

1 **2023 NYSAC Fall Seminar**
2 **Standing Committee on Transportation and Public Works**
3 **Resolution #2**
4

5 **Resolution Urging the Governor and State Legislators to Enact Increases**
6 **for Local Highway, Bridge and Culvert Programs to Compensate for**
7 **Construction Cost Inflation**

8
9 **WHEREAS**, historic inflationary impacts continue to place enormous pressure on local
10 governments to maintain existing levels of transportation construction, maintenance,
11 and service; and
12

13 **WHEREAS**, the State’s 5-year State Transportation Capital Plan provides significant
14 support for local governments to maintain and improve roads and bridges highlighted
15 by the Consolidated Local Streets and Highway Improvement Program (CHIPS),
16 BRIDGE-NY, PAVE-NY, Extreme Winter Recovery, State Touring Routes, and
17 Operation Pave Our Potholes (POP) programs; and
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19 **WHEREAS**, these levels of resources for counties, towns, cities, and villages are
20 severely impacted by overall inflation and the continuing rising costs of construction
21 inputs; and
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23 **WHEREAS**, the real value of local highway and bridge funding has been reduced by a
24 22 percent increase in construction costs in 2022 - 2023, according to the US Bureau of
25 Labor Statistics; and
26

27 **WHEREAS**, the total 22 percent inflation-induced impact translates to a stunning
28 \$270 million reduction in state aid to municipalities throughout the state for critical
29 highway maintenance and payment rehabilitation, and bridge and culvert projects; and
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31 **WHEREAS**, the State’s enacted property tax cap and new state cost shifts to counties
32 eliminates any possibility that counties can make up these devastating cuts in the value
33 of transportation spending power; and
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35 **WHEREAS**, the Federal Highway Administration recently released its updated index
36 of highway construction costs for the July-September 2022 quarter, and it shows that
37 inflation in this sector is more extreme than in the general economy – construction costs
38 have increased 50 percent since December 2020; and
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40 **WHEREAS**, this erosion of federal transportation funding is also having an impact on
41 local projects that are eligible for these federal funds; and
42

43 **WHEREAS**, locally owned roads and bridges account for 87 percent of the State’s
44 110,000 miles of roadways and 50 percent of the State’s 18,000 bridges and 46 percent
45 of the vehicle miles travelled in New York are on local roads so the state’s contribution

1 to funding is a vital part of assuring the condition and resiliency of our transportation
2 systems; and

3
4 **WHEREAS**, this vast system of local roads, bridges and culverts is in need of a
5 sustained high level of funding in the future to continue to reverse the deterioration of
6 our aging transportation infrastructure, account for inflation and build up its resistance
7 to natural disasters; and

8
9 **WHEREAS**, a safe and efficient transportation infrastructure is necessary for trade,
10 economic development and revitalization, job creation and retention, schools,
11 agriculture, businesses, health and hospital facilities and emergency responders, as well
12 as the general traveling public.

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14 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, the New York State Association of
15 Counties (NYSAC) commends Governor Kathy Hochul and the legislature for their
16 ongoing commitment to assuring appropriate state investments in local roads, bridges,
17 and culverts; and

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19 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that recognizing the impacts of inflation for local
20 highway construction inputs as steel, fuel and asphalt reduces the value of state funding
21 to local transportation programs, meaning fewer critical road, bridge, and culvert
22 projects are able to be undertaken; and

23
24 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that NYSAC looks forward to working with Governor
25 Hochul and the Legislature on significantly increasing state aid to local road and bridge
26 projects as deliberations begin on the 2024-2025 state budget and adjustments to the
27 Transportation Capital Plan are contemplated; and

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

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