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**THE SENATE
STATE OF NEW YORK**



**SENATOR
SEAN M. RYAN
61ST DISTRICT**

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March 6, 2023

Marie Therese Dominguez, Esq.
Commissioner
NYS Department of Transportation
Executive Office
50 Wolf Road
Albany, NY 12232

Dear Commissioner Dominguez:

I write today regarding a significant traffic concern located in my district in the Town of Amherst. The Town of Amherst Traffic Safety Board (ATSB) has asked the New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT) to modify North Forest Road between North Union Road and Sheridan Drive to more appropriately fit the residential character of the neighborhood. This request has been made at the urging of local residents who have raised concerns about safety for years. I am requesting that the NYSDOT launch an immediate review of the section of roadway that is maintained by the state, and implement a road improvement project utilizing Complete Streets principles. Further, I urge the NYSDOT to decertify Route 277 as a major commercial highway.

The section of North Forest that is of concern is largely residential with the exception of a church and an elementary school. The area features significant gaps in the sidewalk, making travel difficult for bicyclists and pedestrians. Combine this with large commercial vehicles speeding through the area and you have a recipe for disaster. Traffic calming measures, a complete sidewalk network, and improved access for bicyclists and pedestrians will go a long way toward improving safety for the people of Amherst and Williamsville. It should also be noted that the Town of Amherst has embarked upon a major project to create Amherst Central Park. North Forest would provide an ideal direct link between the Village of Williamsville and the new Amherst Central Park. However, due to the unsafe conditions on North Forest, the Village is essentially cut off from access to the park. Improving safety on North Forest will greatly assist in linking Village residents to the amenities of the new park.

The highway designation for North Forest Road between North Union Road and Sheridan Drive is a relic of the past and clearly does not take into account the current residential nature of the neighborhood. A NYSDOT review of this roadway is long overdue. I urge you to act expeditiously in the best interests of the people of the Town of Amherst and the Village of Williamsville. Safety is the paramount concern, and I know that the longer we wait, the longer my constituents remain at risk. Thank you for your attention to this important matter. I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sean M. Ryan". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Sean M. Ryan
New York State Senator
61st District

CC: Michael J. Roche, PE, Regional Traffic Engineer, NYSDOT
Christopher Schregel, Traffic Safety Coordinator, Town of Amherst Engineering Dept.