Councilwoman Kepert brings Middle Country Road Land Use Plan and North Bellport to Washington
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Patchogue NY, August 9, 2010 - Thanks to Sen. Charles Schumer, towns and villages throughout Long Island had the unique opportunity to present before an interagency partnership, consisting of HUD, DOT and EPA, the infrastructure needs of their communities. This "dream team" of federal officials held meetings in urban and rural locations; Briarcliffe College in Patchogue was their first suburban stop. "The federal government is a crucial partner in moving forward the goals of smart growth in the nation's first suburb. Having an opportunity to open up a dialogue with EPA, HUD and DOT about promoting pedestrian oriented places, which provide for affordable housing, and reduce our carbon footprint in the Town of Brookhaven's 4th Council District, is great progress in the movement toward revitalizing our communities, and is a conversation I intend to continue," stated Councilwoman Kepert.

Councilwoman Kepert, enthusiastic about the once in a lifetime opportunity, spoke before the partnership about the need to build medians along the Middle Country Road corridor to improve the safety for bicyclists and pedestrians along Middle Country Road which, according to data collected from National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's Fatality Analysis Reporting System for years 2006, 2007 and 2008, is one of the most dangerous roads in Suffolk County. She also discussed the sewage treatment plant needed to build a transit orientated development in North Bellport. The sewage treatment plant is a major infrastructure barrier to building higher density for commercial and residential development within walking distance to their existing train station, which the Bellport Community Plan calls for.

"Both these projects are goals of their community plans established by the people who live in the communities. This type of land use planning, where the residents come together and determine what will work in their neighborhood, is a method that will ensure the community's satisfaction with the end result. Being a voice for the needs of the community is my job as an elected official, and having this chance to voice these needs before federal officials is a wonderful example of grass roots, bottom-up approach to building sustainable communities," concluded Connie Kepert.