

LICA'S Latest

BIWEEKLY E-GRAM THAT CONTAINS
THE LATEST NEWS AND INFORMATION
VITAL TO LICA'S MEMBERS

APRIL 14, 2009

Has the Governor Embraced "Fair Share" for Long Island's Recovery?

Governor David Paterson recently came, saw, spoke and departed Long Island leaving behind a press release that states the region will receive approximately \$154 million in federal economic stimulus dollars for use on its infrastructure projects. What he also left behind was much public debate and analysis of what his announcement really means for the region.

Long Island Contractors' Association (LICA) Executive Director Marc Herbst was among those who welcomed Governor Paterson to a Melville DOT garage that the Governor used as his venue to make his announcement.

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*The Voice of Long Island's
Highway & Infrastructure Professionals*

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Herbst told reporters, "We have long held that the road to New York's economic recovery begins on Long Island. The ability to bury a recession is based on the Governor's decision on exactly where and when to put government dollars to work. This announcement reflects an appreciation that our region has nearly 3 million people with a gross economic product of some \$129 billion dollars. If you can reboot Long Island's economy through this announcement then we can help the Governor refill the State's coffers and get the rest of New York back on track."

Jim Pratt, chairman of LICA, stated, "We are hopeful this is the first of what will be a rolling series of announcements by the Governor regarding funds invested in Long Island. We believe that the region has suffered for years by being shortchanged when spending allocation agreements were dropped in the middle of the game. We believe that when Governor Paterson speaks of 'fair share' he is committed to exactly that for Long Island."

Among those joining Herbst, Pratt and other LICA representatives were members of the Operating Engineers, the Building Trades Union, laborers and elected officials including **U.S. Senator Charles Schumer, Congressman Steve Israel, County Executives Steve Levy and Tom Suozzi, and Town Supervisors Steve Bellone and Jon Kaiman.**

Governor Paterson arrived at the news conference to the sound of air horns attached to LICA member payloaders and flatbeds. Explained Pratt, "We wanted to make a 'joyful' noise to let the Governor know that while our members may not be rejoicing we are hopeful. We continue to believe that unemployment on Long Island robs New York State of its future."

Storm Clouds Finally Clearing?

LICA received notice of the Governor's Long Island press event the day after the Association's annual breakfast with Suffolk County's local elected officials and heads of public works agencies. LICA Executive Director Marc Herbst reminded local officials that investment of public dollars at the county, town and village levels of government were the most effective and proven way to climb out of the current economic recession.

In addition to advocating for local investments, Herbst implored our officials to be our advocates and call upon New York State to direct federal stimulus dollars to our region for infrastructure.

Among those present, at least one special guest heeded LICA's call: **Suffolk Democratic Chairman Rich Schaffer**, who has served as an elected town supervisor as well as a county political leader. Few know better the role of public works in reinforcing the local economy at a grassroots level. Schaffer informed LICA that his participation in the breakfast prompted him to discuss this issue with Governor Paterson's office and make his own concerns known regarding the need for significant economic stimulus dollars on Long Island. The Governor was on Long Island the following day.

DID YOU KNOW...
When reading the LICA e-Gram with Adobe Reader, you can zoom in and out of the pages by holding ctrl (or apple) and pressing + (to zoom in) and - (to zoom out)?

LI DOT Program
\$230 million

Federal Stimulus
\$154 million

Local CHIPs Funds
\$33 million

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The \$230 million target letting program for DOT Region 10 is higher than the \$225 million goal set for the just completed fiscal year, which fell dramatically short. But, with assurances from the Governor's "Stimulus Cabinet" and senior staff members, achieving the new goal will be realistic thanks to the Paterson Administration decision to grant one of LICA's primary requests. The group had asked the Governor to repeal the State Budget Office directive that halted all contracts not meeting 75% federal funding levels.

The federal stimulus dollars will be above and beyond the DOT program, with the funding being split between the State and Long Island municipalities.

During his recent Long Island announcement, Governor Paterson only identified a few projects that have already been certified, promising to announce others as approved. The largest one identified to date is the reconstruction of Route 112 - the second phase of the Route 112 project. The Route 112 first phase bid opening was last month.

The local CHIPs (Consolidated Highway Improvement Program) funding level was restored to last year's level with the adoption of the state budget. Therefore, our local governments can expect their highway funding stream to remain stable.

... and the Hyper-Local Weather Report on Funding ...

At the LICA Suffolk County breakfast held early April, the region's local municipal officials unveiled plans for this new construction season. Following Suffolk County **Legislator Rick Montano** welcoming the group to New York Institute of Technology's Epicurean Restaurant, located within his district, LICA received reports from several officials.

Legislator Brian Beedenbender, Chairman of Suffolk County's Public Works Committee, strongly conveyed the fact the County understands that a downturn in tax revenues does not blunt the need for a strong investment in infrastructure to achieve an economic recovery. He reported that the County budget has set aside \$87 million this year for infrastructure improvements. **DPW Commissioner Gil Anderson** discussed specific projects planned and the potential for even more jobs through funding from the federal stimulus program. According to Anderson, Suffolk County has identified at least \$27 million worth of additional projects that are shovel-ready. The County is also looking to invest about \$8 million in sanitation and clean water projects. **Legislators Wayne Horsley and John Kennedy** joined the other County representatives in advancing Suffolk's waste water system's needs.

The LICA members were also provided the opportunity to discuss upcoming plans at the town level of government with several officials, including **Babylon DPW Commissioner Phil Berdolt, Riverhead Highway Superintendent George Woodson, and Smithtown Highway Superintendent Dan Ryan.**

Newly-elected **Brookhaven Town Supervisor Mark Lesko** also chose to make LICA's breakfast one of his first official appearances as the leader of Suffolk's largest township. He stayed throughout the event, taking time to introduce himself to all LICA members and offering to work with the association.

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The information received at this breakfast follows similar news received the prior month from our Nassau County officials. Nassau County has \$120 million in infrastructure spending planned for the 2009 season, out of a total \$200 million capital program. Oyster Bay Town announced planned \$80 million in capital spending, plus \$100 million for parkland acquisition and improvements. Hempstead Town expects to have its highway program equal \$40 million. Glen Cove City anticipates \$20 million in projects, and possibly more if stimulus dollars can be secured for its ferry terminal plan. North Hempstead looks forward to investing at least \$30 million in a community center.

Keep an Eye on the Long Range Forecast

LICA's focused and deliberate advocacy has captured key goals but the organization cannot rest on its laurels. While funding for the current construction season appears to be falling into place, the group is looking at the horizon. Here are three major legislative issues that LICA continues to battle:

Fair Funding:

New York State must meet the funding projections set in its current five-year capital program. The state also needs to formalize and adopt its next five-year capital program with the traditional 50%-50% funding parity between highway and transit, and honor the traditional highway regional funding splits with Long Island receiving 23% of allocation.

Fix the Fund Foundation:

The Statewide Dedicated Transportation Fund was created as a "lockbox" funded primarily through the state gasoline taxes but, observed LICA's Executive Director Marc Herbst, "someone made too many keys." Its initial purpose was pay-as-you-go funding for capital projects, but now over half the funding goes toward bond indebtedness of past projects and the remainder has been eaten up to support non-capital purposes, such as snow and ice removal maintenance operations and the administration of the Department of Motor Vehicles. The Senate unanimously passed a reform bill last session and both houses need to do so this year.

Federal Financing:

New York is in fierce competition with 49 other states for infrastructure funds. The state needs to be aggressive in qualifying and securing federal dollars available from the federal stimulus package for infrastructure. In addition, we must fight hard to ensure that New York, Long Island in particular, receives its appropriate levels of funding through the next federal transportation reauthorization bill which is now being formalized for adoption within the coming months.

Golf Carts Ready to Roll so that Our Advocacy Stays Strong

The golf pros have rehearsed their opening instructions for the golfers attending LICA's annual golf outing on Monday, April 20th. They are ready to tell you the dos and don'ts about the courses at the Nassau Country Club and the Meadow Brook Club, as well as standard golf etiquette.

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But before they address you, allow us to remind you how important this event is for LICA. Your trade association is a not-for-profit organization that relies on the revenues from the only fundraiser we hold to support our advocacy efforts on your behalf. We've fought hard for construction dollars. We've seen some success. But if we are not strong, solvent and funded, it will be impossible to face the much larger battles that lie ahead. Our long-term viability as an industry depends on our elected officials and policy-makers hearing our message. If you have not already committed to support this event in some manner, we are asking you to kindly do so. Our future success depends on it.

Please [click here](#) for the golf registration form to find out how best you can support our industry.

NY's Newest U.S. Senator Says "It's the Economy."

During her inaugural visit to Long Island as New York's newest U.S. Senator, Senator Kirsten Gillibrand was welcomed by LICA with thanks and payloaders for her efforts in passing the federal stimulus program. She now is returning to discuss the very topic that greeted her during her February visit. She will be the guest speaker at the Long Island Association's breakfast meeting on Monday, April 27th, 8am, at the Crest Hollow Country Club, in Woodbury. LICA will be attending this meeting. If you wish to participate, please contact the LICA office at 631-231-LICA. You may [click here](#) for more information.

Lawyers, Lettings and Livelihood

LICA listened. Our members have asked for more opportunities to meet in informal settings with those who can help us perform better and deal with the many challenges we face on the job site. We are beginning a new breakfast series entitled, "Lawyers, Lettings and Livelihood." The first breakfast is scheduled for Thursday, May 14th, 8 am at the LICA headquarters building.

In an effort to set a general theme for each meeting, a LICA member firm will be invited to make a brief presentation of about 10 – 15 minutes on a topic of interest to other members. That will be the extent of formalities. Other than that, those attending will be afforded the opportunity to share a cup of coffee, breakfast and conversation with others in our industry. We have asked transportation and public works department representatives of the State, counties and towns to attend. We've also invited others who may offer guidance on issues of concern, such as officials from OSHA and the legal community. This is simply an opportunity for casual conversation to start off your day and possibly get a chance to discuss something that has been on your mind.

LICA Member Kevin Ellman of Wealth Preservation Solutions will be making the initial presentation at the first session. It will discuss "How to Avoid the Costliest Mistakes that Contractors Make." Please [click here](#) for more information.



**CLICK HERE TO
VIEW OUR WEB SITE
AND DOZENS OF
MEMBERS' PHOTOS
IN OUR GALLERIES.**

Welcome, New Members

SUB-CONTRACTOR MEMBERS

<p>Horan Sand & Gravel Burleigh Horan Jr. 85 Oak Drive Syosset, NY 11791 Phone: 516-364-2972 Fax: 516-364-3984 Email: horansg@optonline.net</p>	<p>Mohawk Milling and Sweeping Corp. John Ostoni 25 Jersey Street West Babylon, NY 11704 Phone: 631-491-1411 Fax: 631-643-2449</p>	<p>Bancker Construction Corp Mr. Stephen M. Beyer 218 Blydenburgh Road Islandia, NY 11749 Phone: 631-582-8880 Fax: 631-582-3698 Email: sbeyer@bancker.com</p>
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ASSOCIATE MEMBER

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Bid Results

Bid Date	Project Name	Owner	Contractor	Bid Amount
3/26/09	Hot surface recycling of various town roads	T. of Huntington	Highway Rehab Corp.	n/a
3/26/09	Road rehab/2009 req contract	T. of Huntington	Kings Park Industries	n/a
3/31/09	Resurfacing various county roads XIV	Nassau DPW	Intercounty Paving	\$ 3,089,125
			Pioneer Asphalt	\$ 3,215,503
			Newborn Construction	\$ 3,369,000
			ALAC Contracting	\$ 3,636,363
			Carlo Lizza & Sons	\$ 3,800,005
4/2/09	James St parking field improvements	V. of E. Rockaway	Frank Robustello	\$ 77,890
			Fasco Asphalt Paving	\$ 84,000
			Concrete Plus	\$ 85,768
			PSL Industries	\$ 97,538
			Stasi Brothers Asphalt	\$ 104,784
			Brett Landscaping	\$ 135,020
4/2/09	Stormwater remediation on various county roads	Suffolk DPW	Annex General Cont.	\$ 88,322
			Norman Kurrass	\$ 106,658
			Bi County Construction	\$ 193,810
			R.B. Conway & Sons	\$ 199,525
			Bancker Construction	\$ 236,380
			Adjo Contracting	\$ 432,960
4/8/09	Florence Ave area, phase 2	T. of Oyster Bay	<i>no results available</i>	
4/9/09	Rehab of goose street bridge & grand ave bridge	Suffolk DPW	BASE BID	
			Chesterfield Associates	\$ 465,564
			Bi County Construction	\$ 485,110
			Biltwel General Cont.	\$ 507,745
			R.B. Conway & Sons	\$ 526,440
			CAC Contracting	\$ 527,978
			Gibson & Cushman	\$ 543,368
			BASE BID + ALT.	
			Bi County Construction	\$ 574,610
			Chesterfield Associates	\$ 586,564
			R.B. Conway & Sons	\$ 630,440
			CAC Contracting	\$ 654,018
			Biltwel General Cont.	\$ 669,745
			Gibson & Cushman	\$ 693,008
4/9/09	Pavement repairs	T. of Babylon	Suffolk Asphalt	\$ 1,248,822
			Kings Park Industries	\$ 1,429,441
4/9/09	Microsurfacing on various town roads	T. of Southampton	<i>no results available</i>	