

BY: Senator GRIFFO

CONGRATULATING James J. Piccola, Jr. upon the occasion of his retirement after 38 years of distinguished service to the New York State Department of Transportation

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize and honor those distinguished citizens of this great Empire State who have devoted themselves to faithfully serving the best interests of their community and the needs of its residents; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to congratulate James J. Piccola, Jr. upon the occasion of his retirement after 38 years of distinguished service to the New York State Department of Transportation; and

WHEREAS, James J. Piccola, Jr. earned an Associate of Arts and Sciences degree in Building Construction Technology from SUNY Delhi in 1987, and a Bachelor of Science degree in Construction Management from Utica College in 2003; and

WHEREAS, James J. Piccola, Jr. began his illustrious career with the New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT) in 1985 as a seasonal Transportation Construction Inspector in Region 2 before being appointed to a full-time Engineering Technician position in the Design Survey Unit in October of 1990; and

WHEREAS, Over the next 16 years, James J. Piccola, Jr. held progressively higher engineering technician titles while serving as a Construction Materials Inspector, CADD Drafter, Assistant Regional Utility Engineer, and Regional Utility Engineer; and

WHEREAS, In November of 2006, James J. Piccola, Jr. was promoted to a Civil Engineer 1 position in the Regional Planning and Program Management Group where he served as the Local Project Manager for Hamilton, Fulton, and Montgomery Counties for seven years; and

WHEREAS, James J. Piccola, Jr. became the Regional Public Information Officer (PIO) in 2013, while continuing to serve as a Local Project Manager; two years later, while remaining as the PIO, he transitioned to the Construction Group to be an inspector on the Utica North South Arterial Project, the esteemed position from which he will officially retire on April 27, 2023; and

WHEREAS, James J. Piccola, Jr. has continuously demonstrated exceptional leadership, teamwork, and work ethic in his role as Region 2's Public Information Officer; his efforts have been instrumental in establishing NYSDOT as a transparent and trustworthy State agency in the Mohawk Valley Region; and

WHEREAS, Furthermore, he is a trusted source of accurate information for numerous media outlets, elected officials, and the public in general; and

WHEREAS, Throughout his extraordinary career, which traversed nearly four decades, James J. Piccola, Jr. has served as a vital link between what is happening on site and with the public with his detailed, consistent updates, including traffic pattern changes that affect thousands of motorists every day; such transparency has made for a smoother process for both contractor and constituent; and

WHEREAS, A longtime engaged member and supporter of the New York State Association of Transportation Engineers (NYSATE), James J. Piccola, Jr. has been a member of Section 2 since 1990, and has participated in numerous Sectional events and fundraisers; and

WHEREAS, James J. Piccola, Jr. was the proud recipient of the 2021 Commissioner's Meritorious Achievement Award by NYSDOT, the second highest employee award, for his substantial contributions to the department's mission; and

WHEREAS, With a steadfast and unwavering commitment to his community, James J. Piccola, Jr. has served as an AYSO soccer coach and Little League baseball coach; his dedication to mentoring young people was recognized by the Oneida-Herkimer-Oneida BOCES School and Business Alliance; and

WHEREAS, In his spare time, James J. Piccola, Jr. enjoys cooking, hiking the Adirondacks, and spending time with family and friends; and

WHEREAS, With him throughout have been his wife of 30 years, Kathy, and their two children, Ryan and Marissa, all of whom feel privileged to be a part of his life and rejoice in his many achievements; and

WHEREAS, Rare indeed is the occurrence of such a compassionate blending of strength, leadership, intellect, and commitment as that demonstrated by James J. Piccola, Jr. over a lifetime of sacrifice and dedication to others; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to congratulate James J. Piccola, Jr. upon the occasion of his retirement, and to wish him well in all his future endeavors; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to James J. Piccola, Jr.