

Associated General Contractors of America
New York State Chapter, Inc.



www.agcnys.org

Contact: Liz Elvin
518-456-1134
lelvin@agcnys.org
For Immediate Release

AGC lambastes 'State of State'

The Associated General Contractors of New York State expressed disappointment that Governor Pataki's State of the State speech, which carefully outlined so many of the state's urgent and pressing needs, did not address the state's crumbling transportation infrastructure.

"According to two recent reports, one issued by the New York State Department of Transportation and one by the New York State Thruway Authority, the state's roads and bridges are in decay, disrepair and in critical need of a serious cash infusion if they are to carry New Yorkers successfully into the dynamic changes of the world," said AGC President & CEO AJ Castelbuono.

In mid-December the NYS Advisory Panel on Transportation Policy for 2025 issued a report "Transportation Trouble Lies Ahead" that was a clear wake-up call for every resident of New York State that without bold leadership and adequate funding the state's infrastructure will continue to deteriorate, the economy will falter, jobs will be lost and our quality of life will suffer dramatically.

"The governor spoke eloquently today about the need to revitalize New York's economy. We would hope the governor understands the vital role our roads and bridges play in such a revitalization effort: they are the veins and arteries of a healthy New York State, helping to pump much-needed business and tourism dollars through the state, allowing for the free-flow of goods across the Northeast, and to and from Canada," added Mr. Castelbuono. "We cannot compete in a 'just-in-time' global economy if there's no hope of getting goods and services to the customers when they want it, where they want it."

The AGC eagerly awaits the proposed fiscal 2005 state budget to see if the governor's plan will acknowledge the critical and urgent needs of the state's crumbling transportation system. Further, it is our hope that the budget proposal will adopt a "pay-as-you-go" revenue stream.

"Of every dollar spent on the state's highways, 30 cents goes to debt service. The effects of this policy are chilling: as the number of vehicle miles traveled and the average number of cars per household continue to increase, the state's actual capital expenditure on its roads and bridges has flatlined," added Mr. Castelbuono.

"We call on Governor Pataki to show us the kind of leadership we know he is capable of and use his budget proposal to outline a solid, fiscally sound transportation program for New York State."

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