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CHIEF GEORGE J. DiBLASI (RET.)  
DIR. OF GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

MASSACHUSETTS FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE STATE LODGE  
111 PLEASANT STREET ~ ATTLEBORO, MA 02703  
MAILING ADDRESS: P.O. BOX 1292, ATTLEBORO, MA 02703  
OFFICE PHONE: 508-222-3182 ~ FAX: 508-222-3185

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## LEGISLATIVE ALERT

To: All Members

April 7, 2008

From: Chief George J DiBlasi  
Director Governmental Affairs

Re: Transportation Bond Bill  
Progress Report

It has been very busy on the Hill for the last week. The Transportation Bond Bill containing language about the use of Flagmen has gone through the Senate with an amendment that stipulates that your collective bargaining agreement supersedes any CMR or rule that may be drafted concerning the use of Flagmen, thanks to an amendment filed by Senator Steven Tolman and passed by the Senate, 38-0. The next stop is the House of Representatives for their vote on the language. This is still a fluid matter that is ongoing.

The law enforcement community has been well represented on this important matter by many groups including the FOP. However I would be remiss if I did not recognize the great work of Masscop, Boston Police Patrolman's Association and the IBPO. This issue is not yet resolved and we will keep you informed as the matter progresses. It is important we speak as a unified voice on this matter. The issues are clear, the use of Police officers rather than Flagmen is a matter of Public Safety it places hundreds of officers on the streets daily that enhances Public Safety at very little cost to the community. Just to mention one case in point, three out of four Bank Robbers were recently captured in Boston by Police Officers on paid details. If Flagmen were out there these bad guys would have certainly been long gone. As far as the cost of police verses Flagmen is concerned the proposed savings of \$5,000,000 yearly using Flagmen is minuscule and probably overstated. If cities and towns use Flagmen they will have pay them the prevailing Laborers Union wages and benefits.

If you here anything please let us knows my email address is [chfdiblas@aol.com](mailto:chfdiblas@aol.com)

Fraternally

# PLEASE POST