



ULSTER COUNTY LEGISLATIVE NEWS

ULSTER COUNTY NEWS INFORMATION
OFFICE OF ULSTER COUNTY LEGISLATURE
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 29, 2017

LEGISLATOR ROBERTS “HIGHLY DISAPPOINTED” BY NYS DOT REPLY TO CONCERNS ON FOREST ROAD



Photo shows the high density of homes along a section of Forest Road in Plattekill

Plattekill, NY – “I’m highly disappointed and I know the residents are, too,” said Ulster County Legislator Kevin Roberts in response to a recent letter from New York State Department of Transportation regarding repeated requests from local residence and county officials to reduce the speed limit for a detour on Forest Road during the highway construction project for the New York State Thruway Bridge over Route 32.

Forest Road, also known as CR 20, spans the border between Ulster and Orange Counties to NY State Route 300 and has been designated as part of a detour when work begins in July to reconstruct the NYS Thruway Bridge overpass on NYS Route 32. The speed limit on Forest Road in the Town of Plattekill in Ulster County has always been 45MPH with the speed limit increasing to 55 MPH immediately upon crossing the Ulster County boundary into the Town of Newburgh in Orange County.

NYSDOT plans for the detour will reduce the speed limit in the Orange County section to from 55 MPH to 45 MPH but they did not reduce the speed limit in Ulster County keeping it at 45 MPH in Ulster. Roberts noted the Ulster County section has numerous driveways and intersections that warrant a lower speed limit and feels the speed limit on the Ulster County section of Forest Road should have been reduced to at least 35 MPH during the detour.

“This is a huge volume of traffic being funneled into this country road,” said Roberts. Reducing the speed limit 10 MPH like they did in Orange County, is the prudent and reasonable thing to do.”

Roberts sponsored an Ulster County Legislative resolution in April asking NYSDOT to reduce the speed limit to 35 MPH in Ulster County and supporting the request for a traffic study. In the resolution, Roberts cited both police and citizens reports and observations of dangerous conditions caused by numerous driveways and intersections. He noted that the Town Board of the Town of Newburgh made a formal request for a traffic study as well.

In a letter dated June 19, 2017 NYSDOT Regional Traffic Engineer Adam Levine responded to the Ulster County Legislature’s request stating “The New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT) had determined that the temporary speed limit for the detour will be 45 MPH.”

“Clearly, they don’t get it.” said Roberts. “There are too many house, driveways and kids riding bikes, for the volume of cars and trucks that routinely use Route 32.”

Roberts is also working with the Ulster County Sheriff’s office and asking for increased police presence for the duration of the detour to enforce the speed limit and encourages drivers who will be using this route to be especially vigilant and avoid distractions like using cell phones or other diversions in the car.

“Everyone understands the need for the detour and is willing to tolerate the added traffic for a few months, but we want it to be safe.”

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Attachments

June 19, 2019 letter from NYSDOT

Ulster County Legislature Resolution No. 145 of April 2017



Department of
Transportation

ANDREW M. CUOMO
Governor

MATTHEW J. DRISCOLL
Commissioner

TODD WESTHUIS, P.E.
Regional Director

June 19, 2017

Honorable Jay Mahler
Deputy Clerk
Ulster County Legislature
PO Box 1800
Kingston, N.Y. 12402

Re: ML2374

Dear Mr. Mahler:

Thank you for your letter of May 2, 2017 conveying the request from Ulster County for a speed limit reduction on Forest Road (County Route 20) in the Town of Plattekill.

A temporarily reduced construction speed limit for the detour on Forest Road will be instituted at the beginning of the highway construction project for the New York State Thruway Bridge over Route 32. The New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT) has determined that the temporary speed limit for the detour will be 45 MPH.

Upon completion of the construction project and subsequent removal of the detour, the Town can then officially request a study of the existing regulatory speed limit. Our process starts with the Town so that we can ensure local support for the requested change.

To initiate such a study, the Town of Plattekill would provide an official Town Resolution, together with a TE-9 form (enclosed), and map highlighting the particular section of Forest Road (CR 20) within the Town limits. These documents would then be submitted to the Ulster County Department of Public Works (UCDPW) for review. Upon completion, the UCDPW will forward the package to the NYSDOT where an official investigation will be conducted and a final determination will be made.

Thank you for bringing your concerns to our attention. If you require further information on this request, please contact the Regional Traffic Safety & Mobility Group at (845) 437-3396.

Very truly yours,

Adam Levine, P.E., AICP
Regional Traffic Engineer

RECEIVED

JUN 22 2017

ULSTER COUNTY LEGISLATURE

Regional Traffic Engineer
Region No. _____
Department of Transportation

The Town Board of the Town of _____, by a resolution adopted _____ (*Date*), and the County Superintendent of Highways of the County of _____, hereby request the Department of Transportation, pursuant to Section 1622.1 of the Vehicle and Traffic Law, to establish a lower maximum speed at which vehicles may proceed on _____, a **County Road / Town Highway** (*Circle One*) between _____ and _____.

Upon receipt of the notice that the regulation herein requested has been established, the _____ of _____, will provide, install and maintain signs in accordance with the Vehicle and Traffic Law and conforming to the Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices of the Department of Transportation.

Dated

Town Clerk

Dated

County Superintendent

Comments by County Superintendent:

Supporting A Request For A Traffic Study And Permanent Speed Limit Reduction, And Requesting A Reduced Detour Speed Limit With Increased State Police Presence On Forest Road In Plattekill

Referred to: The Public Works and Capital Projects Committee (Chairman Fabiano and Legislators Greene, Litts, Loughran, and Maloney)

Legislator Kevin Roberts offers the following:

WHEREAS, the Town of Plattekill has been advised that New York State plans to begin work in July 2017 to reconstruct the NYS Thruway overpass on NYS Route 32 in the Town of Plattekill; and

WHEREAS, Forest Road, spanning across the border between Ulster and Orange Counties, to NYS Route 300 is to be designated as part of the detour route during the period the overpass is reconstructed; and

WHEREAS, Forest Road is frequently and routinely traveled by residents from both Ulster and Orange Counties; and

WHEREAS, the speed limit on Forest Road in the Town of Plattekill, Ulster County is 45 MPH, with the speed limit being increased to 55 MPH immediately upon crossing the Ulster County boundary to the Town of Newburgh, Orange County; and

WHEREAS, based upon both police and citizens' reports and observations, there are concerns with traffic safety on Forest Road, particularly in light of the increased traffic volumes that will be produced by the detour designation and the numerous intersections and driveways on the road; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board of the Town of Newburgh has reviewed the matter and concluded that a reduction in the speed limit on Forest Road from 55 MPH is in the interest of public safety; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the Town Board of the Town of Newburgh Resolution dated February 14, 2017, a formal request was made to the NYS Department of Transportation to perform a traffic study of the Forest Road maximum speed limit in light of the increased traffic volumes projected to occur, as well as a request required by Vehicle and Traffic Law Section 1622 to the Department of Transportation for a reduction in the maximum speed limit from 55 MPH; and, be it further

Resolution No. 145 April 18, 2017

Supporting A Request For A Traffic Study And Permanent Speed Limit Reduction, And Requesting A Reduced Detour Speed Limit With Increased State Police Presence On Forest Road In Plattekill

WHEREAS, the Orange County Legislature and the Town Board of the Town of Plattekill are currently in the process of considering resolutions supporting the Town of Newburgh requests; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, the Ulster County Legislature hereby supports the above mentioned requests for a traffic study of the Forest Road maximum speed limit and a reduction in the maximum speed limit from 55 MPH; and, be it further

RESOLVED, the Ulster County Legislature supports a reduction in the speed limit to 35 MPH on Forest Road for the duration of the detour; and, be it further

RESOLVED, the Ulster County Legislature encourages an increased State Police presence along the detour route for the duration of the reconstruction project; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Clerk of the Ulster County Legislature shall forward copies of this resolution to the Orange County Legislature, the Town Board of the Town of Plattekill, the Town Board of the Town of Newburgh, Senator William J. Larkin, Jr., Assemblymen Kevin A. Cahill and Frank Skartados, and the appropriate offices of the New York State Department of Transportation,

and move its adoption.

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 21 NOES: 1
(Noes: Legislators J. Parete)
(Absent: Legislators Briggs)

Passed Committee: Public Works and Capital Projects on April 11, 2017

FINANCIAL IMPACT:
NONE

Resolution No. 145 April 18, 2017

**Supporting A Request For A Traffic Study And Permanent Speed
Limit Reduction, And Requesting A Reduced Detour Speed Limit
With Increased State Police Presence On Forest Road In Plattekill**

STATE OF NEW YORK

ss:

COUNTY OF ULSTER

I, the undersigned Clerk of the Legislature of the County of Ulster, hereby certify that the foregoing resolution is the original resolution adopted by the Ulster County Legislature on the 18th Day of April in the year Two Thousand and Seventeen, and said resolution shall remain on file in the office of said clerk.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and seal of the County of Ulster this 21st Day of April in the year Two Thousand and Seventeen.

/s/ Victoria A. Fabella
Victoria A. Fabella, Clerk
Ulster County Legislature