



DANIEL GOODRICH

The Route 347 redevelopment project in Suffolk aims to rebuild 15 miles of roadway stretching through three towns, used by 70,000 motorists.

Group seeks Rt. 347 funding

BY ALFONSO A. CASTILLO
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The heads of 16 labor, business and transportation groups from the region are asking the state to immediately kick in more money for a critical road project in Suffolk County that has run out of funding for construction with less than one-third of the job completed.

Representatives from groups including the Long Island Contractors Association, the Long Island Builders Institute and the American Automobile Association

sent a letter to Paul Karas, acting commissioner of the New York State Department of Transportation, requesting “an immediate infusion of funds” to continue the redevelopment of Route 347.

The project, which began in 2010, aims to reconstruct 15 miles of roadway stretching through Islip, Smithtown and Brookhaven towns that is used daily by 70,000 motorists. But funding ran out last year after fewer than 5 miles of the roadway had been rebuilt.

The new state budget earmarks \$15 million for design

and preliminary engineering of the next phase of the project, but that amount is “insufficient to meet the immediate needs of the thousands of Long Islanders who use this highway every day to get to and from work and recreation opportunities,” the letter’s authors wrote.

In a statement, DOT spokesman Curtis Jetter noted that the state has spent \$160 million to date on the project, and fulfilled its project commitments as laid out in the DOT’s current five-year capital plan.

“The New York State Department

of Transportation understands and appreciates the vital link that the Route 347 corridor provides in serving the north-central portion of Suffolk County,” Jetter said.

Project supporters have sought \$60 million to advance construction on the effort, which they say otherwise may not resume for another five years, a timetable that they wrote “is completely unacceptable to the thousands of commuters and residents who use Route 347 as their main avenue through this portion of Suffolk County.”

Glen Cove to mull bid to limit mayoral power

BY DAVID OLSON
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The Glen Cove City Council will discuss two efforts to revise the city charter at its Aug. 21 work session, Mayor Timothy Tenke said.

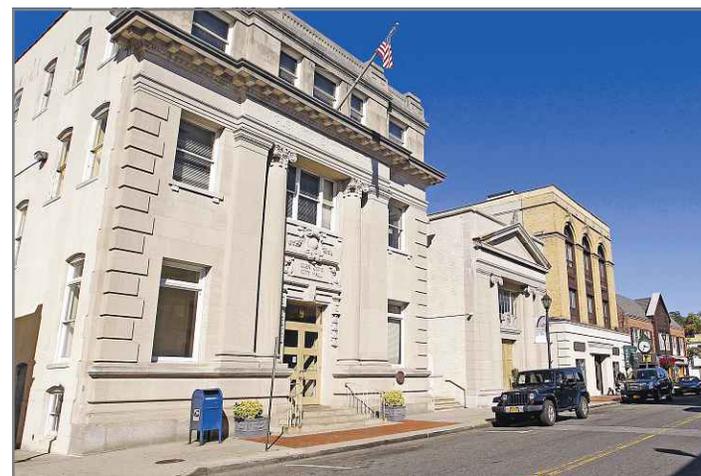
One effort, by the city-appointed charter review commission, hit a snag after City Attorney Charles McQuair said the council must formally re-create the commission before the commission can place referendums on the November election ballot. The last scheduled meeting it can do so is Aug. 28, several days before the deadline to submit referendums. Current commission members are eligible to be on the reconstituted commission, McQuair said.

Commission chairwoman Carolyn Willson said there may be

three referendums, on changing the number of years the mayor and council members can serve, and on imposing term limits.

A separate initiative, with more sweeping changes to the charter, is spearheaded by the group Reboot Glen Cove. It includes creating a city manager form of government that limits the power of the mayor, electing most council members by district rather than at-large, and imposing term limits.

Unlike the commission, Reboot cannot directly place referendums on the ballot. The group plans to submit about 700 signatures this month to qualify its proposals for the ballot, said resident Philip Pidot, who is leading the effort. But Reboot also must get council approval to place its proposed changes on the November ballot or face having to collect additional signatures.



HOWARD SCHNAPP

Glen Cove City Council will discuss proposed charter revisions.

Tenke has said that the city charter review commission is a better route for instituting major changes than what he called “knee-jerk reactions” to perceived problems. The commission has been analyzing the charter since 2015. “They throw out these great big ideas of how to

change things, but they may not be looking at the ramifications of doing so very clearly,” Tenke said in June of the Reboot effort.

If the council does not vote on Reboot’s proposals at its Aug. 28 meeting or votes them down, the group plans to focus on getting the measures on the November 2019 ballot, Pidot said.

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CORRECTIONS

The New York State Mesonet’s website is nysmesonet.org. An article published Thursday provided an incorrect website address for the network of weather-monitoring sites.

Human Interest, an online 401(k) provider, is based in San Francisco. Monday’s Money Fix column listed its location incorrectly.

Super Fresh Food World is located in Garden City Park. Monday’s Retail Roundup column gave an incorrect location.

THIS DATE IN HISTORY

1900 International forces, including U.S. Marines, entered Beijing to put down the Boxer Rebellion, which was aimed at purging China of foreign influence.
1935 President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed the Social Security Act into law.
1973 U.S. bombing of Cambodia came to a halt.
1992 The White House announced that the Pentagon would begin emergency airlifts of food to Somalia to alleviate mass deaths by starvation.
1997 An unrepentant Timothy McVeigh was formally sentenced to death for the Oklahoma City bombing.
2003 A huge blackout hit the northeastern United States and part of Canada; 50 million people lost power.