

MMA focuses on chapter-90 funding

With the chapter 90 authorization from the most recent state transportation bond nearly exhausted the MMA is urging the governor and the legislature to make new authorization an early priority in the new legislative session and to increase the authorization amount and the annual allocation. Chapter 90 authorization have been stagnant at about \$150 million since the mid 1990s (although authorization were just \$100 million for the first five years of this decade) The MMA continues to make the case that the actual needs of cities and towns are much higher than the chapter 90 authorizations. On Oct 1, MMA sent a survey to all cities and towns asking about their road construction budget, pavement management systems, local roadway appropriations, and future construction projects. The survey was sent to the chief municipal official as well as the public works director or highway superintendent in each community. As the beacon went to press, more than half of the municipalities had returned their surveys. The results will help MMA assess what communities need to maintain their roads and will be a useful tool in making the case for an increase in the authorization amount and the annual allocation.

By Megan Devine