

R-14-211

Resolution Urging Transportation Trust Fund Reauthorization And Increased Funding For Local Transportation

WHEREAS, local officials know that investments in our rapidly deteriorating transportation infrastructure must be made, since failure to do so can compromise the safety of the public, the economic vitality of our communities and the security of our neighborhoods; and

WHEREAS, the New Jersey Department of Transportation (DOT) reports that New Jersey's municipalities are responsible for 64 percent (28,539 center line road miles) of our roads, county governments are responsible for another 22 percent (6,649 center line road miles), and together, local governments are responsible for 39 percent of our bridges; and

WHEREAS, local roadways and bridges carry about 55 percent of all of New Jersey's traffic; and

WHEREAS, just last year, the American Society of Civil Engineers reported that 651 of the 6,554 bridges in New Jersey (9.9%) are considered structurally deficient and 1,717 (26.2%) are considered functionally obsolete, and that driving on roads in need of repair costs New Jersey motorists \$3.476 billion a year in extra vehicle repairs and operating costs – \$601 per motorist, and that 66% of New Jersey's roads are in poor or mediocre condition; and

WHEREAS, in the first year of the Transportation Trust Fund (FY 1985), Local Aid funding represented almost 22 % of total Transportation Capital funding, but over the years, the Local Aid portion was reduced to 16% in FY 1997, 12% in FY 2004, and 15% in FY 2013, so that the average Local Aid funding over the first 29 years of the Transportation Trust Fund was just under 15%, and

WHEREAS, the need for investments in local roads and bridges has not decreased since 1985, and no one has suggested that it will decrease in the future; and

WHEREAS, On May 1, New Jersey DOT then-Commissioner Jim Simpson announced that the State's Transportation Trust Fund is just 14 months away from a \$620 million deficit; now, therefore, be it

BE IT RESOLVED, that the governing body of the Borough of Highlands joins with the New Jersey League of Municipalities in supporting the "Forward New Jersey" coalition, and we call on State policy-makers to:

1. Reauthorize the Transportation Trust Fund to ensure adequate and reliable funding to meet State and local transportation infrastructure funding needs for the next 10 years;
2. Increase Local Aid funding to ensure adequate and reliable funding to meet all local transportation infrastructure needs; and
3. Increase the municipal share of Local Aid funding and ensure fair funding for all municipalities; and be it, further,

BE IT RESOLVED, that given the extent of the local infrastructure, and given the need for strong and steady investment in that infrastructure, we will call for assurances that Local Aid will represent, at a minimum, 25% of annual Transportation Capital spending, and for adjustments in funding, to account for the effects of inflation; and be it, finally,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that certified copies of this Resolution be forwarded to Governor Chris Christie, Commissioner of the Department of Transportation Jamie Fox, our State Senator Joseph M. Kyrillos, Jr. , our two representatives in the General Assembly Declan J. O'Scanlon, Jr. Assemblyman and Amy Handlin, Assemblywoman, and to the New Jersey League of Municipalities.

	INTRODUCED	SECONDED	AYE	NAY	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
CARD			x			
KANE		x	x			
REDMOND			x			
RYAN			x			
NOLAN	x		x			
ON CONSENT AGENDA		x	YES		NO	

DATE: **October 22, 2014**

 Carolyn Cummins, Borough Clerk

I hereby certify this to be a true copy of Resolution R-14-211_ adopted by the Governing Body of the Borough of Highlands on October 22, 2014.

 Carolyn Cummins, Borough Clerk