

THE SENATE
STATE OF NEW YORK

CHAIRMAN
COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION
DEPUTY MAJORITY WHIP



SENATOR
CHARLES J. FUSCHILLO, JR.
8TH SENATE DISTRICT
May 4, 2011

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JUDICIARY

Ms. Joan McDonald, Commissioner
New York State Department of Transportation
50 Wolf Road
Albany, New York 12232

Dear Commissioner McDonald:

We are writing to you with regard to the status of the I-287 reconstruction project.

A recent investigation by *The Journal News* revealed that this project is nearly \$200 million over-budget and expected to be completed at least two years behind schedule. Total project costs exceed half a billion dollars, averaging out to a staggering \$63 million per mile.

Additionally, the report notes that "multimillion-dollar mistakes, design flaws, and obstacles for which state engineers failed to account drove the cost of the Interstate 287 reconstruction up more than \$67 million.

This report raises serious concerns about DOT's oversight and accountability in managing this project. It also raises questions as to whether these problems are occurring on other DOT projects statewide. The state cannot afford, nor should it tolerate, to have millions of taxpayer dollars wasted on unnecessary spending.

We respectfully request that you examine the issues raised in this report and inform us about the corrective action DOT is taking to improve efficiency, increase oversight, and prevent future cost overruns.

Thank you in advance for your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "C. J. Fuschillo, Jr.".

SENATOR CHARLES J. FUSCHILLO, JR.
Chairman, Transportation Committee

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Martin Malave Dilan".

SENATOR MARTIN MALAVE DILAN
Ranking Member, Transportation Committee

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Andrea Stewart-Cousins".

SENATOR ANDREA STEWART-COUSINS