

LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING
ALBANY, NEW YORK 12247
(518) 455-3131

41 S. MAIN STREET
ONEONTA, NEW YORK 13820
(607) 432-5524

WWW.SENATORJIMSEWARD.COM
SEWARD@SENATE.STATE.NY.US

THE SENATE
STATE OF NEW YORK



JAMES L. SEWARD

SENATOR, 51ST DISTRICT

November 15, 2010

Stanley Gee, Acting Commissioner
New York State Department of Transportation
50 Wolf Road
Albany, N.Y. 12232

Dear Commissioner Gee:

I am writing to urge you to return to the original timetable established for phase two of the planned reconstruction of the route 281 and 13 corridor in the town of Cortlandville, which is located in my 51st senate district.

As you may know, the route 281 and 13 corridor serves as the sole means for motorists who travel from Ithaca, Elmira and other locations from the south and west of Cortland to reach the entrance to Interstate Route 81 in the town of Homer. Given the tremendous growth the area has seen in recent years, it has become essential to reconstruct the corridor to improve the flow of traffic as well as to ensure the safety of the traveling public.

With phase one of the project already completed, it concerns me to learn that phase two has been delayed until at least 2013. Phase one of the project has resulted in significant improvements in traffic flow on the portion of routes 281 and 13 that have been completed thus far.

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.

While I am acutely aware of the fiscal difficulties currently facing the state, I would ask that you move up the start date for phase two of the reconstruction project as far as possible in order to ameliorate these critical safety concerns and ensure optimal traffic flow for this rapidly growing area.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or need additional information.

Sincerely yours,

JAMES L. SEWARD

State Senator