Who speaks for the motorist driving to work? Who speaks for over 70,000 students who commute daily to college on Long Island? Who speaks for the truck drivers who move our goods, products and commerce? Who speaks for the tourist motoring to our multibillion dollar destination industry?

The Long Island Contractors’ Association (LICA) says they should speak for themselves. And to each other. And to the elected officials who are dividing up the billions of dollars for infrastructure, mass transit and road repair.

LICA is creating Digital Age history by creating a Facebook page for those on wheels, allowing New Yorkers throughout the region who are dependent on roads and rubber to communicate with each other and thereby create a regional dialogue on our infrastructure.
LICA Executive Director Marc Herbst says, “There is no stronger political force in the world than one that speaks to each other. We are putting the Internet to work in supporting a motorist’s fair share crusade by creating this Facebook page that allows anyone with a set of wheels to talk to each other about the state of their commute and how best to get the attention of those who decide what gets fixed, where and when.”

A growing coalition

LICA’s move to social media is just one activity among the members of the Coalition to Keep New York Working, a broad coalition of labor, business, civic leaders and construction trades workers who have joined together in a common message that, investing in our infrastructure is investing in our future. Among the Coalition’s actions included a rally at New York City Hall demanding funding for major transportation infrastructure projects included in the State’s Department of Transportation Five Year Capital Construction Program. In addition, a Construction Industry Council (CIC) jobs rally was held before the Westchester County Office Building in White Plains to underscore the need for government action.

“The message is simple, ‘Fair share for the motorists.’ Now, with the power of Facebook, this community on wheels has the means to communicate with each other and decide when and how they want to be heard on the subject of road condition and repair,” observed Herbst.

All of our members, their friends, families and contractors can access Facebook via our web site at www.licanys.org. To join LICA on Facebook, and tell us about your commute or the roads your trucks endure, click here. Spread the word!

Generous Golf Supporters Give LICA Its Firepower

Mother Nature was not cooperative on April 20th when cold rains and winds forced LICA to reschedule its annual LICA golf outing at the Nassau Country Club and the Meadow Brook Club, but the delay ensured a strategic success in helping fill the coffers that provide LICA with the resources to be heard on behalf of Long Island’s fair share.

LICA officials expressed their sincere thanks and appreciation to all who contributed to the day. “We called upon our members and supporters for help and they came through. As you know, the golf outing is the only fundraising event this non-profit trade association holds each year. Its proceeds are essential in providing resources that permit us to advocate on the industry’s behalf. Thank you,” stated LICA Executive Director Marc Herbst.
Listed below are our generous sponsors. LICA asks that you support them.

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(continued on next page)
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**DOT Commissioner Glynn Departs, Long Islander Next Commissioner?**

After serving more than two years as the Commissioner of the New York State Department of Transportation, Astrid C. Glynn submitted her resignation to Governor David Paterson. Nominated by former Governor Eliot Spitzer, Glynn went on to become the first woman to serve as New York’s DOT Commissioner. Her resignation becomes effective May 8th, with First Deputy Commissioner Stanley Gee to serve as Acting Commissioner.

LICA worked closely with Glynn during her tenure, beginning with LICA’s lead testimony at her confirmation hearing before the New York State Senate in the Spring of 2007. Immediately following her appointment, Glynn visited LICA and served as the group’s featured speaker at our annual meeting in June 2007. She also took time to travel to Long Island to attend LICA’s annual meeting last year.

Commissioner Glynn’s legacy will include her bold release of a candid 20-year needs assessment for New York’s infrastructure. The October 2008 report revealed that New York needs to make a $175 billion investment over the next two decades in order to keep the system in a state of good repair. She aggressively promoted those recommendations and LICA is hopeful that policy-makers will sustain her vision as plans are made for our future needs. LICA thanks Commissioner Glynn for her service and wishes her the best in her future endeavors.

*(continued on next page)*
Speculation abounds regarding a possible successor that Governor David Paterson may nominate. Industry circles are hearing whispers of names of current and former senior DOT officials for the top job. Another name being circulated is a prominent Long Islander who is immersed in transportation industry knowledge and experience, Metropolitan Transportation Authority board member Mitchell Pally.

Pally, of the Weber Law Group, is well known as the former Long Island Association (LIA) Vice President for Government Affairs and the chief counsel for both the New York State Senate Transportation Committee and the Legislative Commission on Critical Transportation Choices. He played a key role in drafting such important transportation legislation as the nation’s first seat-belt law, child restraint law, reserved parking space for drivers with disabilities law, and the Transportation Bond Act proposals of 1983 and 1979.

**A Dysfunctional State Government Leaves MTA in Limbo**

Although both houses of the New York State Legislature and the Governor’s Mansion are controlled by the same political party, as of this writing, a resolution has not been approved that meets the operating and capital needs of the Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA). The Democrats have been unable to come up with an alternative plan to the recommendation offered by the Ravitch Commission that suggested revenue sources to support the next five-year program.

Despite a deadline that will trigger draconian increases for straphangers, the Democrats have not been able to craft a plan acceptable to both the Assembly and Senate while keeping the Republican minority out of any substantive talks on the issue, a caucus that could prevent the fare hikes. Last week Senate Minority Leader Dean Skelos met with Governor Paterson to discuss the Republicans’ role in the MTA bailout by New York State and while no deal was struck, both leaders agreed to engage in expanded dialogue.

Senate Republicans are opposed to a payroll tax that is included in Senate Majority Leader Malcolm Smith’s plan to bailout the MTA. His plan also includes a one-dollar-per-ride taxi fee in the twelve counties served by the MTA. There is a plan in the Assembly that calls for tolls to be implemented on the Harlem and East River bridges.

Majority Leader Smith is hoping to gain Republican support for his plan by using half of the revenue generated by the proposed taxi fee to pay for road and bridge work upstate and on Long Island. The Republicans have stated they will oppose any legislation that does not include framework for an upstate spending plan to match the MTA’s five-year capital plan. The debate continues but so too does the plan to implement fare hikes and service reductions throughout the MTA system.
**DOT Stresses DBE Goals**

As Long Island’s heavy construction season kicks off, the New York Department of Transportation (DOT) is encouraging all general contractors to aggressively embrace the contract DBE (Disadvantaged Business Enterprises) goals. The DOT also advises that the federal government will be closely monitoring progress, particularly projects funded through the ARRA stimulus program.

For the convenience of its members, LICA is providing a listing from DOT of all DBE certified contractors located in Region 10. Please click here for the listing. Those listed on the first spreadsheet as FHWA work primarily on highway projects. Others listed on the second spreadsheet as FHWA/FTA/FAA work in the highway field as well but also work on transit and aviation jobs.

When seeking a certified DBE subcontractor, LICA strongly recommends that its members first consider a fellow LICA member. The following firms are members of our association: Araz Industries, Inc., Femi-9 Contracting Corp., Florence Construction Corp., Holbrook Plastic Pipe Supply, Island Pavement Cutting, and The Fenceman, Inc.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Tina Kim, DOT’s Director of Audit and Civil Rights, at 518-457-4680 or tkim@dot.state.ny.us.

**Lawyers, Lettings and Livelihood on May 14th**

LICA listened. Our members have asked for more opportunities to meet in informal settings with those who can help us perform better and deal with the many challenges we face on the job site. We are beginning a new breakfast series entitled, “Lawyers, Lettings and Livelihood.” The first breakfast is scheduled for Thursday, May 14th, 8am at the LICA headquarters building.

In an effort to set a general theme for each meeting, a LICA member firm will be invited to make a brief presentation of about 10 – 15 minutes on a topic of interest to other members. That will be the extent of formalities. Other than that, those attending will be afforded the opportunity to share a cup of coffee, breakfast and conversation with others in our industry. We have asked transportation and public works department representatives of the state, counties and towns to attend. We’ve also invited others who may offer guidance on issues of concern, such as officials from OSHA and the legal community. This is simply an opportunity for casual conversation to start off your day and possibly get a chance to discuss something that has been on your mind.

LICA Member Kevin Ellman of Wealth Preservation Solutions has volunteered to make the presentation at the first session. It will discuss “How to Avoid the Costliest Mistakes that Contractors Make.” Please click here for more information.
LICA Safety Fund Teams Up to Offer More Services

LICA has been informed by Allied North America, our Workers Compensation Safety Group Managers, that they have teamed with an insurer to provide liability, auto and property insurance to supplement their competitive compensation program. This A+ XV Best’s rated insurer, with offices on Long Island, will provide a competitive, stable insurance program. They are familiar with the members of LICA and their needs to comply with owners’ insurance requirements and provide broad insurance protection. Their focused loss control services can be provided in addition to Allied’s safety training.

For more information, please contact - David H. Stevenson CPCU, Executive Vice President, Allied North America Insurance Brokerage of New York, 390 North Broadway, Jericho, New York 11753-2110, (p) 516 733-9221, (f) 516 681-7460, (c) 516 641-2591, Email: dstevenson@alliedna.com.

Bid Results

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Click here to view our web site and dozens of members’ photos in our galleries.