



STATE OF NEW YORK
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
ALBANY, N.Y. 12232
www.dot.ny.gov

JOAN McDONALD
COMMISSIONER

ANDREW M. CUOMO
GOVERNOR

January 9, 2015

Honorable James L. Seward
New York State Senate
41 South Main Street
Oneonta, NY 13820

Dear Senator Seward:

Thank you for your letter regarding Route 80 in Otsego County.

I understand the sensitivity of Otsego Lake not only to the community but to all New Yorkers who visit the Glimmerglass Historic District. As you know, when this issue was brought to my attention, I directed my engineering staff to take a fresh look at alternative solutions to this safety project that would minimize the disruption to the lakefront, while providing necessary safety improvements to Route 80 in Cooperstown.

I have taken into consideration all the comments and concerns raised in the process, with sensitivity to the residents, community and tourism. The New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT), has determined that a safety project can advance that will keep traffic flowing, not affect Otsego Lake, and allow access to the properties.

The work will involve the removal of the existing retaining wall system and replacement with a concrete retaining wall system at the same location with an aesthetic treatment incorporated. New asphalt pavement shall be installed across the entire two lanes for the length of the reconstruction area. There will be access to the properties throughout the project construction.

NYSDOT also has taken into consideration the timing of the work necessary for this project and our goal is to have this project started in March 2015 and completed by Memorial Day.

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Since circumstances are different for everyone, NYSDOT Legal staff will be happy to meet with residents to discuss their unique situations. I believe it is important to maintain their privacy as we discuss this sensitive issue. For constituents who filed Freedom of Information (FOIL), NYSDOT Legal staff followed the process and reviewed and provided all documents required by law.

I appreciate your patience as my staff worked to develop an alternative that would improve the safety of Route 80 while minimizing impacts to nearby properties. If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact Diane Lombardi, Director, Office of External Relations, at (518) 457-2345.

*We have a good
plan here - let
me know if
you have
any questions*

Sincerely,

Joan McDonald
Joan McDonald
Commissioner

cc: Phillip Eng, Executive Deputy Commissioner
Diane Lombardi, Office of External Relations
Jack Williams, Regional Director, Region 9