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January 26, 2021

Joint Legislative Public Hearing on 2021-2022 Executive Budget Proposal
Topic: Transportation

Chair Kennedy, Chair Magnarelli and members of the Senate and Assembly Transportation Committees, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony regarding the 2021-2022 Executive Budget Proposal.

The New York Building Congress commends Governor Andrew Cuomo's \$306 billion infrastructure plan, with \$190 billion for transportation, and urges you to prioritize infrastructure investment when preparing your respective budgets. It is more important than ever for the State to support and fund critical public works. As we continue to grapple with the devastation caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, we must build our way out of this economic crisis.

The Building Congress has, for a hundred years, advocated for investment in infrastructure, pursued job creation and promoted preservation and growth in the New York City area. Our association is made up of over 550 organizations comprised of more than 250,000 professionals. Through our members, events and various committees, we seek to address the critical issues of the building industry and promote the economic and social advancement of our city and its constituents.

After every crisis our region has faced, including September 11th and Superstorm Sandy, the building industry has rushed to the aid of those in need and helped rebuild communities. The current crisis we face is no different. To recover from the pandemic and jumpstart the economy, there must be investment in 21st century infrastructure. With your support and funding, we can fix roads and bridges, build capacity in transportation systems and break ground on new construction projects across the state. We can transform New York for the better, create good-paying jobs and spur economic growth.

Understanding the State's significant financial challenges, the Building Congress urges you to focus your efforts and resources on major initiatives already underway, including:

MTA Capital Plan: The 2020-2024 MTA Capital Plan is the authority's largest capital plan in history, supporting \$51.5 billion in regional investments and 350,000 jobs. Although travel patterns have changed during the pandemic, the MTA Capital Plan will ensure New York has a reliable and accessible transit system when commuting inevitably increases.

NYSDOT Capital Plan: The 2021-2022 DOT Capital Plan invests an unprecedented \$11.9 billion and supports over 17,000 jobs. It will improve highways, bridges, airports and transportation infrastructure across the state.

Gateway Program: As the most critical infrastructure project in the country, the Gateway Program would improve rail services, add resiliency and create capacity along the busiest section of the Northeast Corridor. The Hudson Tunnel Project alone will create more than 72,000 jobs and \$19 billion in economic activity.

Midtown West Development: Following the completion of Moynihan Train Hall, the Midtown West Development will expand and renovate Penn Station. The \$16 billion project will create nearly 60,000 jobs and transform the station by adding capacity, reducing delays and improving operations.

History shows that an investment in infrastructure is an investment in people. Investing now rather than later will boost the economy, create hundreds of thousands of jobs, counter millions of dollars in lost wages and add billions in economic growth. That is why we must fully fund the Governor's infrastructure plan and keep New York building. Supporting this critical work today will lay the foundation for New York's long-term economic recovery.

In closing, we look forward to working closely with you to ensure robust infrastructure investment in New York State. Together, we will build a better New York for all.

Very truly yours,



Carlo A. Scissura, Esq.
President & CEO
New York Building Congress