SEAN PATRICK MALONEY
18TH DISTRICT, NEW YORK

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION
AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515–3218

1529 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-5441

123 GRAND ST., 2ND FLOOR
NEWBURGH, NY 12550
(845) 561-1259

August 14, 2014

The Honorable Joan McDonald
Commissioner
NY State Department of Transportation
50 Wolf Road
Albany, NY 12232

Dear Commissioner McDonald:

I write to express my concern over the crumbling transportation infrastructure in my Hudson Valley district. Specifically, the damage caused by recent storms Irene, Lee, and Sandy and harsh winter weather has wreaked havoc on our already aging transportation infrastructure.

In every corner of the Hudson Valley, my constituents tell me about their concerns with our highways, roadways, railways and bridges. To learn more, I reached out to thousands of my neighbors to seek their input - nearly 1,800 people responded with specific concerns and recommendations. After reading their responses, a recurring issue was safety and 31% of respondents rated the conditions of our roads as poor or terrible.

To ensure the safety of my constituents in the Hudson Valley, I ask that you support the projects and find solutions to issues listed below. By investing in our transportation infrastructure and fixing our crumbling highways, roadways, railways and bridges, we can ensure Hudson Valley residents will travel safely to work and back home to their families.

As a member of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, I look forward to continuing our work together as we strive to improve safety, strengthen our nation's transportation infrastructure, and advance important projects across the district and the country. On behalf of the people of the Hudson Valley, I thank you for your consideration. Please contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Sean Patrick Maloney
Member of Congress

CC: Secretary Anthony Foxx
CC: Governor Andrew Cuomo

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NY-18 Local Infrastructure Issues and Projects

1. The New York State Thruway exit for The Woodbury Common has fallen into extensive disrepair, is unable to handle current traffic volume, and the entire reconstruction of the I-87 interchange with Rt. 17/future I-86 at Woodbury Common is a top infrastructure priority in the district.
2. Interstate 684 north of Hardscrabble Road and between Route 35 and Harris Road are original road surface more than four decades old that have fallen into extensive disrepair, the interchanges for I-684 and I-84 are inadequate for current traffic volumes, and current traffic flows on and off of I-684 have had a serious and negative impact on surrounding state roads such as Rt. 116, Rt. 100, Rt. 202, and Rt. 138 and while resurfacing for Rt. 138 will occur this year and the northern portion of I-684 is scheduled for next year, which are both certainly welcome, additional resurfacing and redesign of interchanges should be considered and undertaken to handle current traffic patterns and ensure safe travel along this vital transportation artery.
3. The Taconic State Parkway in Putnam and Dutchess Counties has suffered extensive pothole damage and conditions along the Taconic State Parkway in both directions, particularly at the Pudding Hill and Peekskill Hollow interchanges, are unsafe and need to be repaved.
4. Route 17 between Arden Road in Harriman and the southern boundary of Tuxedo has developed an extensive amount of pothole damage, which poses a threat to vehicles and the safety of vehicle passengers travelling along this highly trafficked stretch of public highway. This same stretch of Rt. 17 also experiences extensive flooding during heavy rainstorms and ice-melts in the spring. Drainage should be installed along this roadway to alleviate dangers posed by flooding, such as hydroplaning.
5. Traffic from commuters and tourists overwhelm the entrances and exits on and off the eastern side of the Mid-Hudson Bridge in Poughkeepsie.
6. There is extensive northbound traffic leaving Beacon on Route 9D to head westbound in I-84 – redesign and revitalization of the Rt. 9D/I-84 interchange are sorely needed and at a minimum an additional left hand turning lane from Rt. 9D onto I-84 westbound could greatly improve traffic flow.
7. With the rapid increase of commerce on Routes 9 (Albany Post Road) and 9D in Dutchess County, residents frequently walk from destination to destination. The lack of sidewalks and bike lanes along these heavily pedestrian trafficked roadways threatens the safety of residents wishing to walk or cycle between destinations. Please consider constructing bike and pedestrian-friendly sidewalks in commercial zones along these roadways.
8. The Palisades Parkway between the Bear Mountain Traffic Circle and Bear Mountain Bridge has seen an extensive increase in traffic during summer months and, as a result, developed numerous potholes and erosion hazards.

9. A traffic signal should be installed where Route 17A enters and exits Greenwood Lake, New York. Heavy traffic makes turning on and off of Route 17A very dangerous, especially during rush hour when thousands of commuters travel through Sterling Forest.
10. Current parking and pedestrian facilities at the Monroe, Chester and Woodbury "Park and Rides" are overcrowded and, as a result, residents are unable to utilize the bus and train services departing from those lots. By expanding the parking lots and rider waiting areas, residents will have better access to public transportation, and alleviate congestion on major roadways such as I-87 and Route 17.
11. There is extensive northbound traffic leaving Newburgh on Route 9W -- adding another lane to this stretch of public highway could greatly improve rush-hour traffic flow
12. Traffic signals along Route 9 (Albany Post Road) in Wappingers Falls are currently not time-coordinated. As a result, rush-hour and daytime traffic is unbearable for many residents. By time-coordinating the traffic signals along Route 9 (Albany Post Road), this congestion would be vastly improved.
13. Year-round, hikers and those wishing to experience the outdoors park and walk along 9D in Cold Spring, New York. This stretch of roadway is home to numerous hiking trails and historic tourist destinations. Sidewalks and a bike lane should be added to this stretch of public highway to encourage safety and foot traffic.
14. The shoulder along Route 35 from Katonah to Peekskill should be repaved as potholes there pose a danger to vehicles utilizing the space.