

Bay Shore, NY – On Friday, Rep. Steve Israel (D – Huntington), Islip Town Supervisor Phil Nolan and Islip Town Councilman John Edwards led a tour of ferry terminal improvements at the Bay Shore Maple Avenue dock that will be funded by a \$2.4 million federal grant.

“Our ferries are essential to small businesses on both sides of the bay. Fire Island tourism is a critical part of our local economy, and new federal funding will bring much needed safety and parking improvements to our ferry terminals,” said Rep. Israel.

“This dock, one of the premier maritime facilities on Long Island, is essential to growing our economy,” said Supervisor Phil Nolan. “Repairing the docking facilities here will not only ensure that we can meet the current demand for services, but that this dock will serve as a point of economic expansion in the future.”

“This grant award shows the benefit of perseverance. We had previously applied for this funding unsuccessfully but due to diligent follow up to determine where we needed to improve the application, our Planning, Engineering and Parks departments were able to fine tune our request and bring home this much needed funding. It is a tremendous success,” said Councilman Edwards.

The grant funding was announced earlier in the week by Rep. Israel and Senators Chuck Schumer and Kirsten Gillibrand. The \$2,440,000 Department of Transportation Ferry Boat Discretionary Program grant will fund infrastructure improvements at the Maple Avenue Dock in Bay Shore.

The Town of Islip will improve the dock by replacing the existing timber bulkhead with new steel sheeting and timber piles. The new steel sheeting will be anchored with 1.5 inch galvanized tie rods. This project will also allow for the restoration of more than 100 parking spaces on the west side of the dock by filling sink holes and removing the current parking prohibitions that are a result of the deteriorated bulkhead.

The Bay Shore Maple Avenue Dock serves as the primary hub for passengers and freight as well as for mail and trash removal for Fire Island communities. More than one million

passengers and 5,000 tons of freight pass through the ferry terminal annually. The ferry service has been in operation for more than 100 years.