



NEWS

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From Bill Magnarelli

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129th Assembly District

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NYS Assembly's Transportation Committee

The Transportation Committee is charged with the responsibility of reviewing legislation and overseeing the State's management of all types of transportation systems within the State. As Chair, I am interested in developing legislation affecting the movement of people and goods throughout the State. The committee's jurisdiction includes oversight and analysis of the Departments of Transportation (DOT) and Motor Vehicles (DMV), the Thruway Authority and various regional transportation authorities (such as CENTRO here in Central New York) and commissions. It is an extremely active committee; during the 2017-2018 term there were 773 bills referred to the committee.

William B. Magnarelli

The Transportation Committee oversees:

- More than 19,000 bridges
- More than 114,000 miles of highways
- More than 130 billion vehicle miles driven annually
- More than 450 public and private aviation facilities
- More than 1 Million riders on railways
- Over 130 public transit operators
- More than 2.8 billion transit passengers annually



The following is an interview with Assemblyman Magnarelli reprinted from City and State NY Magazine , NOVEMBER 25 - DECEMBER 2019 (page 24)

REBUILDING UPSTATE ROADS

Q. What were some of the big things you got done this past session?

A. "I think the biggest thing I had this year was getting kind of involved with the Transportation Committee and making sure the committee's bills – many of which had been in the process, so to speak, for years – were finally getting looked at and reviewed. That was my initial goal when I took the chairmanship. The next one was the budget. In the budget itself, we had a lot of pushback as far as mass transit was concerned, especially for upstate New York. Making sure that moneys were available for roads and bridges on a local level, making sure that CHIPS (the Consolidated Local Street and Highway Improvement Program) was funded properly and that we got the additional money even after the budget to take care of inclement weather costs and expenses."

Q. Does the state need to do a better job funding local transportation infrastructure?

A. "I'm not going to make any comments as to whether or not they've gotten enough money or haven't gotten enough money in the past because this is my first year, and I'm reviewing everything as we go along. I will say this, though, the (state) Department of Transportation was supposed to issue a report on our roads and bridges, and that report has not been issued. That's something I will be working on in the coming year, to make sure the DOT provides the reports that we need to make sure that the decisions that are being made are open and fair across the board. I believe that the DOT has the information and the statistics; they just have not issued a full report."

Q. What's the latest on I-81 in Syracuse?

A. "The DOT has come out with its recommendation. I think, right now, my biggest thing as far as the I-81 project in Syracuse is concerned is that I want to make sure that the problems that come up as they finalize plans, and as they start construction, and as people are moved and traffic is moved as well, that we have the wherewithal to mitigate whatever problem comes along."

Q. What would you like to see in the state Department of Transportation's next five-year capital plan?

A. "I would like to see a plan that is fair and equitable across the state by region. I would like to see it with enough money in it. We put a great deal of money – over \$50 billion over a five-year period-into the MTA. I would like to see something like \$35 billion or \$40 billion over five years in the plan for our roads and bridges. I do believe that they are in need of that kind of money and work, and I'm hopeful that we'll be able to put together a plan that is going to do that."

COMMUNITY INFORMATION NIGHTS

Each year Assemblyman Magnarelli schedules Community Information Nights throughout the 129th District so that residents have the opportunity to ask questions and voice concerns directly with the Assemblyman regarding matters of the State. The office has already held meetings at the Cecile Community Center in the Valley and one at the Van Buren Town Hall. Residents came to learn about pending legislation and the state budget.

Assemblyman Magnarelli speaks with residents at the Van Buren Town Hall Community Information Night.



Upcoming Community Information Nights

- **Thursday, March 5th from 6:30pm to 8pm at Geddes Town Hall**
- **Thursday, March 12th from 6:30pm to 8pm at Henninger High School cafeteria**



Assemblyman Magnarelli listens to Art Vinette's question at the Community Information Night at the Cecile Center.

Limo Safety Signed into Law

Governor Andrew Cuomo signed into law a package of legislative bills that bring oversight and reform to the limousine industry. The laws require limousine companies to hold pre-employment and random drug testing, create a task force to review limo safety, and require limos to be equipped with GPS technology.



Two of the bills Assemblyman Magnarelli sponsored were signed into law as part of the package.

“Laws making stretch limousines safer for drivers, passengers and everyone on our roads is a needed advancement for our state,” said Assemblymember Magnarelli. “The governor’s signing of these bills into law creates needed oversight and reform of the limousine industry. It ensures that companies and drivers meet enhanced licensing and inspection regulations, and mandates the use of safety features such as seatbelts and GPS. I am happy to be a part of this movement to protect our residents and believe these changes will save lives and prevent future tragedies.”

A.8990 (S.7134) Sponsored by Assemblyman Magnarelli requires the use of seat belts by passengers older than 8-years-old in taxis and livery vehicles, including stretch limousines.

A9056 (S6193) Sponsored by Assemblyman Magnarelli authorizes the Department of Transportation to impound or immobilize stretch limousines that fail inspection until repaired and re-inspected.

The package of laws regarding limousine safety are in the wake of the 2018 Schoharie limo crash that killed 20 people.

Boxing National Championship Winner

Assemblyman Magnarelli presented a Citation to Amir “Cash” Anderson for winning the Junior Male 154-pound title at the USA Boxing National Championships in Lake Charles, Louisiana last year. Also pictured are West Area Athletic Club and Education Center’s Ray Rinaldi and Amir’s coach, Chris Burns. **Congratulations** to “Cash” on an incredible accomplishment and best of luck in the future – including his quest to be in the next Olympics. Keep an eye out for this young man!

Assemblyman Magnarelli posed with USA Boxing National Champion Amir “Cash” Anderson, West Area Athletic Club Owner Ray Rinaldi, and Coach Chris Burns.



Reading to a 5th Grade Class at Our Lady of Pompei

Assemblyman Magnarelli spent time reading to Miss Thayer's 5th Grade Class at Our Lady of Pompei as part of Catholic Schools Week. What a terrific group of young people! The future of Syracuse is very bright.



Advocacy in Albany

In Albany, throughout Session, Assemblyman Magnarelli meets with groups who are advocating for financial consideration in the budget and for legislation. Below are some of the recent groups who visited.



William Hinrichs, Catherine James and Katrina VanFleet representing the Alzheimer's Association discussed additional funding in the NYS Budget to support family caregivers of Alzheimer patients and for activities offered to patients and families.

Members of the CNY Early Childhood Alliance, a coalition in Central NY working to improve access to childcare and quality early childhood education in the region, advocated for additional funding of early childhood education in the State Budget.



Representatives from the Onondaga County Public Library System advocated for funding for libraries in the 2020-21 State Budget and additional funding to support the 2020 Census. The Onondaga County Public Libraries will be playing a large role in encouraging people to participate in the Census and helping them to fill out the forms.

Students from Institute of Technology At Syracuse Central and Auburn Jr. High visited Albany as part of Tobacco Control Awareness Day. The students were lobbying for further restrictions on vaping products and additional funds for tobacco control efforts in NY



Students from SU and LeMoyne visited Assemblyman Magnarelli to advocate for additional funding for the Higher Education Opportunity Program (HEOP) and Tuition Assistance Program(TAP).

About New York State Assemblyman William B. Magnarelli

Assemblyman William Magnarelli represents the 129th Assembly District, which includes the Northside, Westside, Eastwood Valley and Downtown areas of the City of Syracuse, Syracuse University area, Outer Comstock, as well as the towns of Geddes and Van Buren. He first won election in 1998 for an open Assembly seat and has been reelected since then. During his terms in office, Assemblyman Magnarelli has focused his efforts on bringing more jobs to Central New York, lowering taxes, providing our children a better education at every level, improving our healthcare and keeping our families safe. For more information, contact Assemblyman Magnarelli's District Office at (315) 428-9651 or visit <http://www.assembly.state.ny.us/magnarelli>.