

**RESOLUTION NO. 366 -2013, UTILIZING STATE FUNDS TO
EXPAND BUS SERVICE IN SUFFOLK COUNTY**

WHEREAS, the County of Suffolk oversees public bus transportation; and

WHEREAS, a successful pilot program for Sunday and holiday bus service has been in effect for two summer seasons (Memorial Day to Columbus Day) on two eastern Suffolk Routes (S92 and 10C) subsidized in part by a twenty-five cent higher main fare on these riders; and

WHEREAS, Sunday service is needed throughout Suffolk County on a year round basis; and

WHEREAS, public transportation during evening hours remains limited; and

WHEREAS, expanding public bus service provides significant environmental and economic benefits for Suffolk County; and

WHEREAS, New York State recently increased its State Transit Operating Assistance (“STOA”) for Suffolk Transit by approximately \$2,000,000 above the level anticipated in the Suffolk County Fiscal Year 2013 Budget; and

WHEREAS, a report issued by Abrams-Cherwony & Associates in October 2008, recommended that the County increase bus service in the evening hours and provide Sunday service on specific bus routes; and

WHEREAS, the County should use the increased State funding to extend evening hours and increase the areas where Sunday bus service is available; and

WHEREAS, the County should also seek federal grant funding to increase bus service; now, therefore be it

1st RESOLVED, that it shall be the policy of the County of Suffolk to use \$1.1 million of the increased funding provided by New York State in the 2013 State Transit Operating Assistance Allocation for Suffolk Transit to expand bus services in Suffolk County in the evening and on Sundays; and be it further

2nd RESOLVED, that the Department of Public Works is hereby authorized, empowered and directed to apply for federal matching grant funding through the Job Access Reverse Commute (“JARC”) program, with the goal of achieving a total of \$2 million in new funding for expanded Sunday and evening bus service; and be it further

3rd RESOLVED, that the Department of Public Works will utilize the Abrams-Cherwony & Associates report, “Comprehensive Bus Route Analysis and Service Development for the Suffolk County Transit Public Bus System” as a guiding document in developing their plan for enhanced service; and be it further

4th **RESOLVED**, that the Department of Public Works is hereby directed to develop a plan, within 30 days of the effective date of this resolution, to expand the County's bus service in the evening hours and on Sundays to the fullest extent possible within the limits of the additional State funding; and be it further

5th **RESOLVED**, that the County of Suffolk shall not offset the increased State funding with a reduction in the level of County funding for public bus transportation; and be it further

6th **RESOLVED**, that the plan for expanded bus service, once enacted, shall be continued as a pilot program for one year; and be it further

7th **RESOLVED**, that the Department of Public Works will report on the success of the pilot program to the County Legislature's Public Works Committee no later than 270 days after the pilot program begins and make recommendations as to the feasibility of continuing the program beyond the one-year pilot period; and be it further

8th **RESOLVED**, that this Legislature, being the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA) lead agency, hereby finds and determines that this resolution constitutes a Type II action pursuant to Section 617.5(c)(20), (21) and (27) of Title 6 of the NEW YORK CODE OF RULES AND REGULATIONS (6 NYCRR) and within the meaning of Section 8-0109(2) of the NEW YORK ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION LAW as a promulgation of regulations, rules, policies, procedures, and legislative decisions in connection with continuing agency administration, management and information collection, and the Suffolk County Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) is hereby directed to circulate any appropriate SEQRA notices of determination of non-applicability or non-significance in accordance with this resolution.

DATED: May 7, 2013

APPROVED BY:

/s/ Steven Bellone
County Executive of Suffolk County

Date: May 15, 2013