



NYS County Highway Superintendents Association
119 Washington Avenue, Suite 300 | Albany, NY 12210
518.465.1694 ph | 518.465.1942 fax
info@countyhwys.org | www.countyhwys.org



NYS Association of Town Superintendents of Highways, Inc.
119 Washington Ave, Suite 300 | Albany, NY 12210
518.694.9313 ph | 518.694.9314 fax
info@nystownhwys.org | www.nystownhwys.org

May 28, 2010

Hon. David A. Paterson
New York State Governor
Executive Chamber
Albany, New York 12224

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 you support a veto of the Metropolitan Transit Authority (MTA) Capital Plan prior to the June 1, 2010 deadline.

As you know, Local governments are responsible for maintaining nearly eighty-six 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. Since April 1, 2010 your Emergency Budget bills have not contained any capital funding for more than 1200 communities by not including language for over \$350 million in CHIPs that is necessary for us to preserve our road and bridge infrastructure.

In May 2009, the MTA with your support was given an additional \$2.26 billion a year in revenue and \$6.5 billion in capital funding. We understood at the time that this additional funding was for operational costs only and both capital plans would be addressed concurrently. Supporting yet another expansion of the MTA capital program while nothing has been done to provide for the DOT and Local Government's will only hurt New York's 11 million drivers.

In October 2009, New York State Department of Transportation (DOT) Acting Commissioner Stan Gee submitted a \$25.8 billion five year capital plan. In its first two years the Acting Commissioner's plan would have spent \$8.43 billion on roads and bridges. In January's Executive Budget you reduced the two year DOT Capital Plan by 17.3% to just \$6.98 billion. Acting Commissioner Gee's plan acknowledged that even if fully funded our pavement and bridge conditions would decline, your proposed reduction will only exacerbate the problem.

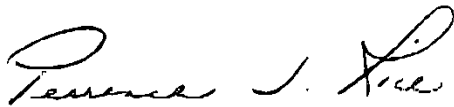
In December 2009, your appointed member of the Capital Program Review Board (CPRB) Acting Commissioner Stan Gee rejected the MTA's initial \$25.6 billion plan based in part on the fact it had a \$10 billion unfunded gap. The newly revised plan although reducing spending by seven

percent still contains the same \$10 billion deficit. The reduction is largely attributed to a re-estimate of projected available federal funding. The unfunded portion of the plan now represents a greater share of the proposal (42%) than it originally represented and the first two years the MTA's program is 31 percent larger than the Department of Transportation's.

If the MTA plan is not vetoed prior to June 1 it is considered adopted and would be the first time in history that both plans were not approved simultaneously. As public officials charged with insuring the maintenance of the local highway and bridge system and the safety of the traveling public, we ask that you consider the needs of all New Yorkers and request a veto of the MTA Capital Plan as it is currently proposed and that you support the continued parity of the two systems.

Thank you.

Sincerely,



Terrence Rice
NYSCHSA President
Monroe County



Thomas "Willie" Reifsteck
NYSAOTSOH President
Town of Middlesex, Yates County

Cc: Conference Leader John Sampson
Minority Leader Dean Skelos
Senator Craig Johnson
Speaker Sheldon Silver
Minority Leader Brian Kolb
Assemblyman Keith Wright
DOT Acting Commissioner Stan Gee