

1 **2021 NYSAC Fall Seminar**
2 **Standing Committee on Transportation and Public Works**
3 **Resolution #4**

4 **Resolution Urging Legislative Support to Increase Funding for New York**
5 **Airports**

6 **WHEREAS**, on May 20, 2021, former Governor Andrew Cuomo announced that \$250
7 million will be available to transform and modernize airports in Upstate New York and
8 foster regional economic development; and

9 **WHEREAS**, this initiative includes \$230 million through a new Upstate Airport
10 Economic Development and Revitalization Competition for projects that promote and
11 accelerate improvements at upstate commercial passenger service airports, and another
12 \$20 million to be allocated through the Aviation Capital Grant Program to support
13 safety, infrastructure, and economic development projects at smaller airports; and

14 **WHEREAS**, this funding represents an addition to the \$12.5 million that was
15 previously allocated through the Aviation Capital Grant Program in this year's Executive
16 Budget, and also is \$130 million more for the Upstate Airport Economic Development
17 and Revitalization Competition that was funded at \$100 million in this year's state
18 budget; and

19 **WHEREAS**, the new initiative and enhanced funding builds on the success of the
20 Governor's upstate airport revitalization competition first announced in 2016, and
21 compliments the ongoing transformation of LaGuardia and John F. Kennedy airports
22 into world class travel hubs; and

23 **WHEREAS**, as the additional \$150 million total for these aviation capital programs is
24 to be included in the Governor's proposed 2022-2023 Executive Budget to be released
25 in January 2022, this appropriation will need the approval of the Legislature in order to
26 be adopted as part of the final state budget by April 1 of 2022; and

27 **WHEREAS**, airports are the front doors of our state driving business and attracting
28 tourists from all around the world and rebuilding and modernizing New York airports
29 with these critical investments will allow for the continued transformation of our
30 airports into 21st century facilities, fueling economic growth for decades to come; and

31 **WHEREAS**, previous Upstate Airport Competition award recipients were Plattsburgh
32 International Airport (2018), Ithaca Tompkins International Airport (2019), Syracuse
33 Hancock International Airport (2018), Greater Rochester International Airport (2018),
34 Elmira-Corning Regional Airport (2018), and Albany International Airport (2020); and

35 **WHEREAS**, twenty-four airports are eligible under the project solicitation that was
36 released in May, with project applications due September 15, 2021; and

1 **WHEREAS**, the additional \$20 million will be allocated for a future solicitation to the
2 Aviation Capital Grant Program, which supports projects at many airports across the
3 State that have significant general aviation operations.

4 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the New York State Association of
5 Counties supports the inclusion of the appropriations announced by former Governor
6 Andrew Cuomo to the 2022-2023 Executive Budget and that they be adopted in their
7 entirety in the final budget; 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 and all others deemed
12 necessary and proper.