June 3, 2019

The Honorable Andrew M. Cuomo
Governor of New York State
NYS State Capitol Building
Albany, NY 12224

The Honorable Andrea Stewart-Cousins
Majority Leader, NYS Senate
LOB, Room 907
Albany, NY 12247

The Honorable Carl Heastie
Speaker, NYS Assembly
LOB, Room 932
Albany, NY 12247

Dear Governor Cuomo, Majority Leader Stewart-Cousins and Speaker Heastie:

We are writing on behalf of the dedicated public servants that make up the New York State Association of Town Superintendents of Highways (NYSAOTSOH) and the New York State County Highway Superintendents Association (NYSCHSA). The men and women of our local departments maintain eighty-seven percent (87%) of New York State’s roads and more than half of all its bridges.

With only 11 scheduled Legislative session days left it is imperative that you restore the $65 million in Emergency Winter Recovery funds (EWR) and increase other aid to local highway departments through the CHIPS formula before leaving Albany. The paving season is underway and asphalt prices have climbed considerably which means a significant reduction in lane miles that can be repaired on both the state and local highway systems. According to the New York State Department of Transportation’s average posted prices for asphalt table, the cost of asphalt has spiked by almost 50 percent from 2016-2019 and in just the past year prices have jumped by 15 percent.

NYSDOT Average Posted Prices for Asphalt

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Price</th>
<th>Increase</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>$390</td>
<td>7.69%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>$420</td>
<td>20.71%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>$507</td>
<td>49.47%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>$583</td>
<td>14.09%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Over this same time period while asphalt prices have nearly doubled, funding for the Consolidated Highway Improvement Program (CHIPS) has remained flat. And to exacerbate the problem, EWR was eliminated in this year’s 2019-2020 Enacted Budget.

We know you appreciate the efforts of our more than 1,000 municipal Highway Superintendents and Department of Public Works Commissioners and their workers to ensure the traveling public has the safest possible highway system. Our membership and their dedicated staff are responsible for maintaining nearly 90 percent of the state’s roads. This huge, critical system needs to be funded at a level based on its true capital needs. In a year asphalt costs have grown by double digits, we cannot also have a reduction in state funding for our local roads.

On behalf of our Associations and our mutual constituents we implore you to restore the $65 million in Emergency Winter Recovery funds and provide additional funding for local highway departments before the scheduled end of session June 19.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Patrick Mahar
Town of Denmark Highway Superintendent
President NYSAOTSOH

Dennis Davis
Oneida County Commissioner of Public Works
President NYSCHSA

cc: Senator Krueger, Finance Committee Chair
Senator Kennedy, Transportation Committee Chair
Assemblymember Weinstein, Ways and Means Committee Chair
Assemblyman Magnarelli, Transportation Committee Chair
Robert Mujica, Director, Division of Budget