

STATEMENT OF SUPPORT FOR I 81 VIADUCT PROJECT

PUBLIC COMMENT BY THE SYRACUSE URBANISM CLUB

On behalf of the office of the President, SUNY Environmental Science and Forestry would like to formally endorse The Syracuse Urbanism Club's Official Public Comment concerning the I-81 Viaduct Project. The proposal states, "The Community Grid is the right path forward for our city, and we see an opportunity to finetune the details of the project's designs to ensure and even greater success for the NYSDOT's transformative efforts in the Salt City." The proposal strives to enhance the walkability and vibrancy of the community, values which ESF teaches to the future generations of environmental community leaders.

ESF would also like to acknowledge that even if the changes proposed by the Syracuse Urbanism Club were to be implemented, the current I-81 plan falls far short of what is needed to connect communities. It is especially disappointing that the section of I-81 between E-Glen Ave and Martin Luther King East are being left virtually untouched. The only changes being made in this section are the creation of a wall to reduce noise pollution, a far cry from improvements to "connectivity", which was the crux of the I-81 restoration work. ESF believes that in its current state, the I-81 plan will leave community members on the Southside feeling let down and left behind. We urge the city to commit to further improvements as soon as possible.

We, the students, faculty and staff of ESF, hereby support SUNY Environmental Science and Forestry formally signing the position on <https://syracuseurbanism.org/> and ask the New York State Department of Transportation to support making Syracuse accessible and human-centered by implementing the Syracuse Urbanism Clubs Project Recommendations.

In Service and Support,

Matthew Miller
Vice President for Strategic Initiatives