June 11, 2019

Dear Governor Cuomo, Majority Leader Stewart-Cousins and Speaker Heastie:

On behalf of counties across the state, the New York State Association of Counties (NYSAC) respectfully urges you to enact a supplemental capital bill that includes $65 million in Emergency Winter Recovery funds (EWR) that will help our counties and municipalities maintain the local roads and bridges that millions of New Yorkers drive on each day.

As you know, harsh winter conditions and heavy rainfall have led to increased wear and tear on New York’s roads. The additional state capital funding also known as Emergency Winter Recovery funds are critical for municipalities to ensure the safety and functionality of our local transportation infrastructure.

According to the state Comptroller’s office, thirty-four percent (34%) of bridges are deficient and forty-eight percent (48%) of road pavements are rated fair or poor and getting worse. Unfortunately, every year this critical maintenance is deferred due to funding constraints. Addressing this vast infrastructure system is beyond the capacity of local taxpayers and without additional funding, conditions will continue to decline.

Please know that every dollar appropriated in CHIPs and emergency winter recovery funding is invested in improving our local roads and bridges, providing job creation and economic development, and improving the safety and functionality of our critical local infrastructure.

Thank you for your support for these emergency winter recovery funds.

Sincerely,

Stephen J. Acquario
Executive Director

Cc: NYS Legislature, County Officials