



October 19, 2020

Honorable Bill de Blasio
Mayor, City of New York
City Hall
New York, NY 10007

Re: New York City's Capital Program

Dear Mayor de Blasio:

New York City's residents and businesses have been impacted by COVID-19 more deeply than anywhere else in the country. We thank you and your administration for your tireless efforts in keeping the public safe and informed during this unprecedented time.

As representatives of the design and construction sector, we are painfully aware of the economic impacts the pandemic is having. The impacts on the State's and City's budgets and capital programs has created sobering challenges for middle-class New York families who work in and are employed by our sector. This includes union construction workers, architects, engineers, general contractors, construction managers, subcontractors, MWBE firms and small businesses we represent. Our members are doing their best to stay in business, mitigate layoffs, furloughs and benefit cuts, but unfortunately these impacts are now a reality.

Our organizations are marshalling resources to urge the President and Congress for fiscal relief to the State and City governments. Federal relief is necessary to preserve services and keep projects from being cancelled or delayed. While our advocacy is ongoing, we can not depend solely on Washington D.C. to stave off the worst economic impacts to our City.

We are therefore writing to call on your leadership to fund the City's Capital Budget at pre-COVID-19 levels in the forthcoming Capital Commitment plan. In addition to providing critical services to all New Yorkers, the capital plan affects the livelihoods of many thousands of workers, employees and businesses. It is fundamental to the region's economic well-being and is an essential component of economic recovery

Prior to the pandemic, your administration was instrumental in meeting New York's overdue infrastructure needs. Capital spending has been robust during your Mayoralty. We urge you to move forward with this strong agenda, particularly now, to maintain jobs and stabilize the economy, and to continue the City's progress forward.

History shows infrastructure spending has multiplier effects for the economy. It is critical to invest in public projects to deliver short term economic and jobs impacts, as well as preparing the City for long term growth. Large investments in public works during times of emergency have a track record of transforming the City, creating good-paying, local jobs and spurring wider economic activity. That is why we must continue building New York. The City's capital projects are not only at the heart of the economy, but they are crucial to maintaining the City's status as a global leader.

Challenging times require vision and bold leadership. By investing in capital projects, New York can lead the way out of this turbulent time, create needed local jobs and develop the necessary transportation, environmental, energy and business infrastructure that will keep the City moving forward. We look forward to working with you in the time ahead to advance this effort. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Allied Building Metal Industries
American Council of Engineering Companies of New York
American Institute of Architects New York
Building and Construction Trades Council of Greater New York
Building Trades Employers Association
General Contractors Association of New York
New York Building Congress
New York City Central Labor Council
Subcontractors Trade Association