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February 17, 2015

Assemblyman Jay Webber  
Assemblywoman BettyLou DeCroce  
1055 Parsippany Blvd. Suite 104  
Parsippany, NJ 07054

Dear Assemblyman Webber and Assemblywoman DeCroce:

Your efforts to fund the Transportation Trust Fund have been noted in the newspapers and are appreciated. Even when funded, the money allocated to highway improvements must be scrutinized and prioritized so that it is spent wisely.

One way to make NJ dollars go farther is to use Federal funds as much as possible by following 23 CFR Part 772 and the *Highway Traffic Noise Analysis and Abatement Policy and Guidance of the US DOT*. I refer to the latter document as *USDOT Policy*.

Per *USDOT Policy*, "One management tool that SHA's have found to be essential is a priority rating system... to provide a rational basis for an important part of a very tough decision making process." Michigan is given as an example where a priority factor is calculated based on achievable noise reduction, number of living units protected and barrier cost.

Mr. John M Case, acting assistant NJDOT commissioner has referred me to the following policy on traffic noise reduction:

<http://www.state.nj.us/transportation/eng/documents/env/pdf/TrafficNoisePolicy.pdf>

This policy lists just 5 Type II barrier projects and makes the following statement, "No additional requests will be accepted." This is incredible!!! This statement, and the lack of a priority rating system, closes the door on NJ eligibility for Federal funds for noise reduction projects.

Per 23 CFR Part 772, "the highway agency shall re-analyze the priority system on a regular basis, not to exceed 5 years." Since the NJ policy is dated July 2011, we now have the opportunity to correct the deficiencies that limit the full use of Federal funds for type II projects in NJ.

I have inquired of Mr. Case the status of the re-evaluation of the current NJ noise barrier policy. If you could do whatever you can to revise NJ noise barrier policy to maximize the use of Federal funds, all of NJ would benefit. And if I or others who might benefit from a better policy can help in any way, please let us know.

Sincerely,



Paul Kardos