

1 **2022 Legislative Conference**
2 **Standing Committee on Transportation and Public Works**
3 **Resolution #4**

4 **Resolution Urging That Awards Under the BRIDGE-NY Program Be**
5 **Finalized and Announced in a Timelier Manner**

6 **WHEREAS**, Governor Kathy Hochul has released an Executive Budget that includes a
7 robust 5-Year State Transportation Capital Plan with a record \$1.23 billion annual
8 investment in local road and bridge programs; and

9 **WHEREAS**, this new Capital Plan provides unprecedented support for local
10 governments to maintain and improve roads, bridges and culverts; and

11 **WHEREAS**, BRIDGE-NY, a critical local program that provides enhanced assistance
12 for local governments to rehabilitate and replace bridges and culverts; and

13 **WHEREAS**, the Governor has proposed that this important local program be funded at
14 a record \$200 million per year, nearly doubling the annual levels of the past few years
15 that will create thousands of new construction jobs and contribute to economic
16 expansion in our communities; and

17 **WHEREAS**, the timely announcement of the funding awards from this program is vital
18 for counties to help plan and budget for the resulting funding and spending authority
19 needed for their highway and public works departments; and

20 **WHEREAS**, the most recent solicitation for BRIDGE-NY projects was issued in
21 January 2021 with a final application submittal deadline of May 19 for culverts and June
22 9 for bridges; and

23 **WHEREAS**, it is recognized that the prereview and full review and scoring process by
24 the New York State Department of Transportation takes time, while project selection
25 can typically be completed within four months; and

26 **WHEREAS**, in 2021, the awards were not announced until December 15, well beyond
27 the time frame for counties to prepare their budget to be presented for approval by their
28 county Legislature or Boards of Supervisors; and

29 **WHEREAS**, the cost of these projects have grown significantly as a result of impact of
30 COVID on the cost of construction materials and inflation.

31 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the New York State Association of
32 Counties (NYSAC) is urging the New York State Department of Transportation (DOT) to
33 consider the role of the county budget process and endeavor to complete the review and
34 award selection and announcements in a timelier manner; and

- 1 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, NYSAC calls on DOT to complete and provide an
2 inventory of BRIDGE NY projects with updated budgets based on construction cost
3 increases; and
- 4 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, these BRIDGE NY project funds should be increased
5 to cover higher costs so that these projects can be completed; and
- 6 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, previously awarded NYSDOT managed local projects
7 shall be fully funded; and
- 8 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that copies of this resolution be sent to the counties
9 of New York State encouraging member counties to enact similar resolutions; and
- 10 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that NYSAC shall forward copies of this resolution to
11 Governor Kathy Hochul, the New York State Legislature, the Commissioner of the
12 Department of Transportation and all others deemed necessary and proper.