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GOVERNOR PATERSON ANNOUNCES \$14.7 MILLION IN STIMULUS FUNDING FOR LONG ISLAND TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE

Total Economic Recovery Investment for Road and Bridge Projects in Region Reaches 83.3 Million

Governor David A. Paterson today announced the certification of an additional \$14.7 million for transportation projects on Long Island through the federal American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). The funds will provide for highway and bridge repairs and long-term projects that will create an estimated 353 jobs. These certifications bring the total ARRA funding allotment for Long Island to \$83.3 million. Nassau and Suffolk counties are expected to receive \$154 million in economic-recovery funding.

“These investments to resurface worn pavement in Nassau County and improve flood prevention along Suffolk County roadways make our streets safer for commuters, while also reinvigorating local economics,” Governor Paterson said. “With these certifications, we meet the goals set forth by President Obama and our Congressional Delegation in the economic recovery act.”

The certifications include the following projects:

- \$781,000 in ARRA funding for a \$867,000 project to improve motorists’ safety and the quality of storm water run off by cleaning, repairing and/or replacing six drainage structures throughout Nassau and Suffolk counties. Flooding conditions will be minimized and the structural integrity of these drainage systems will be restored, thereby improving the quality and effectiveness of storm water run off from the roadways to minimize pollution. Locations include NY Route 25A (Northern Blvd) in Nassau County, NY Route 102 (Front Street) in Nassau County, NY Route 25A (Fort Salonga Road) in Suffolk County, and Robert Moses Causeway in Suffolk County. The project is expected to be completed in the summer of 2010.
- \$3.9 million in ARRA funding for a \$4.3 million project to upgrade the outdated, 22-year-old original technology that operates 53 out of 190 motorist information signs operated by NYSDOT INFORM’s transportation management center. The project will increase the reliability of the variable message, real-time travel information signs that improve traffic flow, reduce trip time, alleviate congestion, reduce energy consumption and improve regional economic productivity with more user-friendly transportation services. Since INFORM’s inception in 1987, Long Island’s traffic has steadily increased, technology has changed dramatically, intelligent transportation systems have evolved and Long Island travelers have grown dependent on INFORM’s numerous transportation management services. The project is expected to be completed in the spring of 2011.
- \$1 million in ARRA funding out of a \$1.1 million project to preserve the Stony Brook Mill Pond as a fragile aquatic resource and better protect motorists from roadway flooding conditions on NY Route 25A (North Country Road) in Stony Brook, Town of Brookhaven, Suffolk County. Accumulated sediment will be removed from the pond and a new drainage basin will be installed in order to improve the quality of storm water runoff. This project also includes cleaning of 30 additional storm water treatment units across Long Island. This project is expected to be completed in winter 2010.
- \$4.5 million in ARRA funding for phase I of a project to resurface select local roads in Nassau County. The existing deteriorated pavement surface will be removed and replaced with new asphalt and pavement markings. This project is expected to be completed in summer 2010.

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- \$4.5 million in ARRA funding for phase II of a project to resurface select local roads in Nassau County. The existing deteriorated pavement surface will be removed and replaced with new asphalt and pavement markings. This project is expected to be completed in summer 2010.

Earlier this month, Governor Paterson announced that in addition to the ARRA funding, the New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT) will award the Long Island area \$230 million in highway and bridge contracts this fiscal year. The area also will receive approximately \$32 million in Consolidated Highway Improvement Program funding, which the recovery funds enabled to be restored to this level in the state budget. In total, Long Island communities will receive more than \$400 million in highway and bridge funding in State Fiscal Year 2009-10.

The economic recovery funds New York will receive for transportation projects must follow the same process required for distributing all federal transportation funds. The money is allocated to projects that are selected by the 13 regional Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) across the State, which are comprised of local elected officials, local transit operators and NYSDOT representatives. MPOs vote unanimously on projects for their Transportation Improvement Program, and the projects are then eligible to receive economic-recovery funds.

Similarly, regions of New York State without MPOs are served by the NYSDOT, which consults with local elected officials and selects projects for the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program. The department is working with local officials and the Governor's Economic Recovery Cabinet to identify priority shovel-ready projects eligible for recovery funds.

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The following quotes were provided in support of the Long Island economic recovery projects:

U.S. Senator Charles E. Schumer said: "The recovery package was designed to jumpstart the economy by creating and retaining jobs, and these federal dollars will go a long way toward achieving that goal by breaking ground on these long overdue infrastructure projects. This is the best way to put federal dollars to work for our local economy because it will modernize infrastructure, create jobs and promote economic development across the region."

U.S. Senator Kirsten E. Gillibrand said: "Today's announcement by Governor Paterson that stimulus funds we passed in Congress will be used to upgrade Long Island's roads and bridges is great news for the safety of our residents and for continued economic recovery in the region. More than just making needed upgrades to Long Island's transportation infrastructure, the investment of these critical federal dollars will create hundreds of good paying jobs. I will continue to work with Senator Schumer and our entire Congressional delegation to ensure that New York gets its fair share of federal dollars."

Congressman Tim Bishop said: "I voted to pass the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act because job creation and economic development are top priorities for Long Island. These new Recovery Act projects will create jobs and improve public safety on our roads."

Congresswoman Carolyn McCarthy said: "I am pleased that Governor Paterson has certified important projects that will help improve Long Island's transportation infrastructure. This funding will help rehabilitate badly deteriorated roads, repair aging and failing drainage systems and improve dated motorist information signs. These projects will help to create jobs, boost our local economy and bring much needed improvements to major roadways and thoroughfares throughout Long Island. I look forward to continuing to work with Governor Paterson to continue to find ways to rebuild Long Island's infrastructure and economy."

New York State Department of Transportation Acting Commissioner Stanley Gee said: "The federal funding we are announcing today is a vital investment in Long Island's transportation infrastructure. Governor Paterson has been a leader in selecting projects quickly and efficiently so we can ramp up construction and put New Yorkers back to work."

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Senator Craig M. Johnson said: “Investing in the infrastructure of Long Island is vital to our region's economic recovery and long-term prosperity.”

Senator Brian X. Foley said: “It’s imperative that we utilize stimulus money as quickly as possible to put Long Islanders back to work and stimulate our local economy. The recently approved \$14.7 million worth of transportation projects – part of the total \$154 million Long Island is set to receive – will put us on a path towards recovery and help build a stronger, more prosperous Long Island.”

Assemblyman Steven Englebright said: “Updating Suffolk County’s infrastructure will create jobs and help revive the local economy. These funds will enable important transportation infrastructure improvements, ensuring high quality roadways and bridges while contributing to public safety for our area. I applaud our governor and the federal delegation for their hard work in securing these funds.”

Assemblyman Charles Lavine said: “These funds will enable important transportation infrastructure improvements, create jobs and stimulate the economy. I look forward to the completion of these projects so transit throughout Nassau County can remain safe and reliable. Governor Paterson and our Congressional Delegation are to be commended for protecting these public assets.”

Assemblywoman Michelle Schimel said: “I commend Governor David Paterson for providing this vital infrastructure funding to Long Island. This funding will create jobs, stimulate the economy, and repair our roadways. Making these investments in Nassau County’s transportation infrastructure is crucial for improving the safety of the driving public. I am very grateful to President Obama and our Congressional Delegation for securing this money.”

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