




Municipalities across our state are confronting a serious crisis that is critical to the well-being of all New Jerseyans. Our infrastructure is falling apart and towns, no matter how big or small, simply do not have the means to fix the problem on their own. That is why we are writing today in support of Forward New Jersey's mission of identifying a reliable, sustainable way to fund transportation improvements throughout New Jersey.

There is no denying the decaying state of our roads and bridges. Each of us has had to confront the difficult task of trying to make repairs to crumbling infrastructure while also balancing our local budgets and not overburdening taxpayers. It is by no means easy, and often can result in having to make patchwork repairs that serve merely to kick the can down the road.

As mayors, we are committed to fixing those transportation issues that are of the utmost concern to those we represent. But, there is only so much we can do. The amount of funding needed to fix these problems is hundreds of millions of dollars. This is far beyond the means of our local budgets or our taxpayers. Without a statewide plan to fix the Transportation Trust Fund, our roads, bridges and mass transit will continue to crumble before our eyes.

We appreciate the positive steps the State Legislature and the governor have taken by opening a dialogue on how to fix the soon to be insolvent Transportation Trust Fund. We believe they are on the right track. It is our sincere hope that a plan of action, lead by Department of Transportation Commissioner Jamie Fox, is being developed as we speak, with the goal of having it implemented as soon as possible. Failure to act soon means we will be putting billions of dollars in federal matching transportation funds at risk. That is a risk our taxpayers simply cannot afford to take. We stand ready, willing and able to work with ForwardNJ and all groups and individuals who want to see immediate action on this issue.

Sincerely,



Matthew J. Doherty
Mayor