



STATE OF NEW YORK  
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
ALBANY, N.Y. 12232  
[www.dot.ny.gov](http://www.dot.ny.gov)

JOAN McDONALD  
COMMISSIONER

ANDREW M. CUOMO  
GOVERNOR

May 9, 2012

Dear MPO Members:

I write to update you on the progress of the New York State Department of Transportation's (NYSDOT) efforts to preserve, enhance the safety, and improve the condition and performance of existing transportation infrastructure. These actions are necessary more than ever to support New York State's future regional and global economic competitiveness.

As part of the program update process, NYSDOT reviewed on-system projects previously programmed on each Metropolitan Planning Organization's (MPO) Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to ensure that the proposed investment provides the maximum benefit to the traveling public and to the flow of commerce. In many cases where programmed investments went "beyond preservation," the projects were rescoped into preservation projects to maximize the use of federal and state resources. To support this transformative, decision-making process, NYSDOT developed and implemented a strategy, referred to as the "Forward Four," that focuses primarily on the preservation and safety of the existing transportation infrastructure. Following the "Forward Four" principles, NYSDOT will invest in the appropriate treatments, at appropriate times and at the appropriate locations.

To keep the current transportation system functioning in a safe and reliable manner, while recognizing our current fiscal constraints, it is essential that we set priorities -- priorities that will allow us to meet our long-term goals and short-term objectives. As NYSDOT updated our Capital Program, the following "Hierarchy of Priorities" guided our actions and influenced our decisions. These funding priorities are directed first at preservation: Demand Response, Preservation and Enhanced Safety and then to "beyond preservation" investments in System Renewal and Modernization.

NYSDOT believes that the implementation of this new approach also may assist local municipalities to address their significant transportation infrastructure needs. Please find enclosed additional information detailing NYSDOT's "Forward Four" strategy and our "Hierarchy of Priorities."

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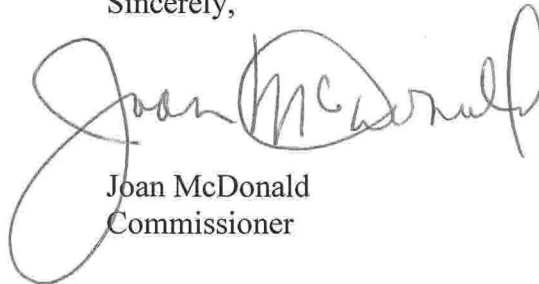
NYSDOT is communicating the "Forward Four" message and preservation focus to local governments. My staff and I have presented this message at the County Highway Superintendents Conference, to Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) staff, MPO staff and at several Association of General Contractors meetings. We are scheduled to present at the local highway superintendents conference in June.

I have asked our Regions to bring the preservation message to you, our MPO partners, to work with the MPO staff and members to reevaluate the local "beyond preservation" projects that are programmed on the TIP.

To encourage local municipalities to adopt preservation strategies similar to NYSDOT's strategy, NYSDOT will be more strategic about which local projects receive Marchiselli funds. I am also asking that MPOs consider modifying their project evaluation and selection criteria to be consistent with the "Forward Four."

My staff and I look forward to working with you to identify new and innovative approaches to address New York's transportation infrastructure investment needs.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joan McDonald". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end of the last name.

Joan McDonald  
Commissioner

Enclosure

cc: Jonathan McDade, FHWA  
MPO Directors