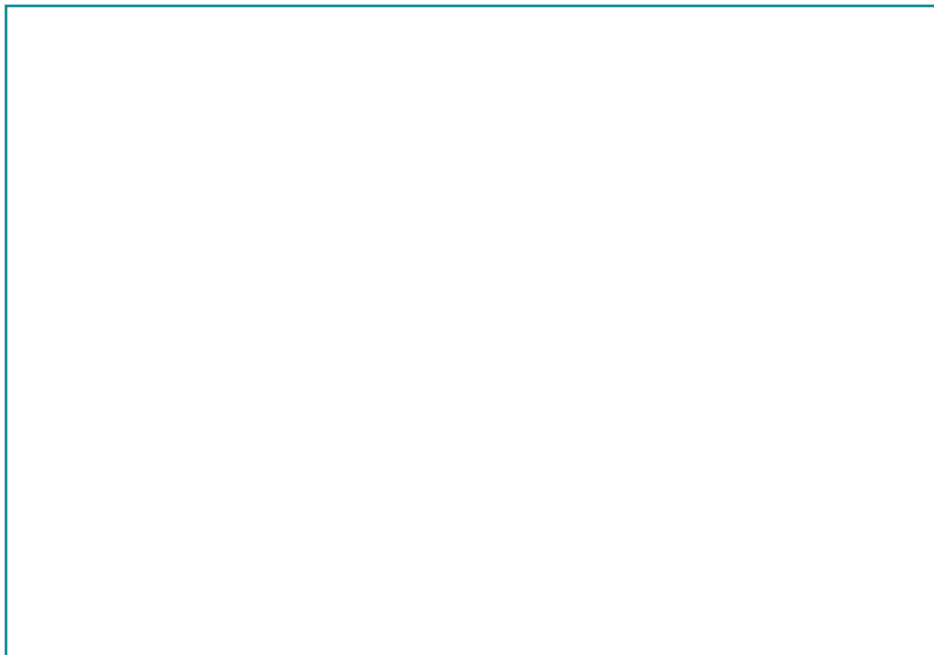


LICA'S Latest

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

NOVEMBER 24, 2009

Senator Schumer Steps Up Again for LI Construction: Agrees to Lead Rally on Behalf of the Industry



While far too many public officials have callously turned away from the one-in-three who are unemployed among the Long Island construction trades, United States Senator **Charles Schumer** has renewed once more his commitment to be a strong and effective leader, fighting on behalf of the industry that builds our roads and bridges.

He is no stranger to the struggle. Earlier this year, Senator Schumer encouraged LICA to mount its mile-long heavy equipment convoy as a dramatic demonstration to Albany that there is a work force skilled at

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

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leveraging federal stimulus dollars into infrastructure reconstruction. His commitment was so strong that he urged LICA to conclude the convoy route at the door of his Long Island regional office.

That door remains open with Senator Schumer recently inviting LICA and the largest construction trades that partner with LICA, Laborers Local 1298 and Operating Engineers Local 138, to meet with him in his New York City Office. Schumer made a special trip from his legislative responsibilities in Washington, D.C., specifically to convene this summit with the hard pressed construction industry. At its conclusion, he was required to return to Washington on a grueling trip that would put him in the Capitol in time for an extraordinary weekend legislative voting session.

Nevertheless, during his meeting with LICA leadership his message was loud and clear, and very well received. He stated that the construction employment levels on Long Island are simply unacceptable and that every elected official needs to appreciate that without the construction trades returning to work there can be no economic recovery. As a result New York's senior Senator is calling on the industry to organize another demonstration in which he will proudly take a leadership role.

However, the Senator cautioned that far more immediate, tangible actions are required to address the hemorrhaging that is taking place within the heavy construction industry. Among his action items:

Temporarily Suspend Local Government Matching for Infrastructure Projects

The Senator has directed his staff to research possible legislative remedies that would waive regulations for local governments to meet matching requirements for unspent federal earmark projects. Many local governments do not have the financial ability to partially fund projects, and, therefore, the federal money is not spent for construction projects. Senator Schumer cited the unspent \$92 million designated for Long Island towns and villages that **Congressman Tim Bishop** uncovered this summer. If the waiver is granted for only a two-year period, Schumer explained, our region will experience a genuine stimulus program.

Equitable Distribution of Federal \$\$ in Transportation Reauthorization

Next, Mr. Schumer seeks to concentrate on the State's distribution of federal funding. He fully appreciates the punitive funding strategies imposed on Long Island by Albany coupled with the devastating impact of a State Budget Office directive stopping projects that were less than 75% federally funded. In developing the next federal transportation reauthorization plan, his staff will closely scrutinize project selections.

Regarding the federal reauthorization, the Senator predicted that a 16-month plan would be in place before December 31st. Senator Schumer was unequivocal that he will not be an idle witness to a state that refuses to design its own transportation capital program because they may have issues with federal guidelines.

Federal Sewer Grants – Not Loans

Finally, Senator Schumer underscored the importance of clean water and wastewater construction programs, an area that receives little publicity, but one that Senator Schumer has correctly noted is the foundation upon which

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our modern communities are totally dependent. The Senator reminded LICA and construction trades that last month he announced that he is working to secure an additional billion dollars to be distributed as grants – not loans – to communities to address their massive water and sewer infrastructure needs.

Schumer said that he is also pushing to increase the amount of total federal funding available for water and sewer projects to \$3.75 billion, more than double what was made available last year through the appropriations process. The federal government is currently planning on giving all water and sewer funds out as loans, which the Senator said will burden communities in the future and limit their flexibility of financing.

Mr. Schumer shared with the delegation that municipalities in New York City and on Long Island have requested approximately \$4.5 billion for water and sewer infrastructure projects. The county governments of Nassau and Suffolk, excluding other local municipalities, have \$1.4 billion worth of projects now in design. That amount equals the federal dollars spent on Long Island for the sewer programs in the 1970s.

The summit was revealing in that the Senator was as well briefed on this complex and difficult issue as any policy analyst who has spent months studying the issue. His commitment to a fair and equitable resolution was total, as was his pledge that he intends to stand with a construction industry that remains poised to build our region's economic recovery.

Long Island Congressional Delegation Pushes Localities to Get to Work with Federal Funds

While researching possible ways to get LICA members and the heavy construction industry back to work, U.S. Congressman **Tim Bishop**, a member of the House Transportation & Infrastructure Committee, was stunned to discover that much of the federal dollars he and his fellow Long Island congressional colleagues fought so hard for in the SAFETEA-LU (Safe Accountable Flexible Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users) program were not being used to create jobs and maintain our infrastructure.

After sharing with U.S. Representatives **Gary Ackerman, Steve Israel, Peter King** and **Carolyn McCarthy** the fact that \$92 million of secured funds for Long Island counties, cities, towns and villages remain unspent, they wrote to local officials asking for their participation in a workshop that would cut through this morass and help the municipalities move projects desperately needed in our region.

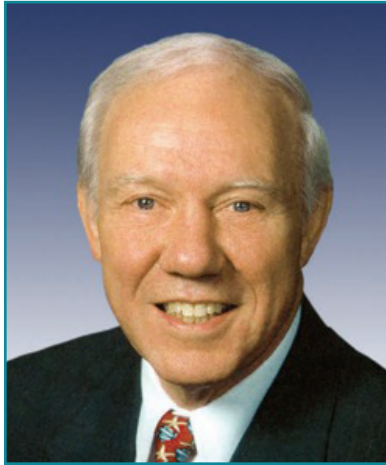
In their joint letter, our Congressional representatives explained to the local officials, "We have been working hard in Congress to ensure that New York and Long Island receive its fair share of federal infrastructure funding. We would also like to continue to work closely with you to ensure that this funding is spent effectively and in a timely manner for the benefit of our mutual constituents. That is why we have

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)?

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teamed up with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT) to organize this workshop to focus on issues that can benefit your office in administering federal aid.” In stressing the importance of this workshop, the powerful Chairman of the House Transportation & Infrastructure Committee, Congressman **Jim Oberstar** (D-Minnesota) is personally attending the workshop to address the local officials and industry leaders.



Congressman Jim Oberstar

Congressman Bishop has also invited LICA members to attend this important workshop. The Long Island Infrastructure Workshop will be held on Monday, December 14th, 1:00 – 5:00 pm, at Suffolk Community College’s Van Nostrand Theater, located in the Sagtikos Arts & Science Building of the Brentwood campus.

It is important that those attending RSVP in order to ensure availability of materials. If you plan to attend, kindly contact **Lisa Wieber** in Rep. Bishop’s office at lisa.wieber@mail.house.gov or LICA Event Planner **Josephine Magee** at jmagee@licanys.org or 631-231-LICA.

Another Industry Supporter Needs OUR Support: Comptroller DiNapoli Event on December 2nd

Weeks ago, with LICA at his side, New York State Comptroller **Tom DiNapoli** courageously exposed the looting of the State’s dedicated Bridge and Highway Trust Fund. His report certainly wasn’t appreciated by those in government who have been pilfering from this account over the years without any effective oversight. Maybe that would explain why some are quietly mounting an effort to prevent him from being the Democratic Party’s nominee for his position in next year’s election. (The New York Times recently ran an extensive article on the political maneuvering underway to replace DiNapoli, Long Island’s favorite son, with another candidate.)

This issue is our industry’s line in the sand. DiNapoli has raised this issue of a looted state trust fund because he feels ethically compelled to prevent it from continuing. By doing so he is fighting for our industry, our ability to fund projects and the means to put people to work. The Long Island heavy construction industry should fight for him.

Comptroller DiNapoli’s supporters have asked us to encourage our members to join this quiet but courageous leader at a reception planned in his honor. The event will be held on Wednesday, December 2nd from 6:00 to 8:00 pm at the Oheka Castle in Huntington. If you need more information, please contact LICA Executive Director **Sal Rinaldi** at srinaldi@licanys.org or 631-231-LICA.

LICA Testifies on State Transportation Plan

Although **Governor David Paterson** outright rejected his own Department of Transportation's proposed next five year transportation capital plan as simply "unaffordable," other legislative leaders recognize the closing of dangerous bridges and creating unsafe roadways isn't an option.

The Chairs of the Assembly and Senate transportation committees, Assemblyman David Gantt (D-Rochester) and Senator Martin Dilan (D-Brooklyn) have set up hearings throughout the State to closely review the DOT proposal. LICA is honored to have been among those specifically asked to testify before the legislature so that a balanced and thoughtful voice can be heard in this debate.

On Thursday, November 12th, LICA Executive Director **Marc Herbst** addressed the Assembly Transportation Committee in Albany regarding the federal stimulus program, ARRA, and the proposed capital program. Please [click here](#) to read the testimony. LICA was very appreciative that two committee members from Long Island, **Assemblyman Marc Alessi** and **Assemblywoman Michelle Schimel** traveled to the Capital to join upstate colleagues in this hearing.

The Senate is gathering information from LICA Members

The Senate Transportation Committee held a hearing on statewide perspectives regarding the proposed DOT plan yesterday, November 23rd, in the Capital. LICA Executive Director Marc Herbst again testified on behalf of the New York Roadway Improvement Coalition (NYRIC), of which LICA is an active member. You may [click here](#) to read this hearing's testimony.

A rescheduled regional hearing on Long Island is set for December 4th on the SUNY Farmingdale campus. LICA will have a panel testify to the Senate Transportation Committee at that time. LICA Chairman **Jim Pratt** of Pratt Brothers, Inc. will open up the presentation and then introduce representatives of each of LICA's membership classes. The expected presenters are **Tommy Ruttura** of Ruttura & Sons for General Contractors, LICA Board Member **Grant Hendricks, Jr.** of BIMASCO, Inc. for Sub-contractors, LICA Board Member **Pat Ahern** of Edward Ehrbar, Inc. for Suppliers, **Steve Antaki** of Albrecht, Viggiano, Zureck & Company for Associates, and **Ann O'Neil** of Island Pavement Cutting for Women and Minority Owned Businesses.

And What Are We Thankful For?

The Thanksgiving of 2009 marks one of the toughest in recent memory for the tens of thousands of construction trades throughout Long Island and New York. Against that grim economic reality it begs the question, what do we have to be thankful for? In truth, we have plenty. Consider:

We are thankful that while Albany is in dysfunctional political freefall, there remains a committed core of transportation professionals at the Department of Transportation who refuse to abandon their posts and remain dedicated public servants trying to get the job done.

We are thankful for those elected officials who have demonstrated real leadership while facing difficult fiscal issues, including Suffolk County Executive Steve Levy who understands the time to let contracts that improve infrastructure is at a time of economic recession.

We are thankful for Congressional leadership including Congressman Tim Bishop and Senator Charles Schumer, two individuals who have become pit bulls in the pursuit of federal infrastructure dollars that will prime New York's economic engine.

We are thankful that this crisis in political leadership has galvanized the union community in a manner we have not seen since the Recession of the 1980's, when six thousand unemployed construction trades took to the streets of Mineola to send a message to elected officials.

We are thankful that an election in 2010 will allow the individual voter to decide which of our state representatives have, or have not, demonstrated a level of leadership, competence and commitment to responsible governance and which have refused to protect the billions of infrastructure dollars upon which our lives, our communities and our future rely.

Making Our Lists, Checking Them Twice: LICA 2009 Holiday Party on December 16th

The invitations for LICA's annual 2009 Holiday Party have been mailed. We are now reviewing the RSVPs received. Have you responded? If not, please do so as soon as possible. We want to include you on the "nice" list. As you know, this is a very popular annual gathering, one you won't want to miss! This social event will be held on Wednesday, December 16th, 5:30 – 10:00 pm at the Watermill Caterers in Smithtown. For more information, please [click here](#).

LICA Plans for 2010

Before you know it, the holiday season will be over and we will begin the New Year. LICA has already planned its schedule of events for 2010. For those wishing to prepare your upcoming schedules, please [click here](#) to view the dates for LICA's major events.

Thanksgiving Day Holiday Schedule

For your convenience, please [click here](#) for the Thanksgiving Day holiday labor agreement wage rate schedules. Please note that all holiday schedules are available on the LICA "members only" page on our website, as well as other important information. You may visit the site at www.licanys.org.

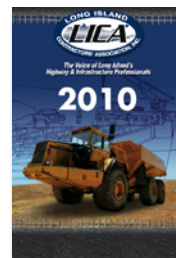
Happy Thanksgiving to all.

Bid Results

Bid Date	Project Name	Owner	Contractor	Bid Amount
11/9/09	North Wellwood Road Resurfacing Project	Village of Lindenhurst	Posillico Civil, Inc.	\$ 102,115
			Kings Park Industries, Inc.	\$ 119,672
			Newborn Construction, Inc.	\$ 140,235
			Suffolk Asphalt	\$ 143,400
			Bimasco, Inc.	\$ 162,106
			Rosemar Construction	\$ 172,271
11/10/09	Site Improvements at Admin. Bldg.	Manhasset-Lakeville Water District	Pioneer Landscaping & Asphalt Paving, Inc.	\$ 193,750
			Stasi Brothers Asphalt Corporation	\$ 202,000
			Suffolk Asphalt	\$ 203,777
			Corazzini Asphalt	\$ 206,370
			John McGowan & Son	\$ 222,000
			Saracino Construction	\$ 222,900
			North Star Concrete	\$ 242,000
			Posillico Civil, Inc.	\$ 248,970
			Fasco Asphalt Paving	\$ 249,000
			Galvin Brothers, Inc.	\$ 261,750
			Seabreeze Associates	\$ 586,000
			11/18/09	Electrical Upgrade at Sewer Treatment Plant
Eldor Contracting	\$ 129,600			
11/19/09	Rehabilitation of Shinnecock Canal Bulkhead, Phase IV	Suffolk County DPW	East Area General Contracting Corp	\$ 372,325
			R.B. Conway & Sons Inc.	\$ 445,500
			Bi County Construction Corp	\$ 557,810
11/19/09	Sunrise Highway Streetscape Improvements, Phase II	Village of Lynbrook	Commander Electric, Inc.	\$ 584,453
			Welsbach Electric	\$ 595,925
			Galvin Brothers, Inc.	\$ 627,410
11/20/09	Water Main Improvements on Newmarket Rd, Phase II	Village of Garden City	Roy Wanser Inc.	\$ 471,767
			Merrick Utility Associates, Inc.	\$ 529,270
			Banker Construction Corp	\$ 589,337
			G & M Earth Moving, Inc.	\$ 650,596
			Alessio Pipe & Construction	\$ 703,950



**LICA IN THE MEDIA:
DiNapoli: State,
Return Bridge Cash**



**LICA 2010
DIRECTORY
COMING
SOON**