

*March 4, 2010*

*Transmitted via e-mail:*

During this morning's conference call with Corporation Counsel for the City of Syracuse, the New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT) reiterated the offer that we had made late yesterday afternoon. We extended this offer in order to assist the City of Syracuse with the code enforcement action that the City commenced on February 3, 2010 with respect to the demolition of building(s) at 921-25 North State Street. NYSDOT proposes the following:

1. The City of Syracuse sends NYSDOT a letter confirming that the City has the right to enter and occupy 921-25 North State Street, Syracuse, New York for the purposes of accomplishing the demolition of building(s) on that property.
2. In that same letter, the City requests the State (NYSDOT) to assist the City by demolishing the building or buildings at 921-25 North State Street and assures the State that the City will deal with the post-demolition clean-up of 921-25 North State Street, which, we expect, will include securing the site from trespassers to make it safe and protecting the surrounding area from airborne or other contaminants or materials, and removing the demolition debris.
3. The City agrees to use reasonable efforts to recover any insurance or other funds available from the property owner and, in order to reimburse the State for costs incurred for the demolition, as well as to reimburse the City for its costs, to share any recovery with NYSDOT in proportion to the City's and NYSDOT's respective outlays for the demolition, site protection and clean-up.
4. NYSDOT will retain a contractor to demolish the building(s), as necessary to provide for the safety of Interstate Route 81 and the travelers on the Interstate highway and will accomplish the demolition as soon as possible. (We mentioned that the Department is already in the process of locating a demolition contractor.)

We believe that this approach is a sensible, quick, and balanced way for the Department to work with the City to remove the hazard that threatens not just I-81, but the Syracuse neighborhood of 921-25 North State Street. Because tearing down the building that necessitated the closure of I-81 will allow the Department to get the interstate open as soon as possible, the Department looks forward to assisting the City in this way to complete the demolition called for in the City's Code Enforcement Order of February 3.

Many thanks.