



NEW JERSEY STATE LEGISLATURE

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Diane Gutierrez-Scaccetti, Commissioner
New Jersey Department of Transportation
David J. Goldberg Transportation Complex
1035 Parkway Avenue
Trenton, NJ 08625

Dear Commissioner Gutierrez-Scaccetti:

We write today to bring your attention to a problematic, hazardous, and potentially deadly roadway within Legislative District 40.

The intersection of New Jersey Route 23 and Windbeam Road in Riverdale is, unfortunately, too often the site of horrific accidents.

This route is often congested with personal transportation and heavy commercial vehicles, including a constant stream of dump trucks. Many of these trucks are fully loaded, with a gross vehicle weight of 80,000 pounds, and are unable to stop in time at the intersection.

Concerned residents, particularly the mothers of small children, have written to, phoned and met in person with their elected officials to voice their apprehensions and share potential solutions.

We are advocating on their behalf, and respectfully request the Department of Transportation to review this dangerous intersection to protect those who utilize the roads and reside in the community.

Local groups have identified an improvement that would improve safety by extending the current guardrail that runs along Route 23 to safeguard the families and neighbors residing on Evans Road.

This would be a helpful first step, though not a solution to the problem.

In addition, we are requesting DOT leaders to meet with local officials to discuss what else can be done.

The area in question has become known infamously as "Kill Hill," a name penned by a local newspaper 10 years ago. More than 100 automobile accidents have been reported on the .8-mile long stretch of road.

Heavy dump trucks, rushing to job sites, are no match for passenger vehicles. In the most recent fatality on the roadway, a sport utility vehicle was crushed to only two feet of compressed wreckage.

Even in clear weather, the steep 6 percent grade of the hill contributes to dangerous conditions. In spite of signage warning truckers to use low gears, too many dump trucks are out of control as they hurtle past family cars and neighborhood homes.

Truckers, motorists, law enforcement, and local officials have long been wary of the conditions at the intersection. In 2009, the Department of Transportation and Riverdale leaders worked together to build a traffic triangle to assist police in stopping speeders and enforcing traffic laws.

Speed is only one part of the problem, however.

Recently, a large dump truck lost control and veered into a residential cul-de-sac. Luckily, no bystanders were injured on Evans Road, but the incident highlighted the risks that drivers and pedestrians and schoolchildren face every day.

We urge the Department of Transportation to take proactive preventative safety measures rather than waiting for another preventable tragedy the hill.

Thank you,

Kristin M Comado Christopher P. DePhillips

Senator Kristin Corrado and Assemblyman Christopher DePhillips