

Onondaga County  
**Traffic Safety**  
*Advisory Board*

Joanne M. Mahoney  
County Executive

Patricia Wortley  
Chair

## PRESS RELEASE

FOR RELEASE: Immediate, April 20, 2016  
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### **ONONDAGA COUNTY TRAFFIC SAFETY ADVISORY BOARD TO BEGIN ANNUAL OPERATION SAFE STOP CAMPAIGN**

Syracuse, New York – The Onondaga County Traffic Safety Advisory Board, along with the New York State Association for Pupil Transportation, and state, county, and local law enforcement agencies announced Operation Safe Stop will be conducted county-wide on April 21, 2016.

Operation Safe Stop is an educational and enforcement tool used to promote school bus safety. Law enforcement from across the state will use marked and un-marked patrol vehicles to follow school buses in heavy traffic areas to look for motorists who pass stopped school buses, a violation of NYS Vehicle and Traffic Law section 1174, and who speed in school zones. Speed limits in school zones are in effect school days from 7:00 AM- 6:00 PM unless otherwise marked.

School Bus and student safety is a cooperative effort between the bus driver, student and motorist. The bus driver needs to make sure they are following proper loading and unloading procedures. The student is trained to follow state mandated procedures when exiting the bus and crossing the street, and to know the universal signal for danger is the bus horn. The third group is the motorist needing to know the laws of the road when it comes to stopping for school buses with their red lights flashing. Motorists need to stop on divided highways and most importantly on school grounds.

“Whether you are late for work or rushing to get home, there is no excuse for passing a stopped school bus, or violating other traffic laws when driving in a school zone,” said **Sheriff Gene Conway**. “These children are our future, and it is very important that you drive carefully and obey traffic laws to protect the students, the bus drivers, and other drivers on the road.”

“School bus drivers are tasked to monitor students on the bus, students boarding or exiting the bus, as well as paying attention to other vehicles on the road,” said **Diane Miano, President of the Central New York Association for Pupil Transportation and Assistant School Transportation Supervisor at Jordan-Elbridge Central School District**. “When other drivers

are obeying rules of the road and respectful of school bus safety, it makes their job much easier, and keeps our children out of harm's way.”

Law enforcement will be issuing tickets for failure to stop for the stopped school buses, and for speeding in school zones. Operation Safe Stop works to reduce the number of violators, educate the motoring public, ensure the safety of students and prevent any crashes.

**Opportunity for Coverage:**

**Press event to be held Thursday, April 21, 2016 12Noon at Jordan-Elbridge School District's Transportation Office, North St., Jordan NY**

Questions regarding this initiative may be forwarded to Debbie Kogut, Traffic Safety Coordinator, Onondaga County Sheriff's Office, by calling (315) 435-3007.

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