



BREWSTER CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Mr. Nikhil Natarajan - VIA EMAIL to nikhil.natarajan@dot.ny.gov
Deputy Regional Director
New York State Department of Transportation

Dear Mr. Natarajan,

We are writing to express our staunch support for the Putnam County Traffic Safety Board's request for immediate prioritization of the installation of a traffic light at the intersection of Route 6 and Route 121. This recommendation confirms what our community experiences daily: the current traffic control measures are inadequate for the volume and speed of today's traffic. A fully signalized traffic light is a proven, data-driven solution that will regulate vehicle flow and provide safe, predictable crossings for school buses and daily commuters alike.

As mentioned in the advocacy letter from the Putnam County Traffic Safety Board, our school buses traverse this intersection at least ten times a day. As also cited by this knowledgeable group is the fact that the I-84/I-684 bridge replacement project will result in a combination of heightened congestion, construction-induced delays, and modified traffic flow that poses a potential hazard to students, bus operators, and all individuals traveling through this corridor.

Prioritizing infrastructure upgrades at Route 6 and Route 121 is a necessary step to protect human life and prevent foreseeable tragedies. We urge you to expedite the installation of this traffic signal, particularly given the imminent bridge construction project.

Thank you for your time and continued commitment to the safety of our residents and students.

Sincerely,

The Brewster Central School District Board of Education

Encl. - July 31, 2026 Correspondence from the Putnam County Traffic Safety Board

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7/31/26

Mr. Nikhil Natarajan
Department of Transportation
Deputy Regional Director
nikhil.natarajan@dot.ny.gov

Re: Rt 6 & Rt 121 traffic signal

Dear Mr. Natarajan,

The Putnam County Traffic Safety Board is a dedicated coalition focused on maintaining the safety of our residents and roadways. By leveraging the collective expertise of its members, the board proactively evaluates and recommends essential programs designed to prevent injuries, reduce fatalities, and mitigate the economic impact of traffic incidents for all who use Putnam County highways. A traffic study regarding the intersection of Route 6 and Route 121 was recently conducted at the request of the PCTSB. The findings of this study confirmed that the installation of a traffic signal at this location is necessary.

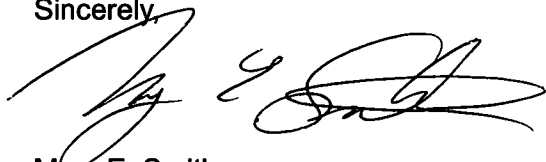
We appreciate the Department of Transportation for conducting the traffic study and granting project approval. However, we must express our concern regarding the projected five-year timeline for completion provided by your representatives. As the traffic safety board, we believe this project requires immediate prioritization. Of particular concern is the upcoming bridge replacement at the I-84/I-684 interchange, which we expect will heavily impact the Town of Southeast. We anticipate that the start of construction will lead to significant vehicle diversion onto local roads, resulting in severe and unsafe traffic disruptions throughout our community. Furthermore, the specific intersection already slated for a traffic signal by your department faces even greater risks as this project commences. Andre Greaves-Burrows, the Engineer in Charge, provided the following summary of the upcoming work:

- The bridges along the Exit 68 ramp (I-84 Westbound to I-684 Southbound) will be replaced.
- Construction will be performed in stages. One lane of traffic will be maintained on the ramp at all times, same as its current configuration.
- There will be occasional night work.
- There will be Exit Ramp closures within the interchange in order to perform specific work (bridge demolition and steel erection). During these nighttime closures, detours will be implemented along I-84 (Exit 1 & Exit 65) and along I-684 (Exit 8 & 9W). Please note, detoured traffic will not be directed along local roads, including Route 6 or Route 121.
- The contractor anticipates mobilizing his equipment and workforce in one to two weeks for the start of work.
- The current project completion date is November 2028
- Traffic backups will be monitored by the Contractor and the inspection staff and will be brought to my attention.

Although we recognize the regional advantages of the I-84/I-684 bridge replacement project and offer our support, we are significantly troubled by the anticipated effects on local traffic over the projected three-year construction timeframe. Our primary concern centers on the safety of school buses, which navigate this intersection at least ten times daily. The combination of heightened congestion, construction-induced delays, and modified traffic flow poses a potential hazard to students, bus operators, and all individuals traveling through this corridor. We are aware that implementing a traffic signal involves an estimated cost of nearly \$300,000. Nevertheless, the safety of our community, and particularly our children is a value that transcends fiscal considerations.

Throughout the duration of this project, the security of residents and students relying on safe transit must be our foremost priority. We therefore request a course of action that reflects our shared commitment to public safety, specifically calling for the traffic signal to be operational before major construction begins. Adopting this proactive strategy allows us to address potential dangers and improve the flow of traffic that has been long awaited, illustrating a firm commitment to safeguarding the community during this essential infrastructure work and for years to come.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mary E. Smith', written over a horizontal line.

Mary E. Smith

Secretary

On behalf of Putnam County Traffic Safety Board

Cc:

Kevin Byrne, Putnam County Executive

Joseph Castellano, Town of Southeast Supervisor

Eric Cyprus, Eric Larca, Wendy Lewis, Alex Mazzotta, Town of Southeast Town Board

Pete Harkham, New York State Senator

Matt Slater, New York State Assemblyman, District 94

Mike Burdick, Highway Superintendent

Willis Stephens Jr, Town Attorney

Dr. Michelle Gosh, BCSD Superintendent

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