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## Administration committed to supporting local infrastructure

**TRENTON** – Governor Mikie Sherrill and New Jersey Department of Transportation (NJDOT) Acting Commissioner Priya Jain today announced a \$1.2 million NJDOT grant to assist Phillipsburg in repairing Summit Avenue, a local road that was damaged when a sinkhole developed in February.

“This is what government does – bringing resources to an area where we need to make people whole after an unexpected calamity,” Governor Mikie Sherrill said. “We are providing \$1.2 million to get the permanent fix in for this road to make sure people are kept safe and to make sure they are able to get back to work and get back in their homes.”

This grant demonstrates the Governor’s commitment to supporting local communities when an emergency arises and underscores the importance of a well-funded NJDOT Local Aid program, ensuring the Department is ready and able to step in and help communities address critical infrastructure needs.

“When the unforeseen happens and the safety of the public is at risk, the New Jersey Department of Transportation leverages its strong partnerships, quick action and access to resources to restore safe access for motorists, residents and businesses,” said NJDOT Acting Commissioner Priya Jain when announcing the Department’s grant award. “No community should have to face unbudgeted and unexpected infrastructure challenges like this alone, and a well-funded Local Aid program ensures we are ready to step in and help communities address critical infrastructure needs.”

Joining the Governor and Acting Commissioner today were Phillipsburg Mayor Randy Piazza, Jr., State Senator Doug Steinhardt, Assemblyman John DiMaio, Warren County Commissioners, and Phillipsburg Council Members.

## Background

On Monday, February 16, two sinkholes developed at the intersection of Summit Avenue and Lewis Street in Phillipsburg. The cause of the sinkholes is under investigation, but it is believed it may have been caused by aging infrastructure and a pipe collapse.

Temporary repairs to the roadway are complete, and Aqua New Jersey is in the process of repairing the damaged watermain. Eight homes showed signs of instability and have been deemed unsafe for occupation. The residents are currently displaced, and the Governor’s Office is seeking ways to provide assistance.

Additional Geotech investigations will be conducted to determine what steps must be taken to ensure the homes are safe for residents to return. Utility services will then be reconnected to the affected houses, and the road will be reconstructed, repaved and sidewalks replaced.

For real-time travel information, check NJDOT’s traffic information website [www.511nj.org](http://www.511nj.org), and for NJDOT news follow us on X (Twitter) [@NewJerseyDOT](#), on the [NJDOT Facebook page](#), or Instagram [@NewJersey.DOT](#).

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