



# 2016 POLICY AGENDA

## New York City Priorities

### MAKE THE NEW YORK CITY BUDGET MORE RESILIENT AND EFFICIENT

The de Blasio Administration has made significant contributions to the City's capital program, and is also helping to underwrite a significant portion of the MTA capital program. Despite these major commitments, much of the City's infrastructure needs to be upgraded and expanded in order to address population growth and economic expansion. The Building Congress will mount a Capital Budget campaign urging the City to:

**1. Create dedicated revenue streams to expand the support of core infrastructure and to protect investments during economic cycles.**

The Building Congress has presented illustrative examples of dedicated revenue streams, including a uniform tolling scheme for motor vehicles entering Manhattan's central business district and a Pay-As-You-Throw solid waste management fee, among others. New revenues should be dedicated to transportation and other critical infrastructure, insulating long-term capital planning from budgetary uncertainties.

**2. Increase efficiency throughout the planning, procurement, and delivery of capital projects.**

How the City currently plans, designs, and executes capital projects adds cost to every step of the construction process. As the City works to improve capital project delivery, the Building Congress will monitor progress based on the following recommendations:

- Improve procurement practices to speed mobilization and reduce City costs.
- Enact State legislation to authorize design-build project delivery.
- Improve internal agency project management.
- Improve M/WBE programs to encourage participation and reduce red tape.

**3. Add metrics to measure capital program**

**progress.** To help control costs, the City should mandate more transparent reporting of project costs, annual agency commitments and expenditures, and other valuable data.

### COMPLETE THE EAST MIDTOWN REZONING

The City must complete its East Midtown rezoning plan, which will permit responsible renewal of the City's premier office district, facilitate infrastructure investment, promote job growth and result in the expansion of the City's tax base. The public approvals process should be completed this year.

### CHAMPION IMPORTANT INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS

A host of major infrastructure projects require the support of the City, including the Gateway Program, the completion of Moynihan Station, the redevelopment of Sunnyside Yards, the Second Avenue Subway, and full implementation of the City's resiliency plan. The City should work actively with key stakeholders as an advocate, planner, and financial supporter to ensure prompt execution of these projects.



# 2016 POLICY AGENDA

## New York State Priorities

### ENSURE PROGRESS ON THE STATE'S INFRASTRUCTURE AGENDA

Governor Andrew Cuomo has outlined a historic infrastructure agenda that will improve regional mobility and encourage economic growth.

Components of this agenda include:

- The MTA's \$29 billion 2015-2019 capital plan.
- A \$22 billion, five-year capital plan for New York's roads and bridges.
- Facilitating the Amtrak Gateway Project, including providing up to \$5 billion in funding.
- Reconstruction of the Penn Station/Moynihan Station Complex.
- Master plans for LaGuardia and JFK Airports, including construction of a new AirTrain connection to LaGuardia Airport.
- Construction of a new, third track along the Long Island Rail Road main line.
- Expansion of the Jacob K. Javits Convention Center.

All of these projects are critical, which is why the Building Congress will focus attention on them throughout the year and urge concrete steps be taken to move them towards construction and completion.

### ENSURE LONG-TERM, SUSTAINABLE FUNDING FOR NEW AND EXISTING INFRASTRUCTURE

New, dedicated revenues would provide funding essential to fulfillment of the State's infrastructure agenda. Dedicated revenues are also a sustainable source that will allow the maintenance and upkeep of proposed and existing infrastructure over the long term. The Building Congress encourages consideration of the following revenue options, all of which require legislative approval:

- Add a uniform toll on vehicles entering Manhattan's central business district.
- Increase the Petroleum Business Tax.
- Remove the artificial cap on the gasoline sales tax to recoup the hundreds of millions of dollars that go untaxed whenever the price of gas exceeds \$2.
- Increase the MTA region sales tax surcharge by one-quarter of one percent (or 1¢ for every \$400).
- Reinstate the Commuter Tax.
- Apply the Payroll Tax uniformly throughout the Metropolitan Commuter District.

### AUTHORIZE PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS

The Governor has proposed use of public private partnerships – an arrangement where a non-government entity is assigned broad responsibility for design, construction and upkeep of a facility in order to speed delivery and offer government more cost certainty – to help finance several projects of the State's infrastructure agenda. However, public-private partnerships are not permitted for many important transportation and social infrastructure projects. Legislation authorizing their broader use should advance this year.

### PASS THE EMERGENCY RESPONDER ACT

State legislation protecting members of the building industry from liability when they respond to a declared emergency is a matter of public safety. Without such protection, firms may be rendered unable to provide timely and adequate emergency support services. A strong liability protection law will allow the industry to respond decisively during catastrophic events like Superstorm Sandy or 9/11.