FOR RELEASE: Immediately
March 6, 2019

Media Contact: Charles Wiff
(607) 743-8314
charles@gramcomm.com

Mayors from 38 Cities Responsible for Maintaining State Highways Call for Sufficient State Reimbursement

In a letter issued to the leaders of the New York State Senate and Assembly (see attached), city mayors from across the state are calling on both houses of the New York State Legislature to include $12.7 million in additional funding for an inflationary increase in "arterial maintenance reimbursement."

Under this cooperative program, 38 of New York’s 62 cities maintain the state arterial highways passing through their cities, but the rate of reimbursement has not been adjusted since 1987. This underfunding has left the taxpayers in these cities with the burden of picking up the rising costs of maintaining state-owned roads, which has more than doubled over the past three decades.

"Cities and their residents should not be punished for participating in a cooperative program with the state," noted Peter A. Baynes, Executive Director of the New York State Conference of Mayors (NYCOM). "We instead urge the state to uphold its end of this partnership and provide reimbursement based on the current cost of road maintenance. NYCOM thanks Senator Timothy Kennedy and Assemblywoman Nily Rozic for their leadership in fighting for our cities to receive their rightful reimbursement from the state, and we call on the Senate and Assembly to include this funding in their one-house budget proposals and the final state budget."

The attached chart lists each of the cities, the reimbursement amount they have received since 1987, and the inflation-adjusted reimbursement they are now seeking.

-30-

The New York State Conference of Mayors and Municipal Officials (NYCOM) is an association of, and for, cities and villages in New York. Since 1910, NYCOM has united local government officials in an active statewide network focused on the singular purpose of finding the most effective means of providing essential municipal services. Representing more than 12 million New Yorkers, NYCOM is a strong advocate for city and village interests at all levels of state government, and a leader in the training and education of local officials.
March 5, 2019

Hcn. Andrea Stewart-Cousins
New York State Senate Majority Leader
907 State Legislative Office Building
Albany, NY 12247

Hcn. Carl Heastie
New York State Assembly Speaker
932 State Legislative Office Building
Albany, NY 12248

Dear Leader Stewart-Cousins and Speaker Heastie:

We write to request your support on a budgetary issue that hampers our cities' ability to fill potholes, lay down road markings, and keep our roads safe.

There are currently 38 cities that have arterial maintenance agreements with the State. Pursuant to these agreements, the cities maintain certain designated State-owned arterial roads and highways and the State compensates those cities for this service. However, the reimbursement rate of $0.85 per square yard paid to cities has not been increased since 1987. These maintenance costs -- like every other municipal expense -- have experienced substantial increases during the last 32 years. The amount of money that cities are currently receiving for this service is well below what they expend.

To address this shortfall, Assemblymember Rozic and Senator Kennedy have introduced legislation (A. 5990-A/S. 4048-A) to provide an inflationary adjustment from the current $0.85 per square yard to $1.87 per square yard. This amounts to an additional state expenditure of approximately $12.7 million. However, we are confident that if the State was responsible for maintaining these highways, the fiscal exposure would far exceed the reimbursement that would be paid to cities under this proposal.

We are seeking this reimbursement as part of the 2019-20 State Budget and respectfully request its inclusion in your respective one-house budget proposals. We recognize that your conferences have been stalwart in your support for local highway aid and we ask that the same diligence is given to this matter which would provide much needed resources to our local governments who are good stewards of these state-owned arterials.
Thank you for your consideration. Should you wish to discuss further, kindly contact Peter Baynes, Executive Director of the New York State Conference of Mayors, at 518-463-1185.

Sincerely,

Mayor Michael Quill
City of Auburn

Council President Eugene Jankowski
City of Batavia

Mayor Randy Casale
City of Beacon

Mayor Byron Brown
City of Buffalo

Mayor Ellen Polimeni
City of Canandaigua

Mayor William Boland
City of Corning

Mayor Brian Tobin
City of Cortland

Mayor Wilfred Rosas
City of Dunkirk

Mayor Daniel Mandell, Jr.
City of Elmira

Mayor Ronald Woodward, Sr.
City of Fulton

Mayor Ron Alcock
City of Geneva

Mayor Dan Hall
City of Glens Falls

Mayor Svante Myrick
City of Ithaca

Mayor Samuel Teresi
City of Jamestown

Mayor Steven Noble
City of Kingston

Mayor Mark Blask
City of Little Falls

Mayor Michelle Roman
City of Lockport

Mayor Dennis Baker
City of Mechanicville

Mayor Noam Bramson
City of New Rochelle

Mayor Bill de Blasio
City of New York

Mayor Torrance Harvey
City of Newburgh

Mayor Paul Dyster
City of Niagara Falls

Mayor Arthur Pappas
City of North Tonawanda

Mayor Christine Carnrike
City of Norwich

Mayor William Aiello
City of Olean

Mayor Leo Matzke
City of Oneida

Mayor Gary Herzig
City of Oneonta

Mayor William Barlow, Jr.
City of Oswego

Mayor Rob Rolison
City of Poughkeepsie

Mayor Richard Mooney
City of Rensselaer

Mayor Jacqueline Izzo
City of Rome

Mayor Michael Smith
City of Salamanca

Mayor Gary McCarthy
City of Schenectady

Mayor Ben Walsh
City of Syracuse

Mayor Rick Davis
City of Tonawanda

Mayor Patrick Madden
City of Troy

Mayor Thomas Roach
City of White Plains

Mayor Michael Spano
City of Yonkers
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>City</th>
<th>Square Yards of State Arterial Highway</th>
<th>Reimbursement Rate Since SFY '87 @ $.95/yard</th>
<th>COLA to $1.87/yard (CPI inflation)</th>
<th>COLA $ Increase</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Auburn</td>
<td>197,225</td>
<td>$167,642</td>
<td>$368,812</td>
<td>$201,170</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Batavia</td>
<td>204,588</td>
<td>$173,900</td>
<td>$382,580</td>
<td>$208,680</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beacon</td>
<td>28,380</td>
<td>$24,123</td>
<td>$53,071</td>
<td>$28,948</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Buffalo</td>
<td>194,957</td>
<td>$165,713</td>
<td>$364,570</td>
<td>$198,856</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canandaigua</td>
<td>158,993</td>
<td>$135,144</td>
<td>$297,317</td>
<td>$162,173</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corning</td>
<td>70,966</td>
<td>$60,321</td>
<td>$132,706</td>
<td>$72,385</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cortland</td>
<td>75,031</td>
<td>$63,776</td>
<td>$140,307</td>
<td>$76,531</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dunkirk</td>
<td>112,725</td>
<td>$95,816</td>
<td>$210,796</td>
<td>$114,980</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elmira</td>
<td>129,235</td>
<td>$109,849</td>
<td>$241,669</td>
<td>$131,819</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fulton</td>
<td>132,336</td>
<td>$112,486</td>
<td>$247,468</td>
<td>$134,983</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Geneva</td>
<td>108,852</td>
<td>$92,524</td>
<td>$203,553</td>
<td>$111,029</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Glens Falls</td>
<td>2,065</td>
<td>$1,755</td>
<td>$3,862</td>
<td>$2,106</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ithaca</td>
<td>157,796</td>
<td>$134,126</td>
<td>$295,078</td>
<td>$160,952</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jamestown</td>
<td>239,440</td>
<td>$203,524</td>
<td>$447,753</td>
<td>$244,229</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kingston</td>
<td>31,039</td>
<td>$26,383</td>
<td>$58,043</td>
<td>$31,660</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Little Falls</td>
<td>11,236</td>
<td>$9,551</td>
<td>$21,011</td>
<td>$11,461</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lockport</td>
<td>108,841</td>
<td>$92,515</td>
<td>$203,533</td>
<td>$111,018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mechanicville</td>
<td>12,049</td>
<td>$10,242</td>
<td>$22,532</td>
<td>$12,290</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Rochelle</td>
<td>107,740</td>
<td>$91,579</td>
<td>$201,474</td>
<td>$109,895</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New York City</td>
<td>7,999,975</td>
<td>$6,799,978</td>
<td>$14,959,953</td>
<td>$8,159,974</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Newburgh</td>
<td>44,177</td>
<td>$37,550</td>
<td>$82,611</td>
<td>$45,061</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Niagara Falls</td>
<td>472,499</td>
<td>$401,625</td>
<td>$883,574</td>
<td>$481,949</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North Tonawanda</td>
<td>144,907</td>
<td>$123,171</td>
<td>$270,976</td>
<td>$147,805</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Norwich</td>
<td>68,532</td>
<td>$58,252</td>
<td>$128,155</td>
<td>$69,903</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Olean</td>
<td>87,007</td>
<td>$73,956</td>
<td>$162,702</td>
<td>$88,747</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oneida</td>
<td>59,382</td>
<td>$50,475</td>
<td>$111,045</td>
<td>$60,570</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oneonta</td>
<td>14,988</td>
<td>$12,740</td>
<td>$28,028</td>
<td>$15,288</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oswego</td>
<td>146,652</td>
<td>$124,654</td>
<td>$274,239</td>
<td>$149,585</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poughkeepsie</td>
<td>82,395</td>
<td>$70,036</td>
<td>$154,078</td>
<td>$84,043</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rensselaer</td>
<td>13,800</td>
<td>$11,730</td>
<td>$25,806</td>
<td>$14,076</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rome</td>
<td>222,993</td>
<td>$189,544</td>
<td>$416,996</td>
<td>$227,453</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Salamanca</td>
<td>116,626</td>
<td>$98,281</td>
<td>$216,218</td>
<td>$117,937</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Schenectady</td>
<td>26,360</td>
<td>$22,406</td>
<td>$49,292</td>
<td>$26,887</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Syracuse</td>
<td>205,516</td>
<td>$174,688</td>
<td>$384,314</td>
<td>$209,626</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tonawanda</td>
<td>92,397</td>
<td>$78,538</td>
<td>$172,783</td>
<td>$94,245</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Troy</td>
<td>43,682</td>
<td>$37,130</td>
<td>$81,685</td>
<td>$44,556</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White Plains</td>
<td>33,000</td>
<td>$28,050</td>
<td>$61,710</td>
<td>$33,660</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yonkers</td>
<td>502,441</td>
<td>$427,075</td>
<td>$939,564</td>
<td>$512,490</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total (38 cities)**  
11,957,379  
$10,163,772  
$23,299,863  
$12,709,016