

A Resolution to support restoration of funding for the Consolidated Local Street and Highway Improvement Program (CHIPS) in the New York State Budget

RESOLUTION #2024-_____

Whereas, the New York State Consolidated Local Street and Highway Improvement Program (CHIPS) provides State assistance to municipal highway departments to maintain and improve local roadways, including roads in the Town of Enfield; and

Whereas, CHIPS funding provided the Town of Enfield \$153,641 during 2023, thereby supplying the largest source of New York State assistance to Enfield to enable it to maintain its town roads in good condition and to keep its roadways safe; and

Whereas, CHIPS and three other New York State programs provided the Town of Enfield more than \$244,000 in road maintenance assistance during 2023, said funds comprising more than 15 per cent of Enfield's Highway Department budget; and

Whereas, an analysis by the New York State Association of Town Superintendents of Highways (NYSAOTSOH) has determined that the local highway system outside of New York City faces an annual funding gap of over \$2 Billion, while highway construction costs since 2022, according to experts, have risen nationally by nearly 60 per cent, well above the rate of inflation, with the effects of higher material and construction costs being felt by those in Enfield and elsewhere across New York State; and

Whereas, multiple New York State legislators, including Enfield's former State Senator, Tom O'Mara, report that New York State Governor Kathy Hochul in her proposed 2024-2025 Executive Budget has proposed up to a \$60 Million statewide reduction in CHIPS program funding, and

Whereas, more than 50 New York State legislators, including Senators O'Mara, Pamela Helming, and Peter Oberacker, all former representatives of Tompkins County, have called upon Governor Hochul and legislative leaders to restore the \$60 Million in proposed cuts to the CHIPS program, and also to increase base funding for CHIPS by \$200 Million, raising that funding to \$798.1 Million statewide, an increase that will help offset higher road construction costs; therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Enfield Town Board respectfully requests Governor Hochul and legislative leaders to restore the \$60 Million in proposed funding reductions to the CHIPS program in the 2024-2025 New York State Budget and additionally to consider substantial increases in base funding for CHIPS, increases consistent with the recommendations of Senator O'Mara and his legislative colleagues; and be in further

Resolved, that the Clerk shall forward a copy of this Resolution to the following: the Hon. Kathy Hochul, Governor of the State of New York; the Hon. Andrea Stewart-Cousins, Majority Leader, New York State Senate; the Hon. Carl E. Heastie, Speaker, New York State Assembly; the Hon. Timothy M. Kennedy, Chair, Transportation Committee, New York State Senate; the Hon. Peter Oberacker, Ranking Member, Transportation Committee, New York State Senate; the Hon. William B Magnarelli, Chair, New York State Assembly Committee on Transportation; the Hon. Lea Webb, New York State Senator; the Hon. Dr. Anna Kelles, New York State Assemblymember; Commissioner Marie Therese Dominguez, New York State Department of Transportation; the Hon. Dan Klein, Chair, Tompkins County Legislature; the Association of Towns of the State of New York; and the Tompkins County Council of Governments.

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