



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

James L. Seward

## Seward Calls On NYSDOT To Expedite Cortland County Road Work

JAMES L. SEWARD December 2, 2010

| ISSUE: **TRANSPORTATION, HIGHWAYS**

CORTLAND, 12/01/10 – State Senator James L. Seward (R/C/I–Oneonta) is calling on the New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT) to complete reconstruction work of the route 281 and 13 corridor in the Town of Cortlandville on the original timetable.

**“Delaying reconstruction of this important thoroughfare restricts traffic flow and threatens the safety of the traveling public,”** said Senator Seward. **“The route 281 and 13 corridor is growing and further delays of this project will stifle desired development and inconvenience local business owners.”**

Senator Seward recently sent a letter to the New York State Department of Transportation calling for an accelerated start date for **phase two** of the reconstruction project. Seward says now that phase one of the project is complete, a long gap in completing phase two will exasperate traffic difficulties.

In the letter, Seward states: *“The unfinished project has created a hazardous situation in that the newly reconstructed portion of the highway merges from a multi lane highway into a two lane highway. This has led to unfortunate traffic bottlenecks, which is of particular concern for emergency vehicles transporting patients to and from nearby Cortland Regional Medical Center.”*

NYS DOT has cited fiscal difficulties as the reason for postponing work from the scheduled 2011 start date to 2013. The town board of the Town of Cortlandville recently adopted a resolution urging the state to adhere to the original schedule.

**“While I fully understand the depth of New York’s economic difficulties, I am greatly concerned that holding up this essential public safety project puts lives at risk. I am hopeful that the DOT will reconsider and move forward on this project as soon as possible,”** Seward concluded.