

1 **2021 NYSAC Legislative Conference**
2 **Standing Committee on Transportation and Public Works**
3 **Resolution #2**

4 **Resolution Urging the Enactment of an Increase in the Statutory CHIPS**
5 **Bidding Threshold**

6 **WHEREAS**, under current law, the local assistance funds allocated for local street or
7 highway projects under the Consolidated Local Street and Highway Improvement
8 Program (CHIPS) are used to undertake work on projects either with the municipality's
9 own resources and workforce or by competitively-bid contracts; and

10 **WHEREAS**, when the estimate for the contract work exceeds \$350,000 the work must
11 be competitively bid in accordance with the provisions for competitive bidding in the
12 General Municipal Law; and

13 **WHEREAS**, regular incremental raises in the competitive bidding threshold for highway
14 projects are necessary to compensate for increases in inflation impacting material,
15 transportation, labor, equipment and other highway construction costs; and

16 **WHEREAS**, a recent increase in the competitive bidding threshold to \$350,000 is still
17 below what many highway department professionals see as optimal; and

18 **WHEREAS**, the state legislature has supported an increase in the amount of the
19 current cost threshold from \$350,000 to \$500,000 over which local highway and bridge
20 construction work under the CHIPS program must be competitively bid.

21 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, the New York State Association of
22 Counties (NYSAC) supports the enactment of legislation or budget language that
23 increases the CHIPS bidding threshold to give municipalities flexibility and the option to
24 bid out or perform in-house projects that cost less than \$500,000. This will allow more
25 opportunities for local governments to act to minimize the cost of its transportation
26 projects on behalf of local taxpayers; and

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

29 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the New York State Association of Counties shall
30 forward copies of this resolution to Governor Andrew M. Cuomo, the New York State
31 Legislature and all others deemed necessary.