



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



March 26, 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 17, we wrote to highlight the growing fiscal pressures facing local highway departments across New York State. At that time, we noted that diesel fuel prices had increased by more than a dollar per gallon—significantly driving up the cost of plowing, hauling, and paving.

Since then, these cost pressures have escalated further. Yesterday, the New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT) posted its April 2026 price adjustments, with asphalt increasing to \$730.00 (U.S. Measure), up from \$638.00 in March, and fuel rising to \$3.58, up from \$2.40. Notably, this represents the highest asphalt price recorded in the years covered on NYSDOT's Average Posted Price for Asphalt.

At the same time, local governments continue to face substantial increases in utility costs. In some cases, municipalities have experienced utility cost increases of up to 195 percent between 2023 and 2026. These combined pressures are straining already limited local highway budgets and making it increasingly difficult to maintain safe and reliable roads and bridges.

As we emphasized in our March 17 letter, it is more important than ever that the full \$250 million increase in CHIPS funding be included in the final State Budget. This critical investment would provide immediate, direct relief to local governments responsible for maintaining more than 87 percent of New York's roadways—helping communities absorb rising costs while preserving the condition and safety of essential infrastructure.

Thank you for your continued attention to this issue and for your partnership with New York's town, village, and county highway superintendents. We look forward to working together to ensure that our local transportation system remains safe, reliable, and resilient.

Sincerely,



James A. Dussing
President, NYSAOTSOH



William Geary
President, NYSCHSA

cc: Senator Liz Krueger
Senator Jeremy Cooney
Assemblymember J. Gary Pretlow
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