

THE SENATE  
STATE OF NEW YORK



February 18, 2015

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

Dear Governor Cuomo:

We write to express our support for a significant increase in support for local road and bridge improvements throughout New York State. Specifically, we request a \$200 million increase to the Consolidated Local Street and Highway Improvement Program, a \$200 million allocation for Deficient Bridge Emergency Repair, and \$100 million for New York's Extreme Weather Program. Such funding would allow municipalities and counties to improve their infrastructure, helping to prevent the type of damage that has been caused by harsh winter weather the past several years, while also increasing economic activity.

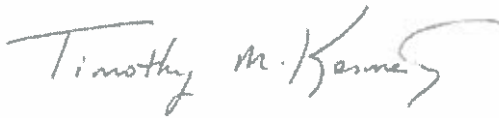
A study by TRIP, a national transportation research group, indicates that only 53% of roads in our state are rated as either "good" or "excellent," failing to attain TRIP's suggested goal of 75%. This increased funding, made possible with New York State's one-time surplus of \$5 billion from a number of financial settlements, would get our localities on a more stable financial footing as they look to repave and improve their battered roads and bridges, all while saving them money in the long-term. The Cornell Local Roads Program estimates that every \$1 in deferred maintenance ends up adding an additional \$4 or \$5 in future repair costs. This temporary increase in funding can end up saving our localities, and ultimately the state, hundreds of millions of dollars more in expenses.

In addition to municipal savings, this investment would both directly and indirectly create thousands of jobs throughout the state. The Senate Democratic Conference estimates that these three funding increases would ultimately create over 13,000 jobs both as a result of road and bridge construction and due to lower transportation costs for local employers. Likewise, we can expect improvements to also lower costs for consumers, with the Federal Highway Administration estimating that consumers save \$5.20 for every dollar spent on road improvements, resulting from factors such as reduced delays, lower vehicle maintenance costs, and improved safety. Indeed, a separate study by TRIP cited nearly \$5 billion in maintenance costs endured by New Yorkers every year as a result of poor road conditions.

Last year's \$40 million allocation in additional local road funding, via the Extreme Weather Program, was a boon for local governments that were struggling to keep up with the damaging effects of the freeze-thaw cycle. With that extra funding, they were able to ensure that these cratered roads were milled and repaved. This winter has once again been trying, and municipalities are again struggling to keep pace with the damage to their roads. With six out of every seven miles of road in New York maintained by a municipality or county, this is a major expense faced by governments throughout the state. New York State should take advantage of its significant surplus, and drive these funds directly back into communities.

This funding, we believe, would benefit local governments, our constituents, and local businesses. We look forward to continuing to work with you to find solutions that work for all New Yorkers, and we thank you for your attention to and consideration of this important matter.

Sincerely,



Timothy M. Kennedy  
New York State Senator, 63<sup>rd</sup> District



Gustavo Rivera  
New York State Senator, 33<sup>rd</sup> District



Martin Malavé Dilan  
New York State Senator, 18<sup>th</sup> District



Ruth Hassell-Thompson  
New York State Senator, 36<sup>th</sup> District



Velmanette Montgomery  
New York State Senator, 25<sup>th</sup> District



Neil D. Breslin  
New York State Senator, 44<sup>th</sup> District



Jose Peralta  
New York State Senator, 13<sup>th</sup> District



Marc C. Panepinto  
New York State Senator, 60<sup>th</sup> District



Kevin Parker  
New York State Senator, 21<sup>st</sup> District



George Latimer  
New York State Senator, 37<sup>th</sup> District

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bill Perkins". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "B".

Bill Perkins  
New York State Senator, 30<sup>th</sup> District