



NEWS *From* Assemblymember **John T. McDonald III**

Summer 2017



Route 787 / Cohoes Boulevard

On June 5th, I joined with Commissioner Matthew Driscoll and NYSDOT officials, Senator Neil Breslin, Mayor Shawn Morse and Common Council members of the City of Cohoes to share the news that Senator Breslin and I secured \$15 million in funding in the recently approved 2017-18 budget to transform the stretch of 787 known as Cohoes Boulevard into a brand new community gateway. This is welcome news to the Cohoes community as well as the tens of thousands of people who drive through this busy state road (known as State Route 787) daily.

This history of Cohoes Boulevard is well known both in regard to accidents along with efforts to improve this ever-growing highway that bisects the City of Cohoes. Recently I wrote an article to that effect in the Times Union which you can find at <http://blog.timesunion.com/johnmcdonald/cohoes-boulevard-becoming-a-reality/4677/>

After the death of Brittany Knight last year, NYSDOT, Senator Breslin, and I have worked closely with the City to confirm that the best solution for the area was the boulevard approach as it was important to have city support in this effort. As we informed Mayor Morse and the Common Council, it was up to the Senator and myself to do our jobs to secure this funding which we accomplished and we appreciate the support from the Mayor and the Common Council.

Thank you to Governor Cuomo and NYSDOT Commissioner Matt Driscoll who helped make this project a reality along with my leader in the Assembly, Speaker Carl Heastie who honored my budget request of the \$15 million in funding for Cohoes Boulevard which was one of the critical elements approved at the end of the State budget in April. The Speaker's persistence in making sure upstate New York is receiving equity in transportation funding has been tenacious and for that I am appreciative.

The State is investing in a major safety improvement in our community but will also be providing a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for economic development along this corridor. Other communities have seen tremendous success in reimagining their highways that create divides from their city centers. This change will not only have a positive impact on the safety of our residents but will also serve to build upon the growth that Cohoes has experienced in the past and inspire even greater development.

From a scheduling perspective, NYSDOT is moving forward in the planning process and we expect that the momentum will continue on this project. As we learn more and have updates, we will be sure to share the information.

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In closing, this has been a sixteen-year journey for me personally and one that I am happy to see come to fruition. The residents of Cohoes and those who travel through it daily will be much better off, yet I would be remiss if I did not take this opportunity to remind all that both pedestrians and motorists have responsibilities and we need to keep that in mind no matter what street we are crossing or driving on.

If you have any additional questions or want to stay up-to-date, always feel free to contact my office at 518-455-4474 and sign up for our weekly newsletter at <http://assembly.state.ny.us/mem/John-T-McDonald-III>



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An advertisement for John T. McDonald III, Assemblymember. It features a photograph of him speaking at a podium in a legislative chamber. To the right of the photo is a dark blue vertical banner with the text "NEWS From" in white, a silhouette of the state of New York, and the word "Assemblymember" in white. Below the banner, the name "John T. McDonald III" is written in large white letters on a dark blue background.



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