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SENATOR TERRENCE P. MURPHY
40TH SENATE DISTRICT



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Georgetta Gregory, NTSB Railroad Division Chief
National Transportation Safety Board
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December 17, 2015

Mr. Thomas F. Pendergast
Chairman & CEO, Metropolitan Transportation Authority
347 Madison Avenue
New York, NY 10017

Mr. Joseph Giuliatti
President, MTA Metro-North Railroad
420 Lexington Avenue
New York, NY 10017-3739

Dear Sirs,

We write to you today regarding the important issue of grade crossings. As you are well aware, the communities along the Harlem Line are still healing from the tragic accident on February 3rd, which stands as the worst train accident in the MTA's history.

Among the 437 grade crossings in the New York metropolitan area, we have many concerns regarding several crossings including those at Cleveland Street and Commerce Street in Valhalla, as well as the crossing at the intersection of Roaring Brook Road and the Saw Mill River Parkway in Chappaqua. The Cleveland Street grade crossing is directly adjacent to the Valhalla train station, and the Commerce Street crossing is the site of the horrific accident which occurred earlier this year. Furthermore, the Roaring Brook Road grade crossing is within a half mile of the Horace Greeley High School, putting parents and young drivers at risk.

The MTA recently announced that it is planning on analyzing all 437 grade crossings within its purview. We respectfully request that the Cleveland Street, Commerce Street and Roaring Brook crossings be made a priority. The town of Mount Pleasant is developing its own report in the coming weeks and will be happy to share its information with your organization.

Furthermore, it has been requested that the Roaring Brook Road crossing be added to the Department of Transportation's Statewide Transportation Improvement Program list for Region 8.

We sincerely hope we can partner together on this important issue for the towns of New Castle, home to our Governor Andrew M. Cuomo, and Mount Pleasant. Having spoken with other officials throughout the Hudson Valley, it is clear that in the wake of this year's accident the safety of grade crossings need to be examined closely in the name of public safety. We applaud your efforts in this endeavor, and look forward to a productive partnership that we believe will save lives.

Thank you again for your attention on this important matter, and we look forward to a prompt response regarding the MTA's plans moving forward.

Sincerely,



Dr. Terrence P Murphy
Senator, 40th District



Supervisor Carl Fulgenzi
Town of Mount Pleasant



Supervisor Robert Greenstein
Town of New Castle

CC: Congresswoman Nita Lowey
Congressman Sean Patrick Maloney
Mr. Randy Glucksman, Chair Metro North Railroad Commuter Council
MNRCC Members
Ron Thaniel, Deputy Secretary for Transportation Office of Governor Cuomo
Les Fiorenzo, Regional Administrator, Region 1, Federal Railroad Administration
Georgetta Gregory, NTSB Railroad Division Chief