



**NEW YORK CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS ASSOCIATION**  
**11 Century Hill Drive**  
**Latham, NY 12110-2151**

**Phone: 518.783.0909**  
**Fax: 518.783.0969**

May 27, 2020

The Honorable Andrew M. Cuomo  
Governor of New York State  
Executive Chamber  
State Capitol  
Albany, New York 12224

Dear Governor Cuomo:

The New York Construction Materials Association (NYMaterials) sincerely appreciates the statements you made at yesterday's press conference. You said, "There is no better time to build than right now. You need to start the economy, you need to create jobs, and you need to renew and repair this county's economy and infrastructure. Now is the time to do it." Our members totally agree, let's get started. A good first step will be the immediately release of the \$743 million in local highway funding contained in the 2020-21 adopted state budget. Local highway construction has ground to a halt from Long Island to Buffalo and thousands of construction workers are unemployed because these funds are being held by your administration.

NYMaterials is the not-for-profit trade association representing the business and regulatory interests of companies involved in the production of construction aggregates, ready mixed concrete and hot-mix asphalt. These vital building materials are used in literally every construction project in New York. A recent study claims New York has lost 41 percent of its construction jobs since the pandemic hit in early March. As you noted today and yesterday in your press conferences there is no better way for New York to restart its economy than through an aggressive infrastructure program.

The 2020-21 enacted budget included \$438 million in Consolidated Local Street and Highway Improvement Program (CHIPS), \$39.7 million in Marchiselli, \$100 million in PAVE-NY, \$100 million in BRIDGE-NY and \$65 million in Extreme Winter Recovery (EWR) funding. These appropriations are distributed statewide through a formula to every local government. The majority of New York's 1,600 municipalities receive no federal highway assistance. This massive local highway system uses one of the State's oldest and most successful public private partnerships to maintain our infrastructure and strengthen our local economies. New York's construction season is short, and we've already lost April and May, so we must begin this critical work now. The sooner you release the local infrastructure funding letters the faster we can begin to revive the economy and get our workers back on the job and fixing our roads and bridges.

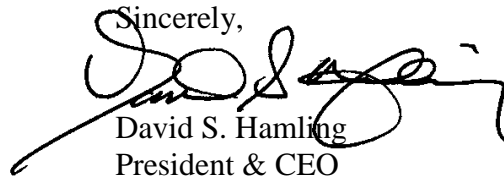
We also completely agree with your sentiment that now is the best time to start infrastructure work, when traffic and volume is low. This is true for both local and state construction. It is critical that you take advantage of this this opportunity and also allow the Department of Transportation's full \$6.1B core capital program to be fully spent this year.

From the NYS Thruway and the Erie Canal to the NYC Subway system, New York State has lead the nation in developing and maintaining safe and reliable transportation infrastructure that has been critical to the state's economic growth and its citizens. Today's highway and bridge funding challenges from COVID-19 are no different and we urge you to rise to the challenge.

The time is now, please release the local highway appropriations so that we can start rebuilding our roads and our local economies.

Thank you, now let's get to work.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David S. Hamling', with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the left.

David S. Hamling  
President & CEO