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Rep. Smola Announces Additional Road and Bridge Funding for Local Towns

Supplemental budget also funds school safety initiatives, Community Preservation Act

BOSTON – Representative Todd M. Smola (R-Warren, Ranking Member, Committee on Ways & Means), announced today that communities in the First Hampden District will be receiving additional funding assistance for local road and bridge repairs under a Fiscal Year 2018 supplemental budget recently approved by the Legislature. The funding will be paid out as part of a \$40 million appropriation for the state’s Chapter 90 program included in the supplemental spending bill, which was signed into law on October 23 by Governor Charlie Baker.

The bill will provide: \$55,843 to Brimfield; \$31,835 to Holland; \$95,202 to Palmer; \$86,329 to Sturbridge; \$21,133 to Wales; \$85,710 to Ware; and \$57,621 to Warren.

The supplemental budget also contains \$15 million in grant funding for two school safety initiatives, including \$7.5 million for implementing security upgrades in the state’s K-12 public schools, and another \$7.5 million for schools to hire mental health and behavioral health specialists. An additional \$5 million has been allocated to help school districts with high concentrations of low-income students carry out targeted intervention and turnaround efforts to address student achievement gaps. The budget also authorizes \$10 million for local clean drinking water projects, and a \$10 million transfer to the Community Preservation Act Trust Fund.

“This is great news for our local residents,” said Representative Smola. “The supplemental budget not only provides funding assistance for local transportation infrastructure needs, but it also takes steps to help communities address many other critical issues, including education, school safety, clean drinking water, and open space preservation.”

Established by the Legislature in 1973, the Chapter 90 program distributes funding to cities and towns on an annual basis, using a formula that is based on the weighted average of a municipality's population, employment, and total road miles. The money is paid out as reimbursements to communities for qualifying infrastructure work.

Chapter 90 funds can be spent on a variety of municipal roadway projects, including resurfacing, drainage, sidewalks, guardrails, traffic control, right-of-way acquisition and street lighting. The funding can also be used for bikeways, landscaping and tree planting associated with certain projects, and for purchasing and maintaining certain road building machinery, equipment and tools.

For additional information please contact Representative Smola at Todd.Smola@mahouse.gov or (617)722-2100.

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