2025 Legislative Conference Standing Committee on Transportation and Public Works Resolution # 2

Resolution Urging the Governor and State Lawmakers to Add Counties as Eligible for Funding Under the New York State Touring Routes Program

WHEREAS, the New York State Touring Route Program provides \$140 million in State funds to cities, towns and villages based on the total number of signed touring route miles for which such municipality has capital maintenance responsibility to support the construction and repair of highways, bridges, highway-railroad crossings, and other transportation facilities; and

WHEREAS, NYS Department of Transportation (NYSDOT) guidance directs that preference be given to roads located on a State highway where the State arterial is maintained by a municipality and designated as a Touring Route, however, funds may be used on an eligible roadway listed on the Local Highway Inventory; and

WHEREAS, unlike the Consolidated Local Street and Highway Improvement Program (CHIPS), Extreme Winter Recovery, PAVE NY, BRIDGE NY, and Pave Our Potholes programs, for which all municipalities qualify, the State Touring Route Program excludes counties; and

WHEREAS, several counties throughout the state have roads or segments of roads and other transportation infrastructure that would otherwise qualify for the additional allocation of funding enjoyed by all other levels of local government; and

WHEREAS, there appears to be no identifiable reason for counties that have several miles of such touring routes as defined by NYSDOT guidance within their jurisdiction to be excluded from the program; an inequality that needs to be corrected in the next budget to prevent otherwise eligible counties from further loss of funding; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the New York State Association of Counties (NYSAC) hereby calls on the Governor and State Lawmakers to provide in the final state budget the necessary change to the touring route budget language to include counties; and

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

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