Highways Deferred Maintenance

FY2013 Request: $16,900,000
Reference No: 51539

AP/AL: Allocation
Category: Transportation
Location: Statewide
Impact House District: Statewide (HD 1-40)
Estimated Project Dates: 07/01/2012 - 06/30/2017
Appropriation: Deferred Maintenance, Renewal, Repair and Equipment

Contact: Pat Kemp
Contact Phone: (907)465-3900

Brief Summary and Statement of Need:
Funding is requested to address Highways deferred maintenance needs.

Operating & Maintenance Costs:
- Project Development: 0
- Ongoing Operating: 0
- One-Time Startup: 0

Additional Information / Prior Funding History:
$16,900,000 - Ch 5 FSSLA 2011 Pg 117 Ln 22; $15,000,000 - Ch 43 SLA 2010 Sec 4 Pg 14 Ln 13;
$1,100,000 - Ch 15 SLA 2009 Sec 1 Pg 22 Ln 3; $3,000,000 - Ch 29 SLA 2008 Sec 10 Pg 76 Ln 31;
$3,000,000 - Ch 30 SLA 2007 Sec 1 Pg 78 Ln 7; $3,000,000 - Ch 82 SLA 2006 Sec 1 Pg 86 Ln 10;
$1,500,000 - Ch 3 SLA 2005 Sec 1 Pg 66 Ln 13; $1,100,000 - Ch 159 SLA 2004 Sec 1 Pg 34 Ln 23;
$1,500,000 - Ch 82 SLA 2003 Sec 1 Pg 35 Ln 9. Please see attached backup document for project listing.

Project Description/Justification:
The Department of Transportation and Public Facilities is responsible for maintaining more than 15,000 lane miles of public roads statewide. Approximately 4,000 of those lane miles are gravel. There are more than 13,000 culverts that need to be maintained and approximately 45,000 highway signs. Under requirements established by the Federal Highway Administration, the Department is also responsible for inspecting 953 bridges on publicly owned roads. These include 788 bridges owned by the Department with the balance owned by other state agencies, cities, and boroughs.

Current Department data indicate that maintenance activities such as vegetation management have fallen to a lower level as maintenance allocations in the operating budget have been stretched thinner. Higher priority activities such as pothole repair, pavement striping, and culverts and ditching have consumed the available funding. In order to maintain a higher service level and therefore higher customer satisfaction, vegetation management efforts along roadsides are critical deferred maintenance activities that improve sight distances and remove food sources and camouflage for large animals such as moose (safety) and preserve road surface integrity by improving drainage and reducing edge cracking.
This project contributes to the Department's Mission by reducing injuries, fatalities and property damage and by improving the mobility of people and goods.