

Rep. Israel previously secured \$490,000 in federal funding for a study of the congested area and will commit an additional \$1.5 million from federal transportation funds; New civic task force will help guide the study

Deer Park, NY– On Saturday, Rep. Steve Israel (D – Huntington) and Suffolk County Legislator Steve Stern (D – Dix Hills) joined community leaders to announce a plan for \$1.5 million in federal funding to continue to study congestion mitigation in the Sagtikos Regional Development Zone (RDZ) and create a comprehensive transportation plan for the area. This funding will add to the \$490,000 Rep. Israel previously secured to study the Sagtikos corridor area.

“The Sagtikos Regional Development Zone has immense potential to generate economic activity and create jobs. But for that potential to be realized, we need to mitigate the congestion that already plagues this area. I will continue working with elected officials like Legislator Stern and our local community groups to ensure we have a comprehensive plan in place for this important development,” said Rep. Israel.

“I thank Congressman Israel for his leadership on this important issue and for committing additional funding to study proposed development and mitigation plans in the Sagtikos Regional Development Zone,” Legislator Stern said. “Although there are significant local concerns about the impact of the proposed developments in the Sagtikos region, it is critical to recognize that this is an important regional issue. In order to ensure that future development is not haphazard and that necessary mitigation and infrastructure plans are developed as part of the planning process and not merely as an after the fact response, it is vital to include all interested parties at all levels of government and most importantly, that area residents are informed and play a meaningful role in the decision making process. I look forward to working with Congressman Israel, other elected officials, regional and county agencies and our community to provide relief from noise, traffic and environmental concerns and to protect our quality of life.”

Rep. Israel and Legislator Stern also announced a civic task force made up of local community leaders to guide the study, including Patricia Burkhart of Friends of the Edgewood Preserve, Laura Mansi of Four Towns Civic Association, James Ptucha of Four Towns Civic Association and Irene Blaymore of New Imperial Gardens Community Association.

The Sagtikos RDZ is situated at four municipal borders including the towns of Huntington, Babylon, Islip and Smithtown. It consists of 2,500 acres for large-scale development, which is expected to impact all four of the neighboring communities and has already resulted in heavy congestion and traffic problems.

Development in various stages of planning or evaluation in the RDZ includes 2.6 million square feet of retail space, 3 million square feet of commercial space, 1.3 million square feet of

industrial space and approximately 9,000 housing units. The area is also home to the popular Tanger Outlet Mall.

Rep. Israel and Legislator Stern will work cooperatively on the town, state and federal level to develop a comprehensive transportation plan for the community that fosters economic growth and safe roadways for Long Island families to commute and travel.

Rep. Israel has requested transportation funding for the Second Congressional District through the Surface Transportation Reauthorization Act and will work to commit \$1.5 million from that funding to further study and develop a comprehensive transportation plan for the Sagtikos area.

Rep. Israel previously secured \$490,000 in federal funding for a Sagtikos corridor study for Suffolk County in the fiscal year 2008 Transportation, Housing and Urban Development Appropriations Act.

Rep. Israel serves on the House Appropriations Committee.