



SENATOR BOB DUFF
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Appropriations Subcommittee Chair
Results-Based Accountability
Conservation & Development

April 25, 2012

Commissioner Reuben F. Bradford
Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection
1111 Country Club Road
Middletown, CT 06457

Dear Commissioner Bradford:

I share your desire to protect the safety of Connecticut drivers and motorists passing through the state and I commend the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection in general and the state police in particular for your strong commitment to preserving public safety.

Last Saturday, April 21, state troopers and emergency fire and medical personnel responded to four serious accidents on the northbound side of I-95 in Norwalk over a three-hour period of time. According to reports in the media, as many as eight people were taken to the hospital for injuries suffered in the accidents and emergency responders had to extricate victims in three of the four accidents.

The accidents, some of which involved tractor trailers, tied up valuable emergency response resources for hours as police, troopers, firefighters and paramedics responded to the scenes. In addition to injuries, the accidents forced temporary highway closures, triggering traffic jams that snagged hundreds of passing motorists in the area.

I respectfully request that you increase patrols on the stretch of I-95 in and around Norwalk to ensure that drivers are adhering to the law and practicing safe driving. Just the presence of state troopers on the highway gets drivers to pay more attention to their speed and to avoid illegal distractions like talking on a cell phone.

Between 120,000 and 150,000 vehicles travel each day on that busy stretch of I-95, and while the vast majority of drivers arrive safely at their destination, we must strive to make sure all motorists complete safe journeys while on the roads in Connecticut.

Sincerely,

Bob Duff
Connecticut Senate