

MaryJane Shimsky

Legislator, 12th District

Majority Whip

Chair, Committee on Public Works



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MEMORANDUM

TO: Benjamin Boykin, Chair, Board of Legislators
FROM: MaryJane Shimsky, Legislator – 12th District
DATE: October 15th, 2018
RE: *Livingston County News*: “NYSAC: Increasing funding for local roads and bridges an ongoing priority”

Please add the attached *article* to the PW and B&A committees.

The New York State County Highway Superintendents Association commended members of the New York State Association of Counties for adopting resolutions that support increasing state funding to assist counties in maintaining their local infrastructure.

“The strong partnership between NYSCHSA and NYSAC provides a unified call for prioritizing the repair, reconstruction and modernization of our local transportation infrastructure at a time when we are facing great challenges addressing the critical needs of our aging and ailing roads, bridges and culverts,” said NYSCHSA President Charles “Skip” Vezzetti. “Our county leaders’ demonstration of support for increases in state funding for local highway departments is certainly welcomed.”

NYSAC, which represents the thousands of elected and appointed county officials throughout the state, adopted pro-transportation funding resolutions at the recent NYSAC Fall Seminar which took place Sept. 24 through 26 at the Rochester Riverside Convention Center in Rochester.

One NYSAC resolution calls on state elected officials to continue their partnership with local governments to champion increases in Consolidated Local Streets and Highway Improvement Program, or CHIPS, funding and to continue supporting Governor Andrew Cuomo’s PAVE NY and BRIDGE NY initiatives. These programs provide a fair distribution of state and federal funds directly to municipalities throughout the state to help maintain roads, bridges, culverts and other local transportation facilities, NYSCHSA officials said in a news release.

A second resolution urges the enactment of state legislation to give municipalities more options to either bid-out CHIPS-funded projects or perform them in-house by raising the CHIPS bidding threshold from \$250,000 to \$500,000. This will allow local governments to minimize the costs of their transportation projects on behalf of local taxpayers, NYSCHSA said.

Local roads and bridges account for 87 percent of the roads, 51 percent of the bridges and 48 percent of the vehicle mileage traveled in New York State.

“NYSAC: Increasing funding for local roads and bridges an ongoing priority”

October 15th, 2018

Page | 3

NYSAC resolutions become the group’s policy positions and agenda going forward and are transmitted to the governor, state legislators and federal officials to inform them about the priorities of county government.

“Our county highway superintendents association, having six members on the NYSAC Transportation and Public Works Committee, supported these resolutions and praises NYSAC for adopting these expressed positions as part of their 2019 legislative agenda,” Vezzetti said.