

Budget Priority

TRANSPORTATION

PROBLEM

Locally owned roads and bridges account for 87 percent of the State's 110,000 miles of roadways and 50 percent of the State's 18,000 bridges. Recent analysis shows that 34 percent of local bridges are rated as deficient and 48 percent of road pavements are rated fair or poor. The State Comptroller determined that local governments spend about \$1 billion a year on infrastructure but this is not enough to maintain safe roads and bridges, more funding and procurement flexibility is needed from the State.

2017 EXECUTIVE BUDGET PROPOSAL

There are multiple proposals in the Governor's budget designed to help local governments with transportation and infrastructure related needs.

- This proposal expands authorized entities that may use design-build contracts to include state agencies, authorities, and counties outside of New York City. To qualify it must be a capital project not be less than one million two hundred thousand dollars (\$1,200,000) in scope. This procurement tool will lower county infrastructure costs and speed completion of projects.
- This proposed budget continues funding the Department of Transportation five-year capital plan that includes plans of \$21.1 billion in funding to improve state and local highway, bridge, rail, port, airport and downstate suburban and upstate transit infrastructure.
- This new State Transportation Plan provides additional support for local governments to maintain and improve roads and bridges with a multi-year funding commitment for the Consolidated Local Streets and Highway Improvement Program (CHIPS) at \$438,097,000 as well as enhanced State assistance to local governments through BRIDGE NY and PAVE NY initiatives (authorized levels of \$100 million each).

2017 LEGISLATIVE BUDGET PROPOSALS

Both the Senate and Assembly rejected the Governor's proposal to expand design-build contracts.

The Assembly's Budget provides \$50 million of additional CHIPS funding to be added to the base for a total of \$488 million. And concurs with PAVE-NY and BRIDGE-NY Executive proposal.

The Senate's Budget provides \$75 million of additional CHIPS funding to be added to the base for a total of \$512 million. And concurs with PAVE-NY and provides an additional \$50 million for BRIDGE-NY Executive proposal. The *Senate* also supports an extra \$27.5 million in capital for the Aviation Capital Grant Program. The *Senate* also supports \$5 million for rural public transportation systems negatively impacted by changes in Medicaid transportation.

The Senate's Budget included a proposal to increase the registration weight limit on ATVs to 1,500 pounds from the current 1000 pound limit. Permitting the registration of these ATVs will generate more revenue through the DMV registration process, and may increase consumer interest in purchasing new ATVs within this weight category.

COUNTY SOLUTION

Counties support the Governor's solutions to help with local transportation and infrastructure project completion. To maximize the benefit to taxpayers we support extending design build authority to New York City as well. For overall funding needs, counties support the increased funding provided by the Senate for CHIPS, BRIDGE-NY, aviation and rural public transportation. Counties also support the Senate's ATV proposal.

For more information on the county position regarding this issue, visit www.nysac.org/transportation or call 518-465-1473 to speak to Patrick Cummings, NYSAC Counsel.