

Legislative Update: February 2008

So – what has been happening this February in Orange County? As the Legislator for the 7th District, let me update you to events of the past few weeks.

1. **Commuter Advisory Council** formed in December 2007 due to safety issues involving commuters on the daily buses and rails continues to collect and research several issues. The Director of Sales and Marketing for Short-Line Bus Company has agreed to meet with the Council to discuss the concerns of the riders and what can be done to correct these concerns. Date is still pending for this meeting however the next regular meeting of the Commuter Advisory Council is Feb. 27 at 7:45 PM at the Monroe Diner. All commuters are welcome to join.
2. **Orange County Announces New Coordinated In-Home Support Services for Autism** – County Executive Edward Diana and Orange County Commissioner of Mental Health Chris Ashman are pleased to announce a new vision for the delivery of individualized supports to assist children diagnosed with Autism. Anyone interested in becoming a mentor should contact Delores McFadden at 845-291-2620 or by email at dmcfadden@orangecountygov.com.
3. **Local Law No. 10** – Orange County Executive Ed Diana signed Local Law No. 10 creating the Orange County Traffic Safety Board. The Board is charged with studying traffic safety issues within the county and making recommendations for potential solutions. This Board is comprised of members of law enforcement, NYS Dept. of Transportation, OC Commissioner of Public Works, NYS Police, educators and other members of our community. The Board will review accident statistics and reports and make recommendations to improve to safety for the public.

4. **Department of Public Works** will be out painting poles of all stop signs on county owned intersections. Painting the poles will better assist motorists especially at night and in inclement weather.

5. **Another improvement to our County intersections** will be replacement of traffic light bulbs to energy efficient bulbs. The new energy-efficient bulbs will be installed at all county owned intersections. The estimated annual cost savings is over \$22,000 per year in electricity, plus an equivalent amount in reduced maintenance costs associated with the bulbs. Under the program, DPW has chosen to install the bulbs using county personnel, rather than pay an additional fee for installation, again saving taxpayer dollars. The County would like all municipalities to get involved in this program.

It continues to be a busy time here in Orange County. Many issues concerning the safety and well being of the residents continue to be the priority of the Orange County Legislature and I will continue to keep you informed. I look forward to your continue support and involvement helping to make our community the best it can be.

Greg Townsend
Orange County Legislator
7th Legislative District