



New York State Joint Legislative Hearing Re: 2026-2027 Executive Budget Proposal

Transportation

February 3, 2026

Dear Chairs Krueger, Pretlow, Cooney, Magnarelli,

The New State Laborers is an organization representing over 40,000 union members and 24 local unions. The NYS Laborers aggressively advocate for wage and safety standards for our members, raising the floor for both union and nonunion construction workers. We appreciate the opportunity to provide written testimony on issues related to transportation included in the Executive budget proposal.

New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT) Capital Plan Funding

Additional funding for the NYSDOT Capital Plan is urgently needed to address inflationary cost increases and further invest in vital capital projects. An infusion of dollars for the fifth and final year of the Capital Plan is necessary for the continued construction and maintenance of critical infrastructure, as well as for job creation. Construction workers across the state rely on robust Capital Plan funding to ensure they remain employed and earn family-sustaining wages and benefits. An additional \$950 million is needed to ensure the Capital Plan is adequately funded and able to address the state's infrastructure needs.

Consolidated Local Street and Highway Improvement Program (CHIPS) Funding

The proposed appropriation for CHIPS is woefully inadequate, and must be significantly increased in order to prevent local roads and bridges from falling into a state of disrepair. An additional \$250 million for CHIPS will help to maintain essential local infrastructure, while also creating good, union jobs.

Article VII Roadway Work Zone Safety Proposals

The NYS Laborers ardently support the proposals to make work zones safer, and applaud the Governor for recognizing the scope of the problem plaguing workers and motorists. The proposed expansion of the work zone photo enforcement program beyond controlled-access highways is a necessary and vital step toward reducing work zone intrusions, curbing hazardous motorist behavior and further decreasing work zone injuries and fatalities. The work zone photo enforcement program has been successful, and its further expansion will benefit both workers and the general public. Additionally, we support the Executive proposals to increase and create new penalties for assaulting or menacing a worker, as well as intrusion into a work zone. Strong deterrents are needed to alter reckless motorist behaviors and protect roadway workers.