

DOT asked to check, fix LI highway ramps

BY DEON J. HAMPTON
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Brookhaven Councilman Dan Panico has called on the New York State Department of Transportation to inspect and pave the majority of exit and entrance ramps along the Long Island Expressway and Sunrise Highway in the year ahead.

Panico says the majority of those ramps, which are owned and operated by the state, are in bad condition and pose a threat to motorists.

"I am writing you about the very poor conditions of the exit and entrance ramps on the Long Island Expressway and Sunrise Highway throughout Brookhaven Town," Panico wrote in the Nov. 26 letter to the NYSDOT.

He continued that Brookhaven's residents "continually and rightfully complain" that most ramps are pothole-ridden and, at times, dangerous.

Panico asked the department to repair the roads next year.

"Understanding that limited work can be done now with the impending cold weather, we ask that these ramps be included in next year's work schedule for full repaving," the letter read.

Town officials on Thursday cited LIE ramps at exits 58 and 67 as examples of badly deteriorated and unsafe roadways. Others include the expressway ramp off Yaphank Avenue in Yaphank and Hospital Road in East Patchogue.

"The state really needs to go out and take a look," Panico said. "While the NYSDOT has been responsive to requests to patch potholes, more seem to open up everyday."



DEBBIE EGAN-CHIN

A top offender: the LIE ramp at exit 67.

The NYSDOT said it received Panico's letter this week.

"These sections of road are monitored, and maintenance crews fill potholes and make other pavement repairs as needed. While these areas are not on the current NYSDOT capital program, we expect to make improvements there in the future," a department spokesman said in a statement.

Brookhaven Highway Superintendent Daniel P. Losquadro echoed Panico's remarks, saying many of the entrance and exit ramps are becoming undriveable. He said he spoke to NYSDOT officials earlier this year about the issue but not much has changed.

Center Moriches resident Brendan Primus, 35, was driving home from work last week when he hit a pothole at the Wading River exit of Sunrise Highway that caused a blowout.

"It was such a massive blowout that I nearly went off the road," he said. "It was pretty dangerous." The damage forced him to spend \$300 on a new tire and rim for his 2010 Kia Soul.

Patchogue study unfolds

The Long Island Regional Planning Council will unveil a study Thursday of the impact of millions of dollars in public and private funding geared toward revitalizing downtown Patchogue.

Mayor Paul Pontieri said the council looked at more than 12 years of data and information to complete the study, which focuses on sales tax revenue, impacts on school districts, number of permanent full-time jobs created in the municipality, construction jobs and local spending.

"It's pretty interesting and could change the dynamic of how large housing projects are perceived by the public," Pontieri said of the report, which took six months to complete.

Downtown Patchogue has grown rapidly in recent years, from successful projects such as the \$100 million New Village, a complex with more than 700 apartments, and \$1 million in renovations to its theater.

In addition, restaurants and clubs have transformed the village into a hub for young adults seeking nightlife and dining options while attracting new residents and visitors from the region.

In February, board members rezoned the downtown Terry Street area from an assortment of residential and business uses to create the arts district. The century-old Carnegie Library found a home downtown when it reopened in October 2016 after being moved twice and undergoing a \$1.5 million renovation.

Results of the study will be analyzed and made public at 10 a.m. Thursday at the Patchogue Theatre of the Performing Arts.

"The results are very interesting and informative, and I believe will have a positive effect on the growth of and the sustainability of Long Island's economy," Pontieri said in a statement.

—DEON J. HAMPTON

Community Town Hall

featuring
NYP Queens PPS Collaboration
with Silvercrest SNF to Impact Readmissions for
Chronically Ill Patients

*A progress report on state-funded
community programs being developed by
NewYork-Presbyterian Queens.*

WHEN:

Thursday, December 6, 2018
4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

WHERE:

NewYork-Presbyterian Queens,
Lang Auditorium
56-45 Main Street, Flushing, NY 11355

WHAT and WHY:

Learn more about how the valuable community-based health programs being developed through the NewYork-Presbyterian Queens Performing Provider System (PPS) are impacting the residents of Queens.

The NYP Queens PPS is part of the New York State-funded healthcare transformation initiative known as DSRIP (Delivery System Reform Incentive Program). The DSRIP program goal is to establish an integrated, high-performing health care delivery system that can effectively and efficiently meet the health care needs of our community.

Featured Speakers:

Hoda Abdelaziz, DSRIP NP
Denise Lawson, PI Director, Silvercrest, SNF

Event is FREE

RSVP is required to mah9214@nyp.org

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