



January 12, 2005

The Honorable George Pataki
Governor
State of New York
State Capitol
Albany, NY 12224

Dear Governor Pataki:

The members of the New York Roadway Improvement Coalition (NYRIC) were dismayed that you did not use the opportunity of your recent State of the State Address to call for the implementation of a new five-year state transportation program. During your tenure as Governor, New York's transportation network has begun to deteriorate and the Dedicated Fund, now broke, has been raided for over \$2 billion to pay for General Fund expenses.

On December 15, 2004, the *New York State Advisory Panel on Transportation Policy for 2025* reported to Commissioner Boardman, "that trouble lies ahead for transportation without bold leadership and substantial new investments of tens of billions of dollars in just the next five years alone."

As you know, this independent Advisory Panel was made up of twelve professionals, each a leader in their respective field. They volunteered their time traveling the state, conducting nine hearings from Buffalo to Long Island, and taking testimony from over 1,000 individuals and groups.

After reviewing the testimony and data provided by your transportation agencies, the panel concluded that New York State is on the verge of slipping back to the deplorable conditions of the 1980s — a time of crumbling infrastructure, unsafe travel and unreliable service.

With the submission of your Executive Budget on January 18, you have one final chance to provide the "bold leadership" called for by the Panel by proposing a comprehensive funding plan that will reverse previous trends. The time is now to adopt the recommendations set forth in the Advisory Panel's report:



- “1. New York State must develop a new strategy that provides substantial, sustainable and predictable funding dedicated to transportation investments;
2. The transportation system is under stress, and conditions will worsen, unless New York State dramatically changes the planning, investing, managing and institutional relationships that drive the system; and
3. The multiple transportation operations in the state must be integrated to form a seamless system that delivers significantly improved service while enhancing the environment.”

By continuing to ignore these recommendations, there will be an unprecedented deterioration of the state’s road system. The report — titled “Transportation – Trouble Ahead” — stated that if adequate and meaningful funding is not provided, “the transportation infrastructure will deteriorate, the economy will falter, jobs will be lost and the quality of life in New York State will suffer dramatically.”

Governor, the independent Advisory Panel appointed by your Commissioner delivered a sober, yet accurate account of New York’s transportation network. We, along with all New York motorists, will hold you accountable for enacting its recommendations. After a decade of denial, the time for bold leadership is now.

Sincerely,

Robert F. Carlino
Long Island Contractors’ Association

Francis X. McArdle
General Contractors’ Association
of New York, Inc.

Ross J. Pepe
Construction Industry Council of
Westchester and Hudson Valley, Inc.

AJ Castelbuono
Associated General Contractors,
New York State Chapter

William Duffy
President NYS Conference of
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James Melius
New York State Laborers - LECET

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