

FOR IMMEDIATE

Suozzi and Hall Announce Construction of Franklin Avenue

Improvements to begin

Plan includes new streetscape and improved lighting as part of community-supported design to spur economic growth



Hempstead, NY - Nassau County Executive Thomas R. Suozzi and Village of Hempstead Mayor Wayne J. Hall, Sr. today announced the beginning of the construction of a \$3 million investment initiative for the revitalization of Franklin Avenue in downtown Hempstead Village. The announcement is the culmination of community meetings and on-site tours held in the Village of Hempstead to develop a community-supported vision for development.

"We are pleased to be working with Mayor Hall and Village Trustees to begin this project and work together to bring the Village of Hempstead to its economic potential. We have always been interested in the development and revitalization of Hempstead Village because of its many assets. It is a major transportation center with rail and bus terminals and it is centrally located," said County Executive Suozzi. "The coordination between the County and the Village is an example of a partnership focused on achieving our goals for 'New Suburbia' that includes revitalizing our downtowns."

"This is yet another step we are taking to beautify and redesign our Village, creating long-term sustainable growth and ongoing improvement," stated Mayor Wayne J. Hall, Sr. "I would like to thank the County Executive for his partnership. Since taking office in 2005, we have implemented numerous positive programs to improve our Village overall. The redesigning is just one of many steps in the process."

"With over 60 roads repaired since 2005, efforts to redesign and beautify Franklin Street will improve our Village further," added Deputy Mayor Henry Conyers.

"This is a beautiful thing that our County Executive is investing in our community, that has been neglected for so long," said Legislator Roger Corbin (D-Westbury).

The plan calls for a new Franklin Avenue streetscape, which will include the construction of brick paver sidewalks, decorative street lights, benches, and trash cans. The nearly \$3 million cost will be covered by funding from Nassau County's Capital Budget and is expected to be completed in the Fall of 2009. The County has selected the firm of J. Anthony Construction to provide construction services through the usual procurement process.

The contractor will work in approximately two block segments for a total of 8 blocks starting at Bedell Street and ending at Peninsula Boulevard by installing: Underground conduit and light pole foundations; Repairing/replacing concrete curb; Removing existing sidewalk; Installing new sidewalk and brick pavers; 85 new trees [a variety of different types].

During the construction phase, one lane of automobile traffic along Franklin Avenue will be closed, but pedestrian access to existing businesses will be maintained at all times.

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