-up shops/10x10 vendor

spaces? I think it would really enhance the experience to allow for a few strategically located stalls/spaces. Lastly, will there be an impact on the existing speed limit along Erie Rd?

14. As someone who grew up in Crystal Beach and frequently are there, I don't understand why Phil Smith want to do this. There are less people that go to Crystal Beach then in and u to the 80's. This will put the year around residents out. They will have to go all the way around the village to be able to get to their homes. For someone who is in Crystal Beach on average to two times per week, I use Erie Rd as my entrance and exit. There is never that many people walking across Erie Rd to warrant this.

15. This idea would be nice for businesses but a disaster for all the narrow roads in the Crystal Beach grid north of Erie Road. They are not designed to handle the increasing volume of weekend summer traffic that is on Erie Road. The many residents of the area do not deserve to have all that traffic flowing through their neighborhood. This needs to be thoroughly thought through with an unbiased traffic study before implementing.

16. This is an exciting effort to improve downtown Crystal Beach. It will be safer for pedestrians on the narrow north-side sidewalks, provide a focal point for visitors and residents to access businesses, and create a real "beach-casual" atmosphere that will draw everyone to the area.

17. I like the concept, but have major concerns over the additional strain on Schooley. Presently traffic travels extremely fast, especially on weekends. I would recommend posting speed limit to 30 and consider an additional stop sign along Schooley.

18. We support this idea, but would like to know how traffic flow will be managed to ensure the ability to turn north onto streets that are one-way? Clarity on this would be appreciated. Thank you!

19. Sounds like an interesting idea. Unfortunately, Schooley isn't in any condition to add more pedestrian and vehicular traffic. As in my emails with the mayor, the road is falling apart from potholes and cracks and other damage from previous house construction. Many sidewalks are cracked or missing, and the shoulders are loaded with gravel and other grit. If you want to do things to encourage tourism and visitors, then maybe cleaning and repairing the infrastructure first is recommended!

20. Supporting local business and encouraging visitors and residents to use the area and Bay Beach, this one-way traffic configuration will also create less confusion in the area for out of towners and could boost pay parking use if promoted. Play it up! Introduce or invite car enthusiasts & clubs to do cruise nights! I think it's a great idea and plan to join in.

21. I think it would be a great idea.

22. Would the Municipality consider putting out speedbumps on the side streets off Erie road to control speeding ?

23. I would only support this on Holiday weekends. Canada Day, Civic Holiday and Labour Day otherwise I believe it will cause too much chaos each weekend over the summer. It will be more of a happy medium for the community. We have spent a lot of money for our current patio and now we will be at the end of the traffic, which may get deterred to even come this far. We have a small indoor dining area so the summer business is really imperative to survive and now more

established businesses will have patios that they didn't have before. This scenario will likely not work in our favour financially.

24. I love the idea. It will support our businesses and tourism.

25. We are residents that live in close proximity to the area in question on Erie Rd to be closed on weekends over the summer months. We are in support and believe this is an excellent idea to help bring life to the area. On a side note, from personal observation, it would be very beneficial if locks could be placed on the black city garbage cans around town. People break into them and leave garbage scattered and the mess and odour are very gross and bring pests (rats) to the area as well. Something so simply to implement can make a big difference. Ok seriously, what's going on with the junkies in the area?! So many reports and videos of people trying to break into homes, stealing things (bikes, packages). Last summer in the queens circle our friend was walking by and a girl ran to him asking for help. Her friend, a guy, was in the gazebo passed out and had a needle sticking out of his neck! As someone that works in property management and low income subsidize housing, i am not ignorant to the fact that these issues occur, but it is frustrating coming home to them just around the corner. It would be appreciated if Crystal Beach could step up their police presence and take action with this situation. There have been manyyy videos via social media that have been circulated of these people lurking around, and I for one do not feel safe in my home at night. That is a major concern! Here's hoping someone in city hall can appreciate the time given to submit this feedback and perhaps look into the above issues. Thank you kindly.

26. I think it is a good idea, we need to do as much as we can to support our local businesses.

27. Excellent idea it should provide a excellent atmosphere for people visiting the Crystal Beach area and make it more vibrant while allowing the business to expand and hopefully recover some of their losses from the past year and a half.

28. Great idea! Would also be wonderful to close Derby Road to traffic, at least during the summer, for the one block north of Erie Rd. That block could be pedestrian only and allow the businesses to have outdoor patio spaces. The patios would be so pleasant away from the traffic.

29. Have you considered where the otherwise eastbound traffic will go if it can not travel on Erie Rd? It will end up in the narrow side streets which become narrower with summer beach goers parking on them. Most of the side streets were not designed for the higher traffic flow which will be created by vehicles that need to go east bound. On peak days at Bay Beach we may be talking hundreds if not thousands of vehicles trying to find eastbound routes through narrow side streets.

30. This is a fabulous idea for the town, all of the restaurants will have an equal chance at success.

31. This proposal is one of the dumbest and most guided I've ever seen. I'm a 23+ year resident of the Crystal Beach community and, in my opinion, the last thing we need during the summer months is further restrictions on traffic along Erie Road. Summer crowds already make things difficult - restricting vehicular traffic to one lane will make it impossible, and will lead to far heavier traffic on residential side streets, thus increasing the danger to neighbors. Further, rather than enhancing opportunities for local businesses, I think it will make things worse since

few would be willing to venture into this area because of increased congestion. I am very much against the proposed change.

32. Best idea ever! Fabulous for businesses, residents & visitors! Surprised they didn't do it last year.

33. I am strongly in favour of this plan! Safer for pedestrians (especially children and elderly folks) and will support the wonderful businesses which as a Crystal beach resident, I whole heartedly enjoy and support ..its about time !

34. I think this is a great idea that has already been hugely successful in many other towns as well as large cities. Erie Rd has no signage to indicate speed and it's often unsafe to walk on the north side of the road and maintain social distancing when meeting people coming from the opposite direction. Hopefully it would also allow businesses to expand and for us to enjoy a more walkable area - summer is so short- we need to be out as much as possible to enjoy nature and socializing with others after indoors all winter. Great plan.

35. Schooley road is in terrible condition now and will not tolerate all the new traffic traveling up from Erie Road. Plus, it will be too busy for that narrow road and quiet cottages

36. If this country is in the midst of an international pandemic, we do not need to close a road " to create a Summer Beach Crawl atmosphere" . On the contrary, people should stay home and observe the appropriate public health guidelines. If this country is not in the midst of an international pandemic, then Council should go on record to support opening the border with appropriate traveler precautions.

37. Think this is a very disruptive idea. What about locals?

38. Great idea to make Erie road one-way traffic. I feel it should be one way from June 1 till just after labour day annually not just on the weekends. Tourists just don't come on the weekends to this area during the summer. If it's going to be successful and businesses are going to expand patios it should be this way all summer long. Hotdog alley should be made into a walk / ride street only.

39. I think it is a fantastic plan especially considering how difficult the past 15 months have been for businesses due to COVID-19! In addition, it will be safer for pedestrians. Let's help out & support our local businesses!!

40. Exciting to see that the town is beginning to recognize the value of the Crystal Beach community and how it can positively impact the town as a whole. There are 100 days a year that the town has to showcase and promote this valuable asset. Let's hope that this is just the beginning of good things to come.

41. I am totally committed to this proposal due to the hardships that local business have endured this can only be a win win situation. Not to mention the SAFETY factor involved. With social distancing expected people are having to step off the sidewalk to pass each other which is leaving them In the path of vehicles that is why this solution is so important for our village

42. Great idea to help local businesses.

43. I think making Erie Road one way during summer weekends is a great idea. Anything that encourages more people to visit the area, and support Erie Road restaurants and other businesses has my full support. I grew up in Montreal, where one-way streets are extremely common. You get used to it, and the minor inconvenience, is more than outweighed by the benefits provided to the restaurants and businesses located on the street.

44. Great idea. Go for it. Please make sure there is a bike lane on the weekend too.

45. I think it's a great idea! It can only be good for all of the business along the strip. It should go one step further and remove the buses from Erie Road. There is already too much traffic and too many people. Also, if it's supposed to be an extension of the beach, the roaring sound of the buses takes that all away. The only drawback I can see is trucks delivering goods to the businesses. They will have to park on the side roads which will be busier after Erie Road switches to one lane/one-way traffic.

46. I strongly oppose the closing of Erie Rd., Crystal Beach on summer weekends. This proposed action will force traffic onto Ryan Ave. which has no parking restrictions. Ryan Ave. has become a bit of a freeway with no speed deterrents. Forcing traffic onto Ryan Ave. will make this worse. Beach access with Erie Road closed will be extremely confusing for non-residents due to the unique configuration of Crystal Beach streets. This leaves Ryan Ave. as the most visible option for beach visitors.

47. I'm a lifelong resident of Crystal Beach and thus wholeheartedly support initiatives to improve opportunities for those wishing to start or continue a business in our village. While I do support north side parking/ patios- the portion of this plan that creates a one-way flow from Ridgeway to Schooley has far too many negative consequences. First, Schooley road, with its single sidewalk(from 384 north), parking on the west side, cars frequently turning around in driveways to "score" that open parking spot, busy traffic that comes and goes directly to the beach, adults and children who utilize the road instead of sidewalk as they are transporting large beach toys, kayaks, coolers etc. is busy enough on a weekend summer day. Adding basically 60-90% of the traffic that entered Crystal Beach via Ridgeway road to that mix would create severe safety concerns as well as a loss of quality of life for those of us who call Schooley a residential street. At 5pm or so each weekend day basically all traffic flow would be going north, having stop signs at Rebstock, and a second more dangerous one at Michener (the eastbound speed limit for Michener is 80km at that intersection-often blinded by brush etc.) Imagine hundreds of cars attempting to leave that intersection whilst some motorcycle/car travelling eastbound doing 80-100 km approaches. Where I live, I usually have to place barriers on summer weekends across my driveway to prevent annoying turnarounds at a rate of every 5 minutes or so on these busy days- the discovery by southbound travellers that Erie road is closed to them will increase this significantly. I also question how many businesses will actually prosper from this, and hope that the proposal could still allow some to have patios while including 2 way traffic. Myself and many residents from Oxford to Willowood, will loose the convenience factor of stopping for a coffee to go, pick up a pizza, or at one of the many new shops- and thus I suspect they will actually loose some local business. Lastly, while no street should include impaired driving- the creation of several hundred more alcohol licenced seats than we've seen in the area- and then forcing them up narrow, single sidewalk residential streets like Schooley that does not have the front yard setbacks of Ridgeway Rd and has several rental properties located on the non sidewalk side (short term renters are less familiar with the speed and dangers of this road) is creating a risk that I am certainly not comfortable with. As a resident I support any new business in town and the restaurant / bar industry is a big

part of this- but I don't wish the small streets of Crystal Beach to become a Pub Crawl. Please give consideration to not approve the one-way traffic portion of the plan - even as a pilot project.

48. On a personal level I don't want this, I drive that road every day there is no easy way to turn traffic the opposite direction without driving them out of the area all together. I also ride my bike down there daily and would love to see the side walk on the south side of Erie expanded similar to the side walk that is closer to the main beach entrance. This would be a great way to improve the flow of people without driving them away from the area. Also we should get one of those CRYSTAL BEACH signs similar to the Niagara Region, where people take pics and post on social media. A great way to promote the beach!

49. Many cars go all the way over to Point Abino and then back, so having a one-way will be an issue as cars who go to Point Abino and then try to get back to Crystal Beach will hit an end at Schooley - and if they are out-of-towners then will have to follow a convoluted route back to the beach. Also, Schooley Road a residential street will face tourist traffic (not fair to those residents).

50. Too much driver confusion would result because of the flip-flopping back and forth. Out of town people aren't going to research traffic patterns before they visit, and GPS systems aren't going to be updated.

51. If our young entrepreneurs with their fledgling businesses along Erie Rd. and Hot Dog Alley want this, I am 100% in support of it. I live on Erie Rd. west of Schooley and I mostly detour around this area anyway in the summer, especially on weekends.