The New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT) is responsible for maintaining an inventory of all 115,000 miles of public roadways in the State and also for meeting many state and federal highway reporting requirements. Pursuant to federal statute, states are required to submit public road information, including mileage, annually to the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). In 2012 a new requirement from the FHWA was that in addition to the inventory information states must submit all roads in a geospatial format such as Geographic Information System (GIS). This GIS Network and all roadway inventory records must match. Previously only the federal aid system, about 30,000 miles, was in the GIS format. The new requirement for all public roads adds over 85,000 miles, comprised of county and local roads.

To complete this GIS Network, the Department has been using the Local Highway Inventory (LHI) as the source to identify the local roads in each municipality. The process involves adjusting the existing information in the LHI to match actual roadway conditions based on very detailed and accurate aerial photography, and verifying jurisdiction through tax maps and other documentation. Each individual local road (over 160,000 of them) is reviewed in the LHI and in GIS format.

A summary of all differences between aerial photography conditions and the LHI information is compiled as the work progresses. Any road that cannot be found, has a significant length difference, along with roads found in the GIS, but are not in the LHI, are being highlighted in the listings. Each municipality will be provided the opportunity to review the results of the new geospatial data in detail with DOT members. Final adjustments will be based on this joint review of the preliminary findings.

The Department recognizes that the Local Highway Inventory is used to calculate the municipal Consolidated Local Street and Highway Improvement Program (CHIPS) apportionments. NYSDOT will not be using the final results of this Project for apportioning CHIPS funding until the Project is fully completed which is anticipated to be late 2017.

Over the several months the Department will complete its outreach to each local Highway Official in regard to this Project. It will be very important that municipalities review the preliminary findings on the local roadways. During this period the annual Local Highway Inventory (LHI) update process, conducted each fall, will continue as normal. This will ensure new roads, extensions and other changes will be included in both the inventory records and the GIS Network. When the Project is completed all municipalities will switch at the same time for the CHIPS process.

For information on this project please contact Caitlin Clark - Caitlin.Clark@dot.ny.gov, Kelsey Pianka - Kelsey.Pianka@dot.ny.gov, or Allison Weber - Allison.Weber@dot.ny.gov, or you may call these individuals at (518) 457-1965. Members of the Department have been meeting with local officials through-out the state over the last couple of years to discuss specific roadway questions with each municipality and will continue to do so for the remaining municipalities as the initial work is completed for each NYSDOT Region.

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