

FRANK A. MAURIELLO
MINORITY LEADER



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ALBANY COUNTY LEGISLATURE
MINORITY CONFERENCE

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March 31st, 2023

Patrick Barnes
Regional Director, Region 1
50 Wolf Road, Suite 1s50
Albany, NY 12232

Dear Director Barnes:

I write to respectfully request the Department of Transportation conduct a thorough examination of current lighting infrastructure along Central Avenue (NY Route 5) in the County of Albany, specifically within the Town of Colonie and Village of Colonie.

Central Avenue is one of our County's primary corridors and one that thousands of residents use to get to work, to shopping locations, and all other destinations, and it is one of the busiest roads in our County. Unfortunately, much of Central Avenue is not adequately lit within Colonie. As you may know, in 2016 the Department of Transportation and the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority announced that the lighting along Central in my home Town of Colonie would be replaced with LED bulbs that purported to "enhance visibility and safety, as well as reduce energy costs" according to a release at that time. I am not insensible to the positive environmental and cost impact of these bulbs, but they had a negligible effect on improving lighting along the roadway.

Pedestrian-involved traffic incidents are unfortunately a relatively common reality along Central Avenue. According to the Colonie Police Department, there have been exactly 100 such incidents between March 31st, 2016 and today, of which 5 were fatalities. The darkness along Central Avenue is a serious issue that has no doubt played a role in some of these events. A related issue exacerbates this problem; as I am sure you are aware, Central Avenue has an issue with pedestrians crossing in locations where no crosswalk exists. On its own, this is a dangerous practice, but without adequate lighting it can be fatal.

I once again request that the Department look into current light levels along Central Avenue, one of the key corridors in both the Town and Village of Colonie. Following this examination, should the Department concur with my assessment and that of my neighbors, it is incumbent upon the Department to move quickly to remedy this issue with additional light installations.

Thank you for considering this request.

Sincerely,

Frank A. Mauriello
Albany County Legislator, District 27
Minority Leader

Cc:
Senator Jake Ashby, 43rd Senate District
Supervisor Peter Crummey, Town of Colonie
Mayor Tom Tobin, Village of Colonie
Legislator Patty Lockart, 26th District
Legislator Mark Grimm, 29th District