



Assemblyman

Fred W. Thiele, Jr.

2016 Legislative Summary

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Dear Constituent:

Record investments in transportation infrastructure enhancements are being made throughout New York State. Many of these programs and legislative initiatives that I supported will positively impact Long Island's East End by providing a solid funding source to repair and properly maintain our local roads and bridges, construct new and technologically advanced infrastructure projects, expand public transportation options, and assist in implementing much needed pedestrian safety measures.

Please take a moment to review this newsletter which highlights specific legislation and the funding initiatives that I secured during the 2016 Legislative Session in an effort to meet the critical infrastructure needs of those I represent in the 1st Assembly District.

As always, please feel free to contact me if I can be of any assistance to you.

Sincerely,

Fred W. Thiele, Jr.

Increased East End LIRR Service on the Horizon

In early July, East End State, County, Town and Village officials met with Long Island Rail Road (LIRR) representatives to discuss public transit needs of the East End. At that meeting there was great consensus to advance and expand public transportation. In an unprecedented effort, the East End Transportation Council and the East End Supervisor's and Mayors Association will be coordinating a large scale planning process with the LIRR to advance several key actions.

Highlights of the new proposal include:

- Restoring year-round weekend service to the North Fork.
- Re-instituting the "South Fork Commuter Connection," providing increased commuter service on the LIRR during morning and evening rush hour periods between Speonk and Montauk.
- Increasing service between Ronkonkoma and Greenport.
- Undertaking infrastructure improvements to increase service.
- Building an integrated East End public transit system.

Investments in Transportation

The 2016-17 State Budget supports an unprecedented \$55 billion State transportation investment plan – including \$27.14 billion for the Department of Transportation Capital Program and Thruway programs, and \$27.98 billion for the Metropolitan Transportation Authority Capital Program. The investments will construct stronger roads, bridges and airports across the state, and modernize much of the public transit system in the New York City region.

Additionally, municipalities in the 1st Assembly District received \$1.35 million for the rehabilitation and reconstruction of local highways and roads under the PAVE NY initiative, a program which emphasizes projects that improve the physical condition of local roadways, create jobs and enhance local economic competitiveness.

Efforts to Relocate Yaphank Train Station



Photo Credit: Jack Krieger, Public Information Officer, Town of Brookhaven

Assemblyman Thiele joined Brookhaven Town Supervisor Ed Romaine, Councilman Dan Panico and other federal, state and local officials to call on the MTA and LIRR to move the Yaphank Train Station two miles to the east to a location which is more accessible

to potential riders. This move would improve economic development and increase public transportation options in an area of the East End which has seen significant growth in recent years.

Sagg Bridge to Get a Structural Facelift

Assemblyman Thiele and Senator LaValle have joined together to secure \$500,000 through New York's State and Municipal Facilities Program to repair the historic Sagg Bridge in the Village of Sagaponack. The State and Village will be partnering to make structurally necessary repairs to the bridge, causeway and seawall, install a new drainage system, and repair the bridge deck by adding new curbing, sidewalks, bridge railings and asphalt pavement.

Sagaponack Village Mayor Don Louchheim, Senator LaValle and Assemblyman Thiele visit the Sagg Bridge to discuss the planned repairs.



\$250,000 for Lighted Crosswalks in East Hampton

Working together, Assemblyman Thiele and Senator LaValle secured \$250,000 for the Town of East Hampton to install lighted crosswalks in Amagansett and Montauk



East Hampton Airport Bonding

This past Legislative Session, the New York State Legislature approved Assemblyman Thiele's bill which would allow the Town of East Hampton to finance airport improvements at the East Hampton Airport over a 30 year period as opposed to a 10 year period. Because the Town no longer obtains FAA funding for the operation and maintenance of the airport, the Town assumes all

responsibility to finance airport capital projects. By allowing the Town to bond out improvements over a longer period of time, it will give the Town the time they need to fully plan and implement costly infrastructure work, and to ensure that the airport remains self-sustainable. The legislation must now be delivered to the Governor for consideration.



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Underground Utility Improvement Districts

Legislation Assemblyman Thiele sponsored to permit the Town of East Hampton to establish an underground utility district passed both Houses of the Legislature and will soon be sent to the Governor for his executive action. The East End of Long Island is particularly susceptible to nor'easters, tropical storms, coastal flooding and hurricanes. Recent dealings with the expansion of above-ground transmission lines in both Southampton and East Hampton Towns has led to an increased awareness of the benefits of placing utilities infrastructure underground. This legislation, if signed into law, could potentially help safeguard and strengthen the electrical infrastructure of the entire low-lying south shore of Long Island by building a smarter, stronger and more resilient electric grid.

\$700,000 to Increase Pedestrian Safety in Bridgehampton

Bridgehampton's historic Main Street is located on a section of Montauk Highway which is one of the East End's busiest thoroughfares. Navigating through the hamlet can be a very difficult and dangerous undertaking. Assemblyman Thiele advocated for the installation of the illuminated crosswalk near Hampton Library in 2015 and continues to work closely with State and Town officials, as well as local civic organizations, on developing a comprehensive plan to further increase driver, pedestrian, and cyclist safety in the busy hamlet. This past June, Assemblyman Thiele announced he was successful in securing \$500,000 to help fund this important initiative. Senator LaValle was also able to contribute \$200,000 to the effort, making a total of \$700,000 available for improvements to existing crosswalks and street lighting.