

# The Connecticut General Assembly

## House Democrats



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## Stamford's River Bend RR Crossing Safety Improvements Completed

**Rep. Caroline Simmons (D-Stamford)** hailed safety improvements – including the installation of vehicular traffic gates and warning lights – that have been completed at a railroad crossing in the Springdale neighborhood of Stamford where there have been several accidents in recent years involving vehicles striking trains.

Rep. Simmons joined Rep. William Tong, Sen. Carlo Leone, Mayor David Martin and state Department of Transportation (DOT) Commissioner James Redeker this morning at the River Bend crossing on the New Canaan Branch of the New Haven commuter rail line, which is owned by DOT and operated by Metro-North. The crossing leads to River Bend Center, a 40-acre business park with 12 buildings.

“Improving rail safety is a top priority,” Rep. Simmons said. “This crossing has a troubling history and I very happy to see these new safety measures in place.”

The safety improvements include the installation of new flashing lights, and gates to block vehicular traffic when a train is going through. Some 41 trains use the crossing each day, operating at a maximum speed of 40 mph. Previously, the crossing had flashing warning lights and bells, but no gates.

“This is a great example of the state, the city and a private developer working together to enhance safety for motorists and railroad commuters,” said Commissioner Redeker. “Even though this crossing is privately owned, we listened to local concerns and agreed to take action.”

Since 2005 there have been four separate collisions at the railroad crossing in which a train was struck by a vehicle. In all four collisions, the motorists failed to obey the active warning devices and proceeded to enter into the crossing.

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