



**News from
Assemblyman Steve Otis
Senator George Latimer**

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For Immediate Release:

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**OTIS, LATIMER AND LOCAL SAFETY ADVOCATES UNVEIL
NEW SCHOOL SPEED ZONE SIGNAGE IN VILLAGE OF MAMARONECK**

On August 29th, a broad coalition of state and local stakeholders, gathered to celebrate the unveiling of new School Speed Zone signs, on the state-owned Boston Post Road in the vicinity of Mamaroneck High School between the Mamaroneck Town Center and Richbell Road. The 20 miles/hour speed zone has been sought by the community for a number of years and will be in effect on school days between the hours of 7:00 am to 6:00 pm.

New “School Crossing Ahead” signs have also been installed on the Boston Post Road in advance of Mamaroneck High School and Hommocks Middle School to alert motorists of school activity ahead as they approach the new reduced speed zone area. Working with the NYS DOT, Assemblyman Steve Otis (D-Rye), Senator George Latimer (D-Rye) and local officials developed the new plan to address school pedestrian safety concerns for both schools.

“The key to addressing long-standing pedestrian safety concerns around Mamaroneck High School was to bring together State DOT officials, School Superintendent Bob Shaps, local officials, law enforcement and Mamaroneck’s Safe Routes to School advocates,” said Assemblyman Otis (D-Rye), who was instrumental in assembling the coalition and bringing the concerns of local safety advocates to the attention of state transportation officials. “Everyone worked diligently to achieve these much-needed improvements. NYS DOT and Governor Cuomo are playing a leadership role in supporting innovative pedestrian safety measures around the state.”

“With the success of the Safe Routes to School (SRTS) program that was launched in 2007, pedestrian and bicycle activity on the Boston Post Road has increased dramatically over the past decade,” observed Senator Latimer (D-Rye). “This has highlighted the need to adopt traffic calming measures on this heavily traveled corridor.”

“Safety is the Department of Transportation’s top priority and, under Governor Cuomo’s leadership, we have been able to improve safety for pedestrians, cyclists, and motorists throughout the Hudson Valley. Designing the school zone adjacent to Mamaroneck High School and enhancing signage there makes it safer for the young adults walking and cycling in the neighborhood, reminding motorists to use extra caution when traveling through the area,” stated Todd B. Westhuis, NYS DOT Hudson Valley’s Regional Director.

“On behalf of the district, I applaud this collaborative effort by Safe Routes to School, elected officials and the State Department of Transportation to designate this area as a reduced speed zone and help ensure a safe school environment,” said Mamaroneck Public Schools Superintendent Dr. Robert Shaps, who noted that a large percentage of Mamaroneck’s student body and staff travel along this stretch of Boston Post Road before, during and after the school day. “We look forward to notifying our families and staff of this significant change.”

“Since our community was introduced to the Safe Routes to School initiative in 2008, students, parents and teachers have a better understanding of the physical and social benefits of walking and cycling to school,” noted Safe Routes Program Coordinator Kim Larsen. “The number of students biking and walking to school has doubled in that time, and with hundreds of students on the Boston Post road corridor every school day, we are thrilled to have this speed zone in place.”

In October 2016, Assemblyman Otis and Senator Latimer convened a meeting with NYS DOT representatives and local stakeholders to explore several pedestrian safety options that could address the increasing safety concerns. After surveying the area, inspecting traffic signals and reviewing accident reports with a small working group, NYS DOT representatives acknowledged that the increased number of students walking to school and bicycling on the sidewalks posed a significant safety issue.

On May 8, 2017, the Village of Mamaroneck passed a resolution to support and guide NYS DOT’s safety initiatives, and NYS DOT agreed to establish a School Speed Zone in front of the Mamaroneck High School. NYS DOT will also permit the Village to install pavement markings identifying the “School Zone” on both approaches to the Mamaroneck High School. “It is our intention to install these pavement markings this fall to further enhance pedestrian safety as motorists approach the new school speed zone, with thanks to Assemblyman Steve Otis and NYS DOT, whose support made this possible,” said Mamaroneck Mayor Norman Rosenblum.

“We in the Town thank the State for responding to our request to reduce the speed limit in front of Mamaroneck High School to improve safety for all pedestrians and bicyclists, especially our school students,” stated Mamaroneck Town Supervisor Nancy Seligson.

Photo Caption – Gathering to announce new school traffic safety improvements in front of Mamaroneck High School are Superintendent of Mamaroneck Public Schools Dr. Robert Shaps, Assemblyman Steve Otis, Deputy Town Supervisor Jaine Elkind Eney, Mamaroneck Mayor Norman Rosenblum, NYS DOT Assistant Commissioner Thomas McIntyre, Senator George Latimer, BOE President Melany Gray and NYS DOT Regional Director Todd Westhuis.

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