

1 **NYSAC Standing Committee on Transportation and Public Works**
2 **2020 Legislative Conference**
3 **Resolution #2**

4 **Urging the Governor and State Legislature to Increase State Operating**
5 **Assistance and Capital Support for Transit Systems Owned by Counties, as**
6 **Well as All Transit Systems in Urban and Rural Areas Throughout the State**

7 **WHEREAS**, urban, suburban and rural transit services are vital to providing mobility
8 in communities across New York State; and

9 **WHEREAS**, transit service provides access to jobs, healthcare, education, training,
10 shopping and recreation, which supports the growth of local and state economies; and

11 **WHEREAS**, counties and their residents contribute financially to support local transit
12 services and many counties own and operate their local transit system; and

13 **WHEREAS**, customers, businesses and communities are demanding more extensive
14 and frequent transit service and additional travel options; and

15 **WHEREAS**, transit systems need to replace aging vehicles, modernize outdated
16 facilities and implement new technology that makes transit easier to use; and

17 **WHEREAS**, the New York Public Transit Association has inventoried the
18 infrastructure needs and resources of upstate and downstate transit systems other than
19 the MTA, and found a funding gap of \$1 billion over the next five-year period; and,

20 **WHEREAS**, past state investment has allowed transit systems to begin to replace over-
21 age buses, modernize outdated passenger and maintenance facilities and begin to
22 increase service to meet growing demands, but there are still substantial unmet needs;
23 and,

24 **WHEREAS**, the current state five-year transportation capital plan ends on March 31,
25 2020; and

26 **WHEREAS**, adequate, predictable and sustainable state funding is critical both to
27 maintain and expand transit services and to improve transit infrastructure; and

28 **WHEREAS**, the 2020 SFY Executive Budget provides \$236 million in operating
29 support for Upstate transit, for a 4 percent increase year over year, and \$394 million for
30 downstate systems, representing a year over year increase of 16 percent; and

31 **WHEREAS**, other downstate transit aid includes \$11 million to continue to fund the
32 Lower Hudson Transit Link serving the Mario M. Cuomo Bridge and parts of Rockland
33 and Westchester counties; and

34 **WHEREAS**, the Executive Budget also provides non-MTA transit systems with an
35 additional \$20 million in capital assistance this year, the first year of a \$100 million
36 five-year program to aid local transit agencies in the transition to electric buses.

1 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the New York State Association of
2 Counties (NYSAC) hereby commends Governor Cuomo and the Legislature for the state
3 investment in transit operations and infrastructure; and

4 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that NYSAC urges the Governor and Legislature to
5 continue these past state investments and enact new multiyear financial plans and a
6 2020-21 state budget that increases state operating assistance and capital support for
7 transit systems owned by counties, as well as all transit systems in urban and rural areas
8 throughout the state; and

9 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that copies of this resolution be sent to the counties
10 of New York State encouraging member counties to enact similar resolutions; and,

11 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that NYSAC shall forward copies of this resolution to
12 Governor Andrew M. Cuomo, the New York State Legislature, and all others deemed
13 necessary and proper.