Farmingville, NY - On April 3, Councilwoman Connie Kepert joined over 100 local community and governmental leaders as well as professionals at the 2014 Complete Streets Summit at the Sustainability Institute at Molloy College in Farmingdale. The Councilwoman was featured on the Implementation: Challenges and Policies panel.

As a leader and advocate in safe streets, Councilwoman Kepert sponsored legislation in 2010 to enact a Complete Streets Policy for the Town of Brookhaven. Complete Streets requires that when new roadways are designed and planned, and existing roadways are repaved that they be evaluated for pedestrian and cycling amenities. "The Complete Streets legislation has been an enormous success within the Town of Brookhaven. Numerous roads throughout the town now accommodate all users; pedestrians, bicyclists and motorists," stated Councilwoman Kepert.

The panel, moderated by Ryan Lynch of Tri-State Transportation Campaign, included the Mayor of the Village of Great Neck Plaza, Jean Celender, Nassau County Traffic Safety Coordinator; Chris Mistron and the President of the Suffolk Bike Riders Association; Robert Devito.

County Executive Steve Bellone, who was the event's keynote speaker, declared complete streets a high priority for the county and stated, "Connectivity of our parks and neighborhoods, providing access for pedestrians and bicyclists to our parks and open spaces is an important effort our region needs to be engaged in. There is also an education component to this movement, drivers need to be aware that they are sharing the road; they don't own the road."

Vision Long Island's Director, Eric Alexander, announced the formation of the Long Island Complete Streets Coalition. The mission of the coalition is to plan and coordinate the advancement of safe streets throughout Long Island. It will also engage in securing state and federal funds for Complete Streets projects. The members include local chambers of commerce, civic associations, local governments, engineering and professional trade groups, individual citizens who have lost loved ones as well as local and regional transit advocates.

"It's wonderful to see a movement forming on Long Island demanding safe streets. This is a coalition I will happily participate in," stated Councilwoman Kepert.