

ERIE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

MEMORANDUM

TO: Richard Tobe, Commissioner, Dept. of Environment and Planning

FROM: John C. Loffredo, P.E., Commissioner of Public Works

DATE: January 18, 1989

SUBJECT: County Sidewalk Policy

A meeting was held in my office on January 10 attended by you and others regarding Erie County's policy on the installation and maintenance of sidewalks within the right-of-way of County owned roads throughout the 1,000 square miles encompassing Erie County.


I am forwarding herewith a copy of correspondence recently forwarded over the signature of the County Executive on this matter. It states that "Erie County does not install nor maintain any sidewalks throughout the 1,200 miles of County roads encompassing 25 towns, 16 villages and 3 cities. The responsibility for such is the purview of the local government."

As background on this subject I refer you to Highway Law Article 7, Section 136 and 151 wherein it is stated that "The town board of any such town may by resolution, direct the town superintendent to construct a sidewalk along a described portion of any highway of the town, including county roads" and "no such sidewalk shall be built along any county road until the county superintendent of highways shall have made his consent thereto."

Although we are in agreement that sidewalks are necessary in many locations to assure safe passage of pedestrian traffic such as in close proximity to schools, shopping malls and other high population density areas, it continues to be County policy that the installation and maintenance of any required sidewalks be the responsibility of the local governing body inasmuch as they are an improvement that benefits the immediate residents to a considerably greater degree than the County at large.

I hope this adequately covers the concerns expressed in the above referenced meeting. However, if you have any additional questions regarding this matter please feel free to call Deputy Commissioner John Gugino at 846-8369.

JCL/JJG/kg
cc: J. Gugino; P.E.
S. J. Hawkins, P.E.


JOHN C. LOFFREDO, P.E.
Commissioner of Public Works