



North Atlantic States Regional **COUNCIL of CARPENTERS**

The Honorable Kathy Hochul
Governor
Executive Chamber
State Capitol
Albany, New York 12224

The Honorable Carl Heastie
Speaker
New York State Assembly
932 Legislative Office Building
Albany, New York 12248

The Honorable Andrea Stewart-Cousins
Majority Leader of the Senate
172 State Street,
Capitol Building, Room 330
Albany, NY 12247

Dear Governor Hochul, Leader Stewart-Cousins and Speaker Heastie:

We write to express our staunch support for the robust funding of the New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT) capital program and Consolidated Local Street and Highway Improvement Program (CHIPS) in the finalized state budget agreement, recognizing the need to adequately address the state's critical infrastructure demands.

Collectively, we urge you to support a proposed \$400 million funding increase for the DOT capital program. Inflation contributing to rising material costs and other factors have made increased funding a necessity. The funding increase will allow the state to perform needed maintenance and reconstruction projects, without which, roads and bridges will inevitably fall into a state of neglect and disrepair. This funding increase will also create good-paying construction jobs, bolstering local economies. The current funding levels fall short, and will be insufficient in addressing the state's future infrastructure needs.

In addition to a boost in funding for the capital plan, we also call for increased funding for (CHIPS). We are seeking an increase of \$250 million from the Executive proposal in order to provide the necessary investment in local roads and bridges. This funding is vital to the continued modernization of the state's infrastructure, as well as the creation of career-track construction jobs.

We concertedly oppose any proposal to increase the CHIPS competitive bid threshold, as this would lead to decreased transparency and accountability, as well as a reduction in construction jobs with family-sustaining wages and benefits.

Thank you for your consideration of these important topics. We look forward to working with you to ensure their inclusion in the FY2025 budget.