

CHRIS COLLINS
27TH DISTRICT, NEW YORK

COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS

CHAIRMAN, SUBCOMMITTEE ON
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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

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October 1, 2014

Hon. Kenneth A. DeRoller
Orleans County Legislature
3 South Main Street, Suite 2
Albion, NY 14411

Dear Legislator DeRoller:

Thank you for contacting my office regarding the condition of roads and bridges in Orleans County. I appreciate hearing from you and learning about your efforts to lobby New York State for critical funds.

As you know, well maintained infrastructure ensures that our roads and bridges are safe for citizens to travel on. Furthermore, well maintained infrastructure also ensures the efficient transport of people and goods, helping to grow our State's economy, while also supporting thousands of construction jobs.

The New York State Dedicated Highway and Bridge Trust Fund (DHBTF) was established to fund the maintenance of our State's transportation infrastructure through the fuel and transportation taxes and fees we all pay. Since its inception, the Fund's allocation of resources has changed dramatically and now less than 25 percent of all disbursements from the Fund actually fund infrastructure improvement projects. This is unacceptable. For too long New York State has kicked the can down the road with regards to our State's crumbling infrastructure. The Governor, Senate, and Assembly must act and reform the DHBTF to actually fund the critical infrastructure improvement projects awaiting funding in our District. It's time that the fuel and transportation taxes that New Yorkers pay actually fund the roads and bridges we depend on.

Since entering Congress, I have supported federal funding for transportation infrastructure improvements. In July of this year, I, along with 366 of my colleagues in the House, supported H.R. 5021, the *Highway Transportation Funding Act*, which provides critical short-term funding to the Federal Highway Trust Fund. The *Highway Transportation Funding Act* has since been signed by the President and funds have been provided to support important road and mass transit projects across the country through May 2015. Congress must continue to act in a bipartisan manner to adequately address our nation's infrastructure needs long-term.

Again, thank you for contacting my office regarding the condition of roads and bridges in Orleans County. Please contact our Lancaster District Office at 716-634-2324 if we can ever be of assistance to you or to the residents of Orleans County.

Sincerely,



CHRIS COLLINS
Member of Congress

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ORLEANS COUNTY
LEGISLATURE