



local roads
are essential!
Move New York. Invest in Local Roads.



March 17, 2026

The Honorable Kathy Hochul
Governor of New York State
NYS State Capitol Building
Albany, NY 12224

The Honorable Andrea Stewart-Cousins
NYS Senate
Legislative Office Building, Room 907
Albany, NY 12247

The Honorable Carl Heastie
NYS Assembly
Legislative Office Building, Room 932
Albany, NY 12248

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

On March 4, more than 500 highway superintendents from communities across New York State came together for our Advocacy Day—marking the largest gathering of elected local officials in Albany this year.

Throughout the day, these local leaders conducted more than 80 scheduled meetings to discuss the infrastructure challenges facing our towns, villages and counties. The strong engagement during all of the meetings was greatly appreciated. In addition, more than 40 legislators joined superintendents at our press conference in the Well of the Legislative Office Building, where we collectively called for a \$250 million increase in Consolidated Local Street and Highway Improvement Program (CHIPs) funding.

Since that March 4 press conference, the fiscal pressures facing local highway departments have only intensified. Diesel fuel prices alone have increased by more than a dollar per gallon in just the past few weeks. This spike directly impacts municipal operations, significantly increasing the cost of plowing, hauling, and paving. Many of the materials used in road construction—such as asphalt and other paving products—are also oil-based, meaning fuel price increases ripple throughout every aspect of highway maintenance and construction.

At the same time, local governments continue to grapple with the tremendous growth in construction costs that has occurred over the past several years. These pressures are stretching local highway budgets thin and making it increasingly difficult to maintain safe and reliable roads and bridges.

For these reasons, it is more important than ever that the full \$250 million increase in CHIPs funding be included in the final budget. This investment will provide immediate and direct support to local governments responsible for maintaining more than 87 percent of New York's roadways, helping communities address rising costs while keeping critical infrastructure in good condition.

Thank you again for your time, attention, and partnership with New York's town, village and county highway superintendents. We look forward to continuing to work together to ensure our local transportation infrastructure remains safe, reliable, and well maintained.

Sincerely,



James A. Dussing
President, NYSAOTSOH



William Geary
President, NYSCHSA

cc: Senator Liz Krueger
Senator Jeremy Cooney
Assemblymember Helene Weinstein
Assemblymember William Magnarelli
Blake Washington, Division of Budget Director
Chris Friend, Secretary, Senate Finance Committee
Phil Fields, Secretary, Assembly Ways and Means Committee
David Ullman, Deputy Secretary for Transportation