

1 **2022 Legislative Conference**  
2 **Standing Committee on Transportation and Public Works**  
3 **Resolution #3**

4 **Resolution urging the Governor and State Legislators to Enact Record**  
5 **Increases for Local Highway, Bridge and Culvert Programs to Assist**  
6 **Counties in Maintaining Their Critical Infrastructure**

7 **WHEREAS**, Governor Kathy Hochul has released an Executive Budget with a record  
8 \$1.23 billion per year investment in local road and bridge programs that will improve  
9 safety for millions of motorists and create tens of thousands of jobs at a critical time to  
10 promote economic recovery; and

11 **WHEREAS**, this new 5-year State Transportation Capital Plan provides unprecedented  
12 support for local governments to maintain and improve roads and bridges highlighted  
13 by the Consolidated Local Streets and Highway Improvement Program (CHIPS) funded  
14 at \$538 million, for state reimbursement to localities for the costs of highway, bridge,  
15 and culvert work as well as for pedestrian walkways, bicycle lanes, and other complete  
16 streets enhancements; and

17 **WHEREAS**, BRIDGE-NY, a critical local program that provides enhanced assistance  
18 for local governments to rehabilitate and replace bridges and culverts, is funded at \$200  
19 million per year, nearly doubling the annual levels of the past few years; and

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

26 **WHEREAS**, the Extreme Winter Recovery and State Touring Routes Programs  
27 historically sponsored by the Legislature are proposed at \$100 million each in the  
28 Executive Budget allowing for additional construction, reconstruction or improvement  
29 of local highways, bridges, and maintaining important connecting routes for urban and  
30 suburban commutes; and

31 **WHEREAS**, Governor Hochul is initiating a brand new program, Operation Pave Our  
32 Potholes (POP), to provide \$1 billion over 5 years with fifty percent of the funds to be  
33 distributed annually to local governments based on existing distribution formulas and  
34 the other half to NYSDOT to resurface and renew the state's worst roadway pavements;  
35 and

36 **WHEREAS**, the Federal Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) allocates  
37 funding specifically for off system bridges; and

1 **WHEREAS**, locally owned roads and bridges account for 87 percent of the State’s  
2 110,000 miles of roadways and 50 percent of the State’s 18,000 bridges and this level of  
3 funding is expected to have a positive impact on the condition and resiliency of our  
4 transportation systems; and

5 **WHEREAS**, about 90 percent of local roads are not eligible for federal funding; and

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

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

14 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the New York State Association of  
15 Counties (NYSAC) commends the Governor for these budget actions to enhance state  
16 investments in local roads, bridges, and culverts; and

17 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that while the CHIPS program is held at \$538  
18 million, it is hoped that with the projected state budget surpluses an additional increase  
19 in CHIPS funding can be enacted that will raise the annual level to \$788 million over the  
20 next 5 years and increase the Extreme Winter Recovery funding by \$50 million  
21 consistent with the Senate One-House budget proposal; and

22 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Operation Pave Our Potholes funds be  
23 distributed via the CHIPS or EWR formula so that every municipality in the state  
24 receives a fair share of these dollars; and

25 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the IIJA off-system bridge program should be  
26 administered so that 100 percent of the funding is dedicated to local bridges; and

27 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that NYSAC looks forward to working with Governor  
28 Hochul and the Legislature as deliberations on the state budget and Transportation  
29 Capital Plan continues; and

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

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