



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
House of Representatives
State House, Boston 02133-1054

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Representative Smola supports bill authorizing state bond funding for municipal road and bridge repairs

BOSTON – Representative Todd M. Smola (R-Warren, Ranking Member, Committee on Ways & Means) recently joined with his colleagues to support legislation that will help cities and towns address critical infrastructure needs through an \$800 million bond appropriation.

House Bill 4557, *An Act providing for the financing of certain improvements to municipal roads and bridges*, was approved unanimously by the House of Representatives on July 30 by a vote of 158-0. The bill is now on Governor Charlie Baker's desk for his review and signature.

"I'm proud to support this bill, which provides a significant investment of state resources that will enable cities and towns across the Commonwealth to carry out critical road and bridge repairs," said Representative Smola.

Most of the borrowing authorized in the bill – \$750 million – will be allocated to new highway spending and to help leverage additional federal dollars. The remaining \$50 million will fund a new Small Bridge Program to help communities repair and replace structurally-deficient bridges located on municipal roadways that span no more than 20 feet in length and don't qualify for federal funding assistance.

To ensure that as many communities as possible can access assistance through the Small Bridge Program, the bill prohibits the allocation of more than 20% of funding to any one highway district. Approximately 1,300 bridges statewide currently meet the eligibility criteria for funding.

The bill also modifies the Complete Streets Program, changing it from a certificate program to a grant program to encourage more communities to apply for funding assistance for local road projects. The money available through this program can be used for a variety of municipal roadway improvements, including new crosswalks, enhanced street lighting, timing changes to traffic signals and the creation of designated bike lanes.

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

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