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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Department of Environmental Protection Completes Short-Term Improvements on Route 28A in Olive

Commissioner Christopher O. Ward of the New York City Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) announced today that the agency has completed numerous short-term improvements to the part of Route 28A in Olive that is being used as an alternate to Monument Road, which was closed earlier this year because of security concerns related to terrorism.

“Safety along Route 28A is a high priority for the DEP,” said Commissioner Ward. “We’ve made a number of real improvements which are designed to make the road safer and more reliable for local residents. We’ll continue to monitor conditions on 28A closely and make more changes if necessary. We’re also working with the State Department of Transportation, and will make any improvements the DOT thinks are needed.”

Among the measures taken to improve safety on Route 28A are:

- ▶ The roadway has been re-stripped from the intersection of Monument Road and Reservoir Road to Route 28A to Route 213, including crosswalks;
- ▶ Some trees have been removed to improve sightlines and to allow more sunlight onto the road. Additional tree work by a professional tree service contractor will begin in December;
- ▶ Shoulders have been widened and paved where necessary;
- ▶ Drainage has been improved and nearby culverts have been cleaned and repaired;
- ▶ Additional warning and guide signs have been installed on Route 28A and on the Middle Dike at the Ashokan Reservoir.

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In addition, the DEP is designing a new section of road to replace the "S" curve on Route 28A that is near the intersection of Route 213. The realignment will be straighter and have a reduced grade from the existing road. Construction is scheduled to begin in Fall 2004.

The DEP is also consulting with the New York State Department of Transportation and the Ulster County Department of Public Works to re-evaluate the speed limit on Route 28A.