



October 21, 2019

Marie Therese Dominguez, Commissioner  
New York State Department of Transportation  
50 Wolf Road  
Albany, NY 12232

Re: Route 9 Safety in Garrison Union Free School District

Dear Commissioner Dominguez,

Last month our community suffered the loss of Joseph Mercurio due to an accident at the intersection of Route 9 and Snake Hill Road in Philipstown. He was a parent of one of our students and served in our local fire department. Sadly, he is not the first member of our community to die on Route 9. Several in our community have either perished or been injured while navigating this road. As such, we are concerned that this road presents an unnecessary and ongoing threat to the well-being of our students, residents and employees even as they travel during ordinary traffic patterns and under normal weather conditions.

We are a small community. Our school district is comprised roughly of 300 students. Thus, fatalities and injuries seem to impact us disproportionately. I imagine you have studied the traffic patterns and accident rates on Route 9 and have applied metrics to assess the relative risk that this road poses. Unfortunately, to a school district whose buses have to manage this risk while transporting children along the very roads where these accidents have occurred, those assessments fail to lessen our concern.

To that end, the Trustees of the Board of Education of the Garrison Union Free School District respectfully request that you commit the necessary resources to determine the appropriate measures that can ensure the safety of our residents, children, and employees.

Sincerely,  
Garrison Union Free School District Board of Education  
James Hoch, President

C: Richard Shea, Philipstown Supervisor  
Carl Frisenda, Philipstown Highway Superintendent  
Nancy Montgomery, Putnam County Legislator  
Robert L. Langley, Jr., Putnam County Sheriff  
Sandra Fusco, Commissioner of Putnam County Department of Planning, Development and Public Transportation  
Sandy Galef, NYS Assemblywoman  
Sue Serino, NYS Senator