

1 **2021 NYSAC Fall Seminar**
2 **Standing Committee on Transportation and Public Works**
3 **Resolution #2**

4 **Resolution Commending the Governor and State Legislators on Enacting**
5 **Record Increases for Local Highway, Bridge and Culvert Programs and**
6 **Urging a Sustained Commitment to Assist Counties in Maintaining Their**
7 **Local Infrastructure**

8 **WHEREAS**, the Governor and State Legislators are to be commended for adopting as
9 part of the 2021-22 State Budget a record \$1 billion investment in local road and bridge
10 programs that will improve safety for millions of motorists and create tens of thousands
11 of jobs at a critical time to promote economic recovery; and

12 **WHEREAS**, this new State Transportation Plan provides unprecedented support for
13 local governments to maintain and improve roads and bridges with the Consolidated
14 Local Streets and Highway Improvement Program (CHIPS) funded at \$535 million, an
15 increase of \$100 million, that provides state reimbursement to localities for the costs of
16 highway, bridge and culvert work as well as for pedestrian walkways, bicycle lanes, and
17 other complete streets enhancements; and

18 **WHEREAS**, BRIDGE-NY, a critical local program initiated by the Governor that
19 provides enhanced assistance for local governments to rehabilitate and replace bridges
20 and culverts, is funded at \$200 million (up to \$50 million of which shall be made
21 available for culvert projects) to be awarded during the State Fiscal Years 2020-21 and
22 2021-22; and

23 **WHEREAS**, under PAVE-NY, \$150 million is allocated to all municipalities throughout
24 the state this year, a \$50 million boost, which will go toward improving the conditions,
25 functionality and safety of local roadways, creating jobs and contributing to economic
26 development in our communities through projects like roadway resurfacing, widening
27 and realignment, construction of turning lanes at intersections, and new drainage for
28 flood mitigation; and

29 **WHEREAS**, the legislatively-sponsored Extreme Winter Recovery Program was
30 increased from its previous funding level of \$65 million to this year's level of \$100
31 million, allowing for additional construction, reconstruction or improvement of local
32 highways, bridges, highway-railroad crossings, and/or other local facilities many of
33 which are damaged or otherwise impacted by the severe Northeastern winter weather
34 and, more frequent significant flooding events; and

35 **WHEREAS**, locally owned roads and bridges account for 87 percent of the State's
36 110,000 miles of roadways and 50 percent of the State's 18,000 bridges and this level of
37 funding is expected to have a positive impact on the condition and resiliency of our
38 transportation systems; and

1 **WHEREAS**, this vast system of local roads, bridges and culverts is in need of a
2 sustained high level of funding in the future to continue to reverse the deterioration of
3 our aged and ailing transportation infrastructure and build up its resistance to natural
4 disasters due to climate change; and

5 **WHEREAS**, the overwhelming needs of the local systems will result in many
6 county highway and public works crews utilizing essentially all of this available
7 funding during the current construction season despite the above normal amount
8 of rain, supply chain disruptions and lingering COVID-19 restrictions that create
9 obstacles and setbacks to timely project rollouts. Most of the remaining funding, if
10 any, from this year's appropriations is expected to be programmed and committed
11 for the immediate start of projects next season; and

12 **WHEREAS**, a safe and efficient transportation infrastructure is necessary for trade,
13 economic development and revitalization, job creation and retention, schools,
14 agriculture, businesses, health and hospital facilities and emergency responders, as well
15 as the general traveling public.

16 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the New York State Association of
17 Counties (NYSAC) commends the Governor and the New York State Legislature for their
18 budget actions to enhance state investments in local roads, bridges and culverts and
19 urges that they continue to work in partnership with local governments to continue to
20 match these necessary and proper levels of funding to New York's counties to give them
21 the ability to properly maintain their infrastructure now and well into the future; and

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

24 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that NYSAC shall forward copies of this resolution to
25 Governor Kathy Hochul, the New York State Legislature and all others deemed
26 necessary and proper.