

# RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF WASHINGTON

*Morris County, New Jersey*

No. R-166-13

Date of Adoption: December 16, 2013

Title or Subject: **RESOLUTION ENDORSING ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION 193 URGING CONGRESS TO DEDICATE ADDITIONAL FEDERAL FUNDS FOR HIGHWAY MAINTENANCE AND INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS**

**WHEREAS**, The New Jersey Department of Transportation estimates that motorists travel more than 200 million miles per day on the approximately 39,000 miles of public roadways in the State; and

**WHEREAS**, According to a TRIP, a national non-profit transportation research group, sixty-six percent of New Jersey's roads are in poor or mediocre condition, and thirty-six percent of New Jersey's bridges are structurally deficient or functionally obsolete; and

**WHEREAS**, Roads and bridges in poor condition cost motorists in the State an estimated \$3.6 billion per year in vehicle repairs and operating costs and \$121 billion a year in fuel costs and time lost in traffic; and

**WHEREAS**, TRIP estimates that roadway conditions are a significant factor in one-third of the approximately 600 annual traffic-related deaths in the State; and

**WHEREAS**, In the latest Annual Highway Report issued by the Reason Foundation, New Jersey's highway system ranked 46<sup>th</sup> in the nation in overall highway performance, 34<sup>th</sup> in deficient bridges, 45<sup>th</sup> in urban interstate highway congestion, and 48<sup>th</sup> in urban interstate pavement in poor condition; and

**WHEREAS**, In recent years, the State spent eight times the national per mile average on the maintenance of road and bridges in New Jersey, and although New Jersey already invests more per mile of highway than any other state, its roads and bridges continue to rank among the worst in the country making additional federal investment in the State's road and bridges crucial to the safety and convenience of those who use them; and

**WHEREAS**, New Jersey is a key corridor state located between two major metropolitan areas, and the benefits derived from a well-maintained transportation infrastructure not only support commerce and economic activity between those metropolitan areas but also provide significant benefits to the region and the nation as a whole making it imperative that adequate funding be provided by the federal government to support the State's transportation infrastructure; and

**WHEREAS**, New Jersey's location in relation to the Port of New York and New Jersey, which handles over 3.3 million containers per year and provides much needed goods and inventory to businesses throughout the region and the nation, demonstrates a critical need for adequate transportation infrastructure; and

**WHEREAS**, In addition to benefiting New Jerseyans, additional federal investment in the State's roads and bridges will make it safer and more reliable to transport goods through the State, extending the impact of such investment to the entire country; and

**WHEREAS**, It has been documented that for every dollar New Jersey sends in taxes to the federal government, the State receives only 61 cents in return; and

**WHEREAS**, This disparity needs to be diminished and adequate funding provided to New Jersey to support the maintenance of the State's highways and improvements to the State's transportation infrastructure; and

**WHEREAS**, In a struggling economy, investing in improvements to the transportation infrastructure creates much needed jobs in the construction and engineering industries and in every industry that relies on both intrastate and interstate commerce; and

**WHEREAS**, It is in the best interest of the citizens of this State and the nation for this Township Committee to respectfully urge the United States Congress to invest additional dollars in maintaining highways and improving the transportation infrastructure in the State.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Township Committee of the Township of Washington, in the County of Morris and State of New Jersey, as follows:

- 1) The governing body urges the United States Congress to invest additional federal dollars in maintaining the highways and improving the transportation infrastructure in the State of New Jersey.
- 2) That certified copies of this resolution shall be transmitted to the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, the President of the United States Senate, the Members of the New Jersey Congressional Delegation, the Members of the 24<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup>, and 27<sup>th</sup> Districts of the New Jersey

Senate and General Assembly, all Morris County municipalities and the New Jersey State League of Municipalities for reference and information purposes.

**ATTEST:**

**TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE OF THE  
TOWNSHIP OF WASHINGTON**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Nina DiGregorio, Municipal Clerk

\_\_\_\_\_  
Kenneth W. Short, Mayor

*I, Nina DiGregorio, Municipal Clerk, do hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was adopted at a regular meeting of the Township Committee, held on December 16, 2013.*

\_\_\_\_\_  
Nina DiGregorio, Municipal Clerk

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date