

## **NJDOT commissioner acted on our concerns**

As mayors, we are often challenged with decisions from state government that affect our respective townships. Recently, we had a meeting with Department of Transportation Commissioner Stephen Dilts. We experienced what can be described as the most incredible example of state government in action.

In a meeting with the commissioner, we showed him an example of a real safety issue. He heard our concerns and acted on them that very week. This is the type of leadership local leaders have been looking for. The commissioner also renewed NJDOT's commitment to build the Route 33 realignment project (previously called the bypass) long stalled, which has been on the books for more than a decade.

For Robbinsville, the project would realize the vision of a safe town center, allowing existing Route 33 to become a walkable main street in the township. And for Hamilton, the project would improve traffic flow and provide improved access to its commercial/retail centers.

At present, without the realignment project, many of the residents in both townships are compelled to use a local street, George Dye Road in Hamilton, to access the retail centers on Route 130. For Hamilton and Robbinsville, the issue is about the safety of our residents and their quality of life.

Because Commissioner Dilts has been a mayor, he realizes the tremendous burden of being responsible for the safety and welfare of residents. He also understands the importance of taking quick action.

We both cannot thank the commissioner enough on behalf of our townships.

— *JOHN BENCIVENGO, Hamilton*

*The writer is mayor of Hamilton Township.*

— *DAVE FRIED, Robbinsville*

*The writer is mayor of Robbinsville Township.*

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