



February 15, 2022

### **Testimony Re: 2022-2023 Executive Budget Proposal**

The New York State Laborers Employment Cooperation and Education Trust (NYS LECET) is a labor management organization representing over 40,000 members, 24 local unions and 1,500 affiliated contractors. NYS LECET aggressively advocates for wage and safety standards for our members, raising the floor for both union and nonunion construction workers.

NYS LECET extends thanks to Chairs Krueger, Weinstein, Kennedy, Magnarelli, and all members present for the opportunity to provide written testimony on the Executive budget proposals relating to transportation. It is imperative that the state prioritize a robust transportation agenda that incorporates labor standards and a fully funded Capital Plan.

NYS LECET is a strong proponent of increased and sustained investment in the NYS DOT five year Capital Plan, as well as maintaining the current Consolidated Local Street and Highway Improvement Program (CHIPS) competitive bid threshold. Any increase to the competitive bid threshold will decrease transparency, while allowing municipalities to skirt essential labor and wage standards. The proposed increase to \$750,000 will hurt workers and taxpayers alike.

Additionally, with the \$4.6 billion in federal aid through the bipartisan Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, the state could contribute an additional \$2 billion per year above what is proposed in the Executive budget to the Capital Plan. The \$2 billion per year investment from the state will ensure that New York continues its sustained funding trajectory while creating good jobs for workers and well maintained roads and bridges for communities across our state.

New York State has the opportunity to create good jobs with family-sustaining wages and benefits while building and maintaining first-rate infrastructure projects. Prioritization of infrastructure funding and labor protections will create a stronger New York for all.

Thank you for your attention to, and consideration of, these important topics related to the FY 2022-2023 state budget. Should you have further questions or concerns, please contact Amanda Jensen, [amanda.nyslecet@gmail.com](mailto:amanda.nyslecet@gmail.com).