

Traffic on the Montauk Highway, running through Patchogue, overloaded the Main Street traffic, and a solution was urgently needed. New York State was persuaded to build Sunrise Highway section from the Veterans Highway to Phyllis Drive before the Oakdale – Sayville section, taking the load off Patchogue’s Main Street.

Construction was started in May 1952. The steel strike in 1953 delayed the completion date of this section till January 7, 1954. The Oakdale – Sayville section was completed August 5, 1954. The construction of the East Patchogue to Shirley section was started in 1959 and completed January 7, 1960



This is a picture of Sunrise Highway, the road in the background, looking towards Medford Avenue. The picture was taken from North Ocean Avenue, which can be seen in the foreground.



The intersection of Sunrise Highway and North Ocean Avenue in the 1950’s. The four lane Sunrise Highway had only grade crossings controlled by traffic lights in these years. With increased traffic the accident rates rose, and improvements were urgently needed.