



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

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Representative Smola Supports Municipal Road and Bridge Funding Bill

BOSTON – The House and Senate have finalized a \$200 million bond authorization to help finance municipal road and bridge projects under the state’s Chapter 90 program. Approved unanimously by both the House and the Senate on April 26, the bond bill is now on Governor Baker’s desk awaiting his signature.

State Representative Todd Smola (R-Warren) supported the bill, which will provide: \$279,213 to Brimfield; \$159,175 to Holland; \$476,008 to Palmer; \$431,646 to Sturbridge; \$105,665 to Wales; \$428,549 to Ware; and \$288,107 to Warren.

“This is great news for the First Hampden District because it means they can now move forward with planning for the summer construction season,” said Representative Smola, who noted that the funding will be released after the Governor signs the bill.

The House initially approved a Chapter 90 bond bill on April 5, while the Senate passed its own version on April 11. A conference committee appointed to reconcile the differences between the two bills came to an agreement on the \$200 million spending plan just hours before it was voted on by both legislative branches.

Established in 1973, the Chapter 90 program allocates funding on an annual basis to cities and towns using a formula based on the weighted average of a municipality’s population, employment, and total road miles. The funds are 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.

Governor Baker has until May 6 to sign the bond bill into law. For additional information please contact Representative Smola at Todd.Smola@mahouse.gov or (617)722-2100.

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