



Monroe County Legislator  
**Vincent Esposito**  
16th District • Irondequoit



April 3, 2009

## Spring 2009 Legislative Update

I hope this newsletter finds you and your family well and enjoying the warmer spring weather. I want to take this opportunity to update you on [some of the many things I have been working on](#), in particular a few significant projects in and around Irondequoit.

### The Economic Crisis

For painfully obvious reasons, the global economic crisis continues to dominate our daily lives. While there have been recent signs of improvement within the markets, the financial situation remains precarious for families, businesses and governments everywhere.

Locally, Monroe County will be the beneficiary of more than \$66 million of federal stimulus funding for Medicaid, in addition to tens of millions of additional stimulus dollars that will be spent on various local transportation, infrastructure, technology and education projects over the next two years.

Still, over that same period, the County faces structural budget deficits projected over \$100 million. While it would be tempting to pour federal stimulus funding into our budget gap to delay difficult decisions, that is the wrong thing to do. Therefore, I will be working closely with my colleagues and the administration to ensure our budget problem is addressed in a responsible, prudent manner.

### East Ridge Road Reconstruction

The reconstruction of East Ridge Road from the City Line to Culver Road has been planned for many years to be completed in 2009-10. Unfortunately, this project has been pushed back to 2012 by the County Department of Transportation (DOT) because of some unanticipated design work, but mostly because of limited federal funding for our region.

This news is very disappointing, given the importance East Ridge Road plays as our main commercial corridor, and especially with the exciting redevelopment prospects at Medley Centre and the Town Master Plan updates under way.

This past week, the County DOT hosted a very productive meeting with the project advisory committee, which included detailed engineering and financial updates. As a result of this meeting, DOT has pledged to consider moving the project back up sooner if/when any additional federal funds become available. Along with my fellow Legislator, Ted O'Brien, and Town Supervisor Mary Ellen Heyman, we will continue to push this project for completion as soon as possible.

If you are interested in more information about this project, County DOT will be hosting a public forum in early May to review the preliminary design. They expect final design to be completed by summer 2010, which means the earliest the project could go out to bid is fall of 2010.

Although the main East Ridge Road reconstruction project does not qualify for federal stimulus funding because it is not "shovel-ready", Irondequoit will have some stimulus road improvement projects. East Ridge (from Culver to 590), Goodman (from Norton to E. Ridge), Thomas Ave, and Culver Rd (from E. Ridge to the bay) will all be repaved in the next year thanks to federal stimulus funding.

[Click here to read the Irondequoit Post story on this project.](#)

### Bay Outlet "Swing" Bridge

As it has every year on April 1st, the Swing Bridge was again moved to the shore for the summer boating season, thereby closing the road and all the convenience, economic and public safety benefits it provides.

Since before taking office, I have been working to find a long-term, year-round solution to accommodate boaters, motorists, pedestrians, bikers, and anyone else that wants to enjoy the beautiful Sea Breeze area. I am continuing those efforts in coordination with my predecessor, Town Councilwoman Stephanie Aldersley, and also with significant interest from our new Congressman, Dan Maffei.

In the short-term, along with my colleague from across the channel, Carmen Gumina of Webster, I [have introduced a proposal that would change the bridge operating schedule so that it would re-open to vehicular traffic on October 1st](#), rather than November 1st. This would create an equal schedule with the bridge open for six months and closed for six months, and provide additional benefits to the community during the month of October when the channel is not used often by large boats that cannot already pass under the bridge.

Additionally, this proposal calls for a public hearing to be held before final passage by the Legislature, to give everyone interested an opportunity to be heard on this specific schedule change request.

[Click here to read the D&C story on our proposal.](#)

### Ellison Park Area Master Plan

Last month, the Monroe County Parks Advisory Committee completed and passed a draft master plan update for the Ellison Park Area, which includes several county parks on the south end of Irondequoit Bay.

Among the many recommendations in the draft plan is the expansion of mountain biking in two of the parks, Tryon and Irondequoit Bay Park West. Many members of the community have expressed strong concern about this proposal, given the sensitive nature of these parks and their traditional use for passive recreation.

The draft plan is now on the desk of the County Executive, who must advance for approval by the County Legislature if it is to be adopted. Once it is introduced to the Legislature it will go through the month-long legislative committee cycle, where we and the public will have ample opportunity to review the plan and potentially make changes. I encourage you to contact me if you have any concerns questions about this issue.

[Click here for more info on the master plan.](#)

### About Vinnie

Vinnie was elected to the Monroe County Legislature in 2007 and represents the 16th District, which includes most of northern Irondequoit. He is the ranking member of the Planning & Economic Development Committee and also serves on the Transportation Committee.

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