



NYS County Highway Superintendents Association  
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NYS Association of Town Superintendents of Highways, Inc.  
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Dear Governor Paterson:

On behalf of the New York State County Highway Superintendents Association, Inc. (NYSCHSA) and the New York State Association of Town Superintendents of Highways, Inc. (NYSAOTSOH), we are requesting that no payments from the Dedicated Mass Transportation Trust Fund be transferred to the Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) unless all of the State's local transit and highway assistance funds are also distributed.

The 2009-10 Budget included a \$633 million appropriation (attached) allowing the MTA to receive funding if a new State budget isn't enacted by May 1, 2010. This appropriation will be paid from the State's Petroleum Business Tax which is collected from New York's drivers, who pay 16.3 cents per gallon every time they purchase gas.

Our Associations support driver fees and taxes being utilized for highway and bridge maintenance and mass transit. New York's drivers pay over \$3 billion a year in such fees, but since March 31<sup>st</sup> of this year, the State has not released a single penny of these funds to pay for critical capital improvements on the state and local highway systems. Therefore, we cannot support the release of these funds to the MTA without similar appropriations for the Consolidated Highway Improvement Program (CHIPs) and the Marchiselli Program.

As you know, local governments are responsible for maintaining nearly eighty-six percent of the 112,500 miles of statewide highway system and half of its 18,000 bridges. This massive system is under serious stress; forty percent of our bridges are deficient and over fifty percent of our roads are in fair or poor condition. You need to release the CHIPs and Marchiselli funds and put more than 35,000 construction workers back to work ensuring New York's drivers a safe highway infrastructure.

We urge you to continue your efforts to enact a final budget as soon as possible. If there are further delays, then accommodations must be made in the emergency spending bills for both the highway and the mass transit systems.

As public officials charged with insuring the maintenance of the local highway and bridge system and the safety of the traveling public, we stand ready as always to work with our State elected representatives to meet this tremendous obligation to our mutual constituents.

Sincerely,

Terrence J. Rice  
 NYSCHSA President  
 Monroe County

Thomas Reifsteck  
 NYSAOTSOH President  
 Town of Middlesex, Yates County

cc: Comptroller Thomas DiNapoli  
 Sen. Pedro Espada, Majority Leader  
 Sen. Carl Krueger, Senate Finance Comm. Chair  
 Sen. Martin Malave Dilan, Senate Trans. Chair  
 Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver  
 Assem. Brian Kolb, Minority Leader  
 Assem. David Gantt, Assembly Trans. Chair

Sen. Malcolm Smith, Temporary President  
 Sen. Dean Skelos, Minority Leader  
 Sen. John A. DeFrancisco, Senate Finance Comm.  
 Sen. Charles Fuschillo, Jr, Senate Trans. Comm.  
 Assem. Ron Canestrari, Majority Leader  
 Assem. Denny Farrell, Assem. Ways and Means Chair  
 Assem. Jim Hayes, Assembly Ways and Means Comm.  
 Assem. David McDonough, Assembly Trans. Comm.