

News Release

NYS DOT Approves Dobbs Ferry Schools Safety Speed Zone on Broadway

Dobbs Ferry, N.Y. May 10, 2018—The Dobbs Ferry School District and the Village of Dobbs Ferry today announced the designation by the New York State Department of Transportation (DOT) of a School Speed Zone on Broadway in Dobbs Ferry in the vicinity of the Dobbs Ferry High School/Middle School campus.

More children are walking, scootering, rolling and riding their bicycles to school than ever before, and on the heels of three recent pedestrian/vehicular incidents involving Dobbs Ferry students, the PTSA Safe Routes Committee, the Village of Dobbs Ferry, the School District and various county and state officials came together to discuss how to improve pedestrian safety. At a March meeting arranged by the office of County Legislator MaryJane Shimsky with DOT, the PTSA Safe Routes Committee made a comprehensive presentation to Village Board members, the School District, Police Department and local legislative representatives. It was the consensus that the first priority was a school speed limit on Broadway, with appropriate signage in front of the High School/Middle School.

DOT traffic safety investigators conducted their own study to determine if a school speed limit would be appropriate for this location and concurred. A school speed limit of 20 MPH between the hours of 7:00am-6:00pm on school days will be posted for the segment of Route 9 in the vicinity of the Dobbs Ferry High School/Middle School campus. The school speed limit will extend approximately 300 feet north and south of the school property lines (about ¼ mile). DOT expects the new signage to be ready and posted prior to the beginning of the next school year. In the interim, the Village has extended the hours of the crossing guards at the crosswalks of Broadway and Belden and Broadway and Maple.

“This has been a wonderful example of parents, the School District, the Dobbs Ferry municipality, local legislators and state government working together to make a difference concerning an important community-based issue,” said Superintendent of Schools Dr. Lisa Brady. Stemming from a request by the School District and subsequent presentation by the PTSA Safe Routes Committee, the Village passed a resolution calling for the reduced speed limit in front of the High School/Middle School, which was required to move the process forward.

Dobbs Ferry Mayor Bob McLoughlin, Senator Andrea Stewart-Cousins, Assemblyman Thomas J. Abinanti and Westchester County Legislator MaryJane Shimsky all lent their support to this safety initiative. The Village and PTSA have put up signs to encourage undistracted, slower driving. Signs include “TXT-L8TR,” “No Sidewalks, Kids in Street” and “Don’t Be the 4th Car to Hit a Kid This Year,” in addition to “Cross Safe...Stop, Look, Wave...Slow Down Dobbs Ferry.”

“The new reduced speed zone in front of the Dobbs Ferry High School/Middle School is an important improvement that will help mitigate traffic accidents and make the area safer for our students,” said Senator Andrea Stewart-Cousins. “I am glad to have joined the School District and my colleagues in local and state government in this effort to protect our residents.”

Assemblyman Tom Abinanti (D-Greenburgh/Mt. Pleasant) echoed that sentiment and said, “I was pleased to work with the State Senator and other local officials in response to the Mayor’s request to ensure that the State Department of Transportation accommodated the safety needs of the Dobbs Ferry community.”

“State DOT’s decision will make Dobbs Ferry’s school children, and all pedestrians in the vicinity of the High School/Middle School, safer,” said Westchester County Legislator MaryJane Shimsky. “I thank the professionals at DOT for their work on this matter; and the offices of Senator Andrea Stewart-Cousins and Assemblyman Tom Abinanti, for their steadfast community advocacy.”

PTSA Safe Routes Committee members Matt Rosenberg and Rob Baron point out that “Dobbs Ferry is a very walkable village, but busy roads with no sidewalks have created a pedestrian emergency. This is a safety issue that affects the entire community. Broadway, which is a four-lane state road, is 40-feet wide at the site of the High School and the crossings are not easy to navigate. It is imperative that drivers slow down when approaching the school zone and proceed with caution.”

Dobbs Ferry Police Chief Manuel Guevara said, “The Mayor and Village board worked hard to get this done along with the assistance of the District and PTSA. As far as the police department is concerned, the Dobbs Ferry Police Department is happy to continue to work with the community to ensure the safety of our children and all residents of the Village of Dobbs Ferry.”

#

For more information, please contact:

Public Information Officer, Elizabeth Hausman, (914) 693-1500 x3013