



New York State Legislature

March 5, 2013

Hon. Andrew Cuomo, Governor
Executive Chamber, State Capitol
Albany, NY 12224

Joan McDonald, Commissioner
NYS Department of Transportation
50 Wolf Road
Albany, NY 12232

Hon. Dean Skelos
Senate Temporary President &
Majority Coalition Leader
Room 904 LOB
Albany, NY 12247

Hon. Jeffrey Klein
Senate Temporary President &
Majority Coalition Leader
Room 913 LOB
Albany, NY 12247

Hon. Andrea Stewart-Cousins
Senate Democratic Conference Leader
Room 907 LOB
Albany, NY 12247

Hon. Sheldon Silver
Assembly Speaker
Room 932 LOB
Albany, NY 12248

Hon. Brian Kolb
Assembly Minority Conference Leader
Room 933 LOB
Albany, NY 12248

Hon. Joseph Morelle
Assembly Majority Leader
Room 926 LOB
Albany, NY 12248

Hon. Charles Fuschillo, Jr.
Chairman Senate Transportation
Room 609 LOB
Albany, NY 12248

Hon. David Gantt
Chairman Assembly Transportation
Room 830 LOB
Albany, NY 12248

RE: CHIPS Funding for 2013-2014 New York State Budget

Dear Governor Cuomo and Legislative Leaders:

As budget negotiations continue, we are writing to express our strong commitment and support for an increased investment in our local infrastructure. Specifically, we support a much-needed increase in funding to repair and improve our local roads, bridges and culverts through the Consolidated Highway Improvement Programs (CHIPS) and the Marchiselli program.

As you know, the proposed Executive Budget funds CHIPS at \$363.1 million and the Marchiselli program at \$39.7 million. This is the same level of funding that has been appropriated over the last five budgets. While we understand the difficult financial challenges we have had to overcome during this time, we also understand and recognize the substantial commitment we agreed to make last year to improve our state's infrastructure. In the 2012-13 approved state budget, NY Works increased funding for state roads by \$1.16 billion, while providing no increase in funds for local roads, bridges and culverts. This year's budget proposal calls for an increase in NY Works transportation funding in the amount of \$300 million -- \$200 million earmarked to improve state and local highways, parkways and bridges and \$100 million to be dispersed through Regional Economic Development Councils. We strongly believe that an absolute minimum of \$100 million, if not more, of these funds should be allocated directly to municipalities, providing them the flexibility and discretion to help repair and improve our local roads, bridges and culverts through increasing funding in the CHIPS program. This would increase the annual appropriation for CHIPS to \$463.1 million.

We believe this investment is justified for a number of reasons:

- 1) Local governments are responsible for nearly 87 percent of the roads in New York State and one-half of the 18,000 bridges. CHIPS funds are critical to local highway departments to repair important components of the local transportation system and to purchase necessary highway equipment and materials.
- 2) CHIPS funding has not kept pace with inflation and has been frozen for five consecutive state budgets at a level that is far below what's needed. In the meantime, inflation takes its toll on buying power, with fuel costs up 190 percent, asphalt 206 percent and materials 57 percent over the last 10 years.
- 3) CHIPS, in many cases, is the primary funding source for the local road system.
- 4) The State Comptroller's office recently released its "Cracks in the Foundation" report, which highlights that 32 percent of bridges are deficient and 40 percent of road pavements are rated fair or poor and getting worse. Our local highways are in much worse condition when compared to the state's miles of highways.
- 5) The State Comptroller estimates that there will be \$89 billion in unmet infrastructure needs over the next 20 years, with much of this shortfall on the already deteriorating local transportation system.

- 6) Drivers on local roads contribute nearly half of the gas taxes collected in this state. Unfortunately, CHIPS only receives a small fraction of these revenues.
- 7) Forty-eight percent of the vehicle miles traveled in New York are on local roads, yet less than 12 percent of the fees paid to the state by these drivers go back to maintaining local roads.
- 8) Local highway departments are facing substantial losses in federal highway aid as a result of the new federal transportation program, MAP-21.
- 9) Local governments are struggling. With the tax cap, lack of unfunded mandate relief, skyrocketing pension and health care costs and other increasing costs, investments necessary to improve local roads, bridges, culverts and equipment are not being met.

We all believe an improved infrastructure is vital to advance and foster economic development and job creation. However, we also believe that investment and commitment must be made not just at the state level, but the local level as well. We have continually emphasized working together and partnering to solve major challenges in our state. We believe this is an opportunity and a responsibility we have to partner with our local communities by pledging our support to share our increased transportation and infrastructure investment with our local governments because it is simply the right thing to do.

We thank you for your consideration and look forward to working with you to pass our third on-time and fiscally responsible budget that provides a much-needed increase to improve our local roads, bridges and culverts through the CHIPS program.

Sincerely,

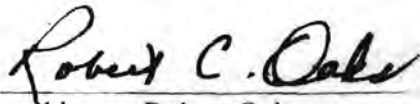


Senator Thomas O'Mara, 58th S.D.





Assemblyman Philip Palmesano, 132nd A.D.


Assembly Members


Assemblyman Robert Oaks



Assemblyman Bill Reilich



Assemblyman Steve Hawley


Assemblyman Dennis Gabryszak


Assemblyman Joseph Giglio



Assemblyman Joseph Borelli

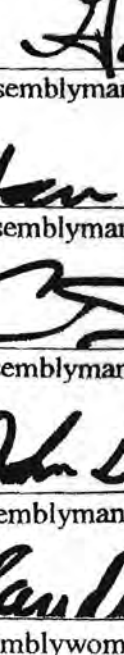

Assemblyman Gary Finch


Assemblyman James Skoufis



Assemblyman Christopher Friend


Assemblyman John Ceretto



Assemblywoman Claudia Tenney


Assemblyman Clifford Crouch


Assemblyman Kenneth Blankenbush


Assemblyman James Tedisco

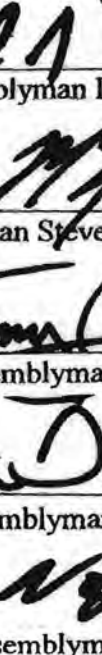

Assemblyman Andrew Goodell



Assemblyman Will Barclay



Assemblyman Andrew Garbarino


Assemblyman David DiPietro


Assemblyman Steven McLaughlin


Assemblyman Tony Jordan


Assemblyman Peter Lopez


Assemblyman Bill Nojay

Mark Johns
Mark Johns-135th A.D.

Harry B. Bronson
Harry Bronson-138th A.D.

Sam Roberts
Samuel Roberts-128th A.D.

Phill Steck
Phillip Steck-110th A.D.

DG Stec
Daniel Stec-114th A.D.

Janet Duprey
Janet Duprey-115th A.D.

Marc W. Butler
Marc Butler-118th A.D.

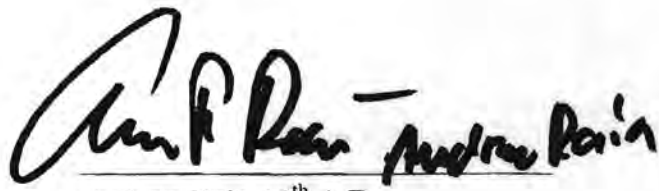
Michael J. Fitzpatrick
Michael Fitzpatrick-8th A.D.

Stephen Katz
Stephen Katz-94th A.D.

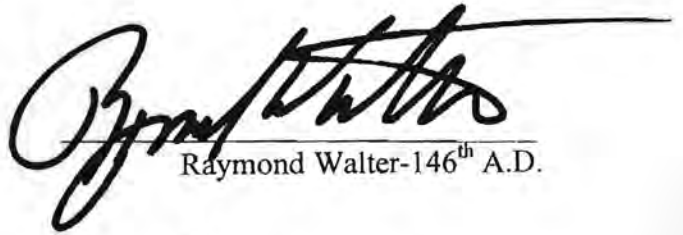
Joan L Millman
Joan Millman-52nd A.D.

Fred W Thiele Jr.
Fred Thiele Jr.-1st A.D.

Chad A. Lupinacci
Chad Lupinacci-10th A.D.



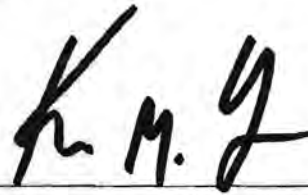
Andrew Raia-12th A.D.



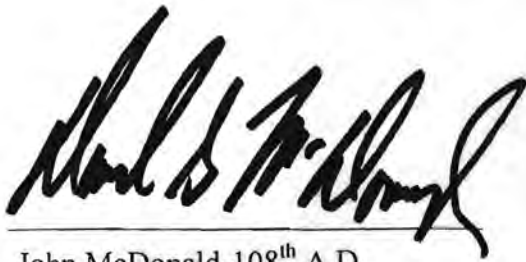
Raymond Walter-146th A.D.



Brian Curran-21st A.D.



Kieran Lalor-110th A.D.



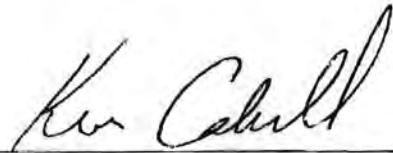
John McDonald-108th A.D.



Addie Russell-116th A.D.



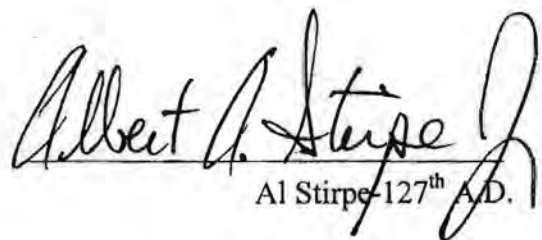
Robin Schimminger-140th A.D.



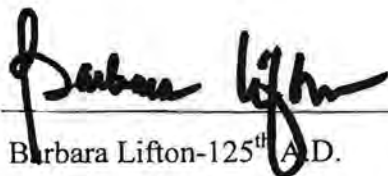
Kevin Cahill-103rd A.D.



Donna Lupardo-123rd A.D.



Al Stirpe-127th A.D.



Barbara Lifton-125th A.D.



Alfred Graf-5th A.D.



Thomas McKeivitt-17th A.D.



Edward Ra-19th A.D.



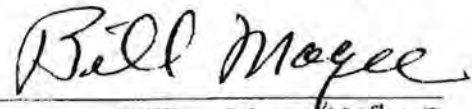
Joseph Saladin-2st A.D.



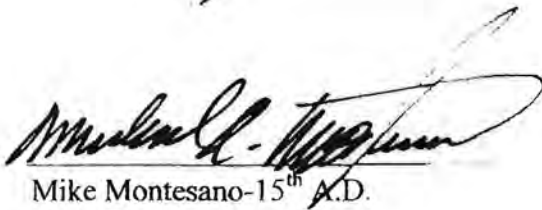
Thomas Abinanti-92nd A.D.



Annie Rabbitt-98th A.D.



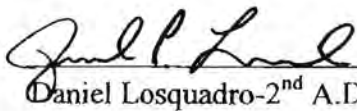
William Magee-121st A.D.



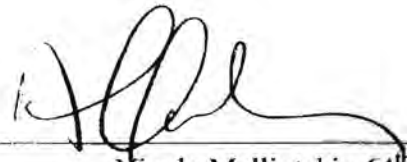
Mike Montesano-15th A.D.



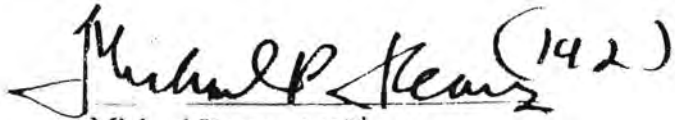
Jane Corwin-144th A.D.

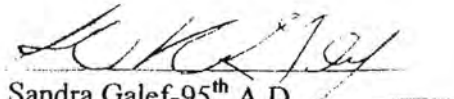


Daniel Losquadro-2nd A.D.



Nicole Malliotakis-64th A.D.


Michael Kearns-142nd A.D.


Sandra Galef-95th A.D.

X John A. Bonacic
Senator John Bonacic 2nd Senate District

X Martin D. Dilan
Senator Martin Dilan 18th Senate District

X William Larkin
Senator William Larkin 39th Senate District

X George Maziarz
Senator George Maziarz 62nd Senate District

X Ted O'Brien
Senator Ted O'Brien 55th Senate District

X Michael Ranzenhofer
Senator Michael Ranzenhofer 61st Senate Dist...

X Catherine Young
Senator Catherine Young 57th Senate District

X Lee Zeldin
Senator Lee Zeldin 3rd Senate District

X Kathleen A. Marchione
Senator Kathleen Marchione 43rd Senate District

Summary of Signatures for CHIPS Funding

Assemblymembers:

Thomas J. Abinanti 92nd A.D.
Will Barclay 120th A.D.
Kenneth D. Blankenbush 117th A.D.
Joseph Borelli 62nd A.D.
Harry B. Bronson 138th A.D.
Marc W. Butler 118th A.D.
Kevin A. Cahill 103rd A.D.
John D. Ceretto 145th A.D.
Jane L. Corwin 144th A.D.
Clifford W. Crouch 122nd A.D.
Brian F. Curran 21st A.D.
David J DiPietro 147th A.D.
Janet L. Duprey 115th A.D.
Gary D. Finch 126th A.D.
Michael J. Fitzpatrick 8th A.D.
Christopher S. Friend 124th A.D.
Dennis H. Gabryszak 143rd A.D.
Sandra R. Galef 95th A.D.
Andrew Garbarino 7th A.D.
Joseph M. Giglio 148th A.D.
Andrew Goodell 150th A.D.
Alfred C. Graf 5th A.D.
Steve M. Hawley 139th A.D.
Mark C. Johns 135th A.D.
Tony Jordan 113th A.D.
Stephen M. Katz 94th A.D.
Michael P. Kearns 142nd A.D.
Kieran Lalor 105th A.D.
Barabara S. Lifton 125th A.D.
Peter D. Lopez 102nd A.D.
Daniel P. Losquadro 2nd A.D.
Donna A. Lupardo 123rd A.D.
Chad Lupinacci 10th A.D.
William Magee 121st A.D.
Nicole Malliotakis 64th A.D.
John T. McDonald III 108th A.D.
Thomas McKeivitt 17th A.D.
Steven F. McLaughlin 107th A.D.
Joan L. Millman 52nd A.D.

Michael A. Montesano 15th A.D.
Bill Nojay 133rd A.D.
Robert C. Oaks 130th A.D.
Philip A. Palmesano 132nd A.D.
Edward P. Ra 19th A.D.
Annie Rabbitt 98th A.D.
Andrew P. Raia 12th A.D.
Bill Reilich 134th A.D.
Samuel D. Roberts 128th A.D.
Addie J. Russell 116th A.D.
Joseph S. Saladino 9th A.D.
Robin L. Schimminger 140th A.D.
James Skoufis 99th A.D.
Daniel Stec 114th A.D.
Phillip Steck 110th A.D.
Al Stirpe 127th A.D.
James N. Tedisco 112th A.D.
Claudia Tenney 101st A.D.
Fred W. Thiele Jr 1st A.D.
Raymond W. Walter 146th A.D.

Senators:

John Bonacic 2nd S.D.
Martin Dilan 18th S.D.
William Larkin 39th S.D.
Kathleen Marchione 43rd S.D.
George Maziarz 62nd S.D.
Ted O'Brien 55th S.D.
Tony Jordan 113th A.D.
Thomas O'Mara 58th S.D.
Michael Ranzenhofer 61st S.D.
Catherine Young 57th S.D.
Lee Zeldin 3rd S.D.