

Mayor O'Neil offered the following Resolution and moved on its adoption:

**R-06-186
RESOLUTION**

**BOROUGH OF HIGHLANDS WITHDRAWING SUPPORT FOR THE
DESTRUCTION OF THE HIGHLANDS TO SEA BRIGHT DRAW BRIDGE
AND OPPOSING THE PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION OF THE FIXED SPAN
BRIDGE**

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Highland make this Resolution to advise the State of New Jersey and its Department of Transportation of the Borough's opposition to any construction project involving the Highlands to Sea Bright Draw Bridge that would destroy and replace the historically significant bridge; and

WHEREAS, the Borough of Highlands agrees with the State of New Jersey and its office of Historic Preservation that there should be a commitment to enhancing the quality of life of the residents of New Jersey through the preservation and appreciation of our collective past by preserving historically significant structures; and

WHEREAS, it is the historic preservation office's mission to assist the residents of New Jersey in identifying, preserving, protecting and sustaining New Jersey's historic resources through the implementation of the State's Historic Preservation Program; and

WHEREAS, some of the historic structures in the immediate proximity of the Highlands Bridge include the Sandy Hook Lighthouse, the Twin Lights Lighthouse, Bahrs Marina which is a historical site and an archeological site, Fort Hancock, and the Sandy Hook Proving Grounds, all of which enhance and are enhanced by the handsome structure of the Highlands Bridge (NOTE: Sandy Hook, Twin Lights and Fort Hancock are National Landmarks); and

WHEREAS, the Highlands Bridge is depicted in several significant photographs and works of art; and

WHEREAS, the Highlands Bridge is a double leaf bascule draw bridge which is historically significant, is part of New Jersey's coastal heritage and represents the character and ambiance of the area surrounding the bridge, including Highlands, Sea Bright, Rumson, Navesink, Monmouth Beach and Sandy Hook; and

WHEREAS, the Highlands Bridge is functioning in sound condition, has an exemplary safety record and can be repaired and maintained in its present form, likely for less money than it would cost to build a new bridge; and

WHEREAS, NJDOT has contended that traffic is an issue, but it is only an issue on the weekends during the summer months and replacement of the draw bridge will not correct this problem; and

WHEREAS, NJDOT has contended that the bridge has gotten stuck numerous times, but the borough has not interpreted this to be a serious issue; and

WHEREAS, the age and design of this functioning double leaf bascule bridge make it a significant historic structure worthy of preservation; and

WHEREAS, the information regarding the need for the destruction of the Highlands draw bridge that was provided to the public by the New Jersey Department of Transportation, has been called into question and is reportedly different from the information provided to the Government.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Highlands hereby withdraw all support for the destruction of the Highlands to Sea Bright Draw Bridge and formally oppose the proposed construction of the fixed span bridge across the Shrewsbury River in place of the draw bridge;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Highlands hereby direct and support the NJDOT to repair the historically significant double leaf bascule bridge over the Shrewsbury River, and to preserve this piece of New Jersey coastal heritage;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Highlands hereby directs that the State and National Historic Preservation Agencies designate the Highlands Bridge as a Historic Structure and a Structure of Historical Significance, the bridge does not have a nomination prepared – it does have a historical significance – it is eligible for the State and National Registers of Historical Places. Once it is in the New State Register, there is an additional process. The Mayor and Council of the Borough of Highlands recommend that the State or other appropriate agency pursue a nomination;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Highlands hereby direct the Clerk to forward certified copies of this Resolution to Governor Jon Corzine, Senator Frank Lautenberg, Senator Robert Menendez, Congressman Frank Pallone, Congressman Rush Holt, State Senator Joseph Palaia, State Senator Joseph Kyrillos, Assemblyman Steven Coredemus, Assemblyman Sean Kean, Senator Ellen Karcher, Assemblyman Michael Panter, Assemblyman Jennifer Beck, the Commissioner of the Department of Transportation, The Commissioner of the Department of Environmental Protection, the Mayor and Council of Sea Bright, Rumson, Middletown, Atlantic Highlands, Monmouth Beach, Little Silver, Oceanport, Gateway National Recreation Area – Sandy Hook and the Monmouth County Board of Chosen Freeholders.

Seconded by Mr. Urbanski and adopted on the following roll call vote:

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Mr. Nolan, Miss Thomas, Mr. Caizza, Mr. Urbanski, Mayor O'Neil

NAYES: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

DATE: December 6, 2006

NINA LIGHT FLANNERY, Borough Clerk

I hereby certify this to be a true copy of the Resolution adopted by the Governing Body of the Borough of Highlands on December 6, 2006.

BOROUGH CLERK/DEPUTY CLERK