THE SENATE
STATE OF NEW YORK

ROBERT G. ORTT
SENATOR, 62ND DISTRICT

August 25, 2016

Commissioner Matthew J. Driscoll
New York State Department of Transportation
50 Wolf Rd.
Albany, NY 12232

Dear Commissioner Driscoll,

I write to you today to inform you of, and seek your assistance with, a recent tragedy that took place in a community within my district.

On Saturday, August 20, two teenagers were struck and killed while walking along Shawnee Road in the Town of Wheatfield. While there are no actions that can fill the void left by the lives that we have lost, it is my hope that we can work to prevent future tragedies in my community and across the state.

A law enforcement investigation is currently underway, and we must certainly review those facts when they are available. However, in the meantime, I am asking that the Department of Transportation (DOT) conduct a review pertaining to Shawnee Road - specifically the current speed limit as well as the lack of restrictions on parking along both lanes of the roadway.

I request that you please make me aware of these efforts and inform me regarding any findings and determinations. If there are any measures that we can take to protect motorists and pedestrians, we must pursue them in an expedited matter. Whether they are administratively through DOT, or legislatively through my office, I believe we owe it to New Yorkers to ensure safety on and alongside our roads.

Faithfully Yours,

Robert G. Ortt
State Senator, 62nd District

RGO:kc
Cc: Darrell Kaminski, PE