



**CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY COUNCIL
OF WESTCHESTER AND HUDSON VALLEY, INC.**

629 Old White Plains Road, Tarrytown, New York 10591 - 914.631.6070 - cicbca.org

**BUILDING CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION
WESTCHESTER AND MID-HUDSON VALLEY, INC.**



TESTIMONY

**John Cooney, Jr. - Executive Director
Construction Industry Council of Westchester & Hudson Valley, Inc.**

Joint Legislative Public Hearing on 2025-2026 Executive Budget Proposal

Topic: Transportation

The New York State Department of Transportation Capital Program

Thursday, February 6, 2025 - 9:30 AM

Hamilton Hearing Room B, Legislative Office Building, Albany, NY

Good afternoon, Chairman Magnarelli, Chairman Cooney and committee members. Thank you for the opportunity to contribute to this important public hearing. My name is John Cooney, Jr., and I serve as the Executive Director of the Construction Industry Council of Westchester & Hudson Valley, Inc. The CIC acts as the collective bargaining agent for some six hundred employers in the heavy – highway contracting community as well as hundreds of suppliers and builders throughout the region aligned with DOT Region 8.

As advocates for the heavy highway and transportation infrastructure sector of construction, CIC partners with some thirty union locals of organized labor and collectively speaks for more than 30,000 local residents who are employees of these enterprises.

Today I speak to you in full support of Governor Hochul’s executive budget proposal to increase the NYS DOT Capital plan by \$800M. The Governor’s executive budget recognizes the need to restore the buying power of NYS DOT in the face of unprecedented inflation in construction material costs. The need for this increased funding is driven by the desire to improve road and bridge conditions across New York State. The need for this increased funding is most acute in the Hudson Valley represented by NYSDOT Region 8 as we continue to have the worst road and bridge conditions in New York State. NYS DOT Region 8 has had the worst road and bridge conditions in New York State for over ten years. NYS DOT Region 8 has more road lane miles and more bridges than any other NYS DOT region in the state but receives the third or fourth amount of annual regional funding.

Local highway departments maintain 87% of New York’s 113,000 miles of highways and more than 8,600 highway bridges. Just 13% of the state’s highways are maintained by NYSDOT. Record high inflation rates on highway construction materials have severely increased costs and, as a result, local governments are seeing a significant reduction in real dollars from local highway maintenance programs.

As for Local Road funding we are advocating an increase of \$250M for the NYS DOT CHIPS program. As mentioned previously New York State and the entire country have experienced unprecedented construction materials inflation. The suggested \$250M increase to CHIPS helps restore the locals purchasing power that will allow them to maintain the proper local road miles in their communities.

The Executive Budget includes legislation to make permanent the current NYS Thruway Authority and NYS DOT programs for speed violation photo monitoring systems in work zones and expanding them to the Triborough Bridge and Tunnel Authority and NYS Bridge Authority. The Construction Industry Council fully supports this proposal.

The Executive Budget includes legislation to expand the categories of transportation workers that qualify for enhanced assault protections. The Construction Industry Council fully supports this proposal.



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I thank you for your time and would urge both the NYS Assembly and NYS Senate to include the \$800M increase for NYS DOT contained in Governor Hochul's Executive Budget along with her proposals to make automated speed monitoring in Work Zones permanent, along with the enhanced assault protections for transportation works in your one house budget proposals.

Further, we would urge both the NYS Assembly and NYS Senate to include our proposed \$250M increase to the NYS CHIPS program in your one house budget proposals.