



THE OFFICE OF SUFFOLK COUNTY LEGISLATOR

Sarah S. Anker

Suffolk County Legislator, 6th District

*Chairwoman of the Seniors & Consumer Protection Committee • Vice Chairwoman of the Veterans Committee
Environment, Planning and Agriculture Committee • Soil and Water Conservation District Board • BNL Legislative Roundtable
Suffolk County Cancer Prevention and Health Promotion Coalition • Chairwoman of the School Traffic Safety Commission*

September 8, 2016

Steven Bellone
Suffolk County Executive
H. Lee Dennison Building
100 Veterans Memorial Highway
PO Box 6100
Hauppauge, NY 11788

Dear County Executive Bellone,

I am writing today in opposition to the proposed discontinuation of the 5A bus route in the Town of Brookhaven. I fully understand that Suffolk County is faced with a difficult financial situation and must take action and make challenging decisions in an effort to fill a widening budget gap. However, I do not believe that it is in the interest of Suffolk County to cut this core service which would deny residents access to basic transportation.

I believe that it is Suffolk's obligation to provide affordable, equitable, and accessible mass transportation to all residents throughout the county. The 5A bus route serves a corridor where service cuts will cause real hardship, including the entire hamlet of Sound Beach and three large senior communities in Ridge that include Leisure Village, Leisure Knoll and Leisure Glen. Elimination of the 5A route would cut off the entire community of Sound Beach and deny them any access to public transportation. The cuts will also inequitably affect the Leisure communities where seniors on a fixed income, and without alternate modes of transportation, would be effectively isolated and denied their independence. The 5A bus route also provides transportation to two large shopping centers in the Sixth Legislative District where local business owners who are already struggling will feel the economic impact of the cuts.

Therefore, I am requesting that your office work with the Department of Public Works and Suffolk County Transit to modify the existing routes to strike a balance between total elimination and cost reduction. Suffolk County should restructure the existing routes to provide for greater efficiency instead of giving up an entire geographic area in an effort to focus on routes that carry a greater number of riders. I do not support the bus services cuts particularly without a transitional period to offer alternatives to transportation needs.

Sincerely,

Sarah S. Anker
Suffolk County Legislator
Sixth Legislative District

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