

Honorable Dorothy Goosby • Honorable Steve Flotteron • Honorable Mark Mayoka • Honorable James Wooten • AARP • Concerned Citizens of Plainview/Old Bethpage • Coram Civic Association • Friends of Huntington Station • Gordon Heights Civic Association • Hicksville Chamber of Commerce • Let There Be Lighthouse • Mt. Sinai Civic Association • Middle Island Civic Association • Rocky Point Civic Association • Tri-State Transportation Campaign • Vision Long Island

February 18, 2010

Acting Commissioner Stanley Gee
New York State Department of Transportation
50 Wolf Road
Albany, NY 12232

Re: Pedestrian Fatality Report

Dear Commissioner Gee:

Last month the Tri-State Transportation Campaign released its annual *Most Dangerous Roads for Walking* report which, once again, has found that Long Island has the two most dangerous roads for pedestrians in the tri-state region. In fact, 174 pedestrians were killed in Nassau and Suffolk Counties alone from 2006-2008, nearly double the pedestrian fatalities in the entire state of Connecticut over the same time period.

As you may know, Long Island's roads have been among the most dangerous in the region to pedestrians, cyclists and motorists for some time now.

We write to ask that you take immediate action to fix the most dangerous roadways, including Hempstead Turnpike, Sunrise Highway, Middle Country Road, Merrick Road, Jericho Turnpike, and Montauk Highway.

Last year, Governor Paterson and former NYS DOT Commissioner Astrid Glynn announced a 'SafeSeniors' pilot program along a portion of Hempstead Turnpike in Nassau County and a segment of Sunrise Highway in Suffolk County. This effort is a good step and was applauded by some of our organizations.

However in light of this most recent report, it is clear that more needs to be done to create roads that are safe for all users. While we understand that the current economic climate has created a challenging environment for state agencies, we believe retrofitting roads to incorporate pedestrian and cycling infrastructure are good 'bang for your buck' investments, or small investments that go a long way towards achieving NYS DOT's goal of safer streets.

We urge you to work with NYS DOT's Region 10 leadership to take the following actions:

- Set goals to reduce fatalities on these roadways within the next two years and create streets redesign plans to meet those goals.
- Support legislative efforts to approve a statewide complete streets policy.

Sincerely,

Hon. Dorothy Goosby
Councilwoman
Town of Hempstead

Hon. Mark Mayoka
Councilman
Town of Huntington

Carol Meschcow
Concerned Citizens of Plainview/Old Bethpage

Kim D'Ambrosia
Friends of Huntington Station

James Pavone
Hicksville Chamber of Commerce

Diedre Dubato
Mount Sinai Civic Association

Drew Martin
Rocky Point Civic Association

Kate Slevin
Executive Director
Tri-State Transportation Campaign

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Councilman
Town of Islip

Hon. James Wooten
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Town of Riverhead

Erma Gluck
Coram Civic Association

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Let There Be Lighthouse

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Cc.

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