



Legislator Carrié Solages

3rd Legislative District

1550 Franklin Avenue, Mineola, NY 11501



Legislator Solages' Public Safety Update

Emergency Public Safety Meeting Follow-up

On Thursday, November 8, 2018, I hosted an Emergency Public Meeting with Police Commissioner Ryder, Department of Public Works Commissioner Ken Arnold, Deputy County Executive Brian Schneider, Town Supervisor Laura Gillen and staff members from the Town and County.



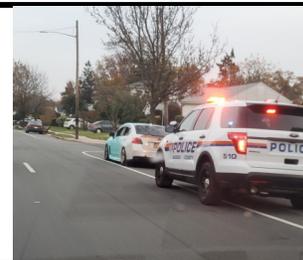
This meeting was held in response to the accident on Halloween involving 4 students from Elmont Memorial Junior Senior High School. The safety of all pedestrians and drivers is a priority to me. This was not the first time an accident occurred on a County Road. In 2015 and 2016, fatal accidents involving pedestrians occurred on both Elmont Road and Dutch Broadway.

Although we have been able to secure more crossing guards and increase enforcement, the efforts for long term solutions was taking too long under the previous Administration. As a result, I secured funding for traffic safety studies and improvements, and have been working with the new Administration on their completion. As you may know the Legislature is responsible for securing funding for Capital projects, but it is the role of the County Executive to utilize this funding. The traffic safety studies are required under State and Federal regulations to ensure that the proper safety improvements are being implemented. Various studies were already underway before this most recent tragedy. After this most recent tragedy, County Executive Laura Curran assured me that implementing safety improvements remains a top priority. She then ensured that her top staff was present at the meeting to present the information on what has been done, and what will be done to improve pedestrian and driver safety on County Roads, specifically, Elmont Road and Dutch Broadway.

At the meeting, officials from Nassau County and the Town of Hempstead listened to community input, and discussed projects that were already underway, as well as potential short and long term solutions.

Increased Police Enforcement

Police Commissioner Ryder ensured increased patrols on areas discussed at the meetings, specifically near the schools at drop off and dismissal. **He also warned residents that increased enforcement would be for everyone not following traffic laws, so please drive safely.**



Immediate Short Term Solutions

Along with increased Police enforcement, the Department of Public Works and Police Department have begun immediate solutions to increase traffic safety in the area. These immediate solutions have included: Temporary Driver Feedback Devices placed; additional flood lights placed at intersection of Elmont Road and Dutch Broadway to improve visibility for students and pedestrians using the intersection after dark; additional signs installed; repaired Crosswalk Signal at Dutch Broadway and Ridge Road; and, temporary signage regarding speeding enforcement.



**SLOW DOWN
SAVE A LIFE**

Long Term Solutions Discussed at Meeting

Ridge Road Traffic Light and Crosswalk Signal- Commissioner Arnold reports that the existing signals had been working, before recently being damaged by an accident. New wiring had been installed, and the Department was waiting on equipment to be delivered and installed for the new signal controllers. The Department will also look into coordinating the traffic light at Ridge Road with Elmont Road.

School Zone on Dutch Broadway for Elmont Memorial Junior Senior High School- Commissioner Arnold and Supervisor Gillen will work together to create a School Zone on Dutch Broadway near Elmont Memorial Junior Senior High School. Once the School Zone is established, Department of Public Works will place appropriate signage, and the Nassau Police Department will enforce the School Zone.

Crosswalk Signals on Dutch Broadway at Tuxedo and Harriet- Pedestrian signals under construction, expected to be completed in early December.

Crosswalk Signals on Dutch Broadway at Dauntless and Fletcher- Awaiting poles for pedestrian signals, expected to be completed by end of December.

Speed Bumps/Speed Humps- Supervisor Gillen announced at the meeting that, while speed bumps are not a possibility on Town of Hempstead roads, she will look into feasibility of installing speed humps on certain town roads.

Speed Awareness Devices at Post Office, Elmont Road- Foundations were placed for the devices, awaiting delivery of the speed awareness units this week. Units will be installed once delivered.

School Speed Zone Driver Feedback Devices- These are the permanent devices that alert drivers to their vehicle speed. Data has already been collected and a determination has been made to install devices at Elmont Memorial Junior Senior High School, with design beginning shortly, with construction expected next spring. Investigations for these devices has occurred/will occur at the following locations: Dutch Broadway School; Carbonaro School on Mill Road; and, Alden Terrace School on Central Avenue. Once data collection occurs, final determinations will be made in the following weeks.



Traffic Safety Study for Elmont Road and Dutch Broadway

Data collection at major intersections along both Dutch Broadway and Elmont Road has been occurring since earlier this year. From this data, the selected engineering firm will develop recommendations to slow traffic, reduce accident frequency and severity, improve walkability, etc. Possible measures that may be considered include: lane narrowing; lane diets; curb extensions & bump-outs; sidewalk & ramp improvements; crosswalk, turn & parking restrictions; median construction; new turn lanes; traffic signals; traffic signal modifications; pedestrian timing/phasing enhancements; driver feedback devices; school crossings; and, route identification. Implementation of these improvements must follow local, state and federal guidelines.

Crossing Guards Needed

Crossing Guards were a major topic brought up at the meeting. Commissioner Ryder reported that the Nassau County Police Department is currently seeking Part-time Crossing Guards for assignments throughout Nassau County. All interested candidates meeting the qualifications for an NCPD Crossing Guard can obtain an application by going to the link below or by visiting any Nassau County Police Precinct- <https://www.pdcn.org/DocumentCenter/View/534>

Follow-up to the Meeting

I would like to thank everyone who came to the November 8th Meeting. It was important to discuss these issues, and we must work together for solutions. **I am in the process of setting up a follow-up meeting with the County and Town to discuss the status of these issues. The meeting is expected to occur early next year at the Elmont Library. As soon as the date is set, I will let residents know.**

If anyone has additional concerns, please feel free to reach out to my office at (516)571-6203 or csolages@nassaucountyny.gov