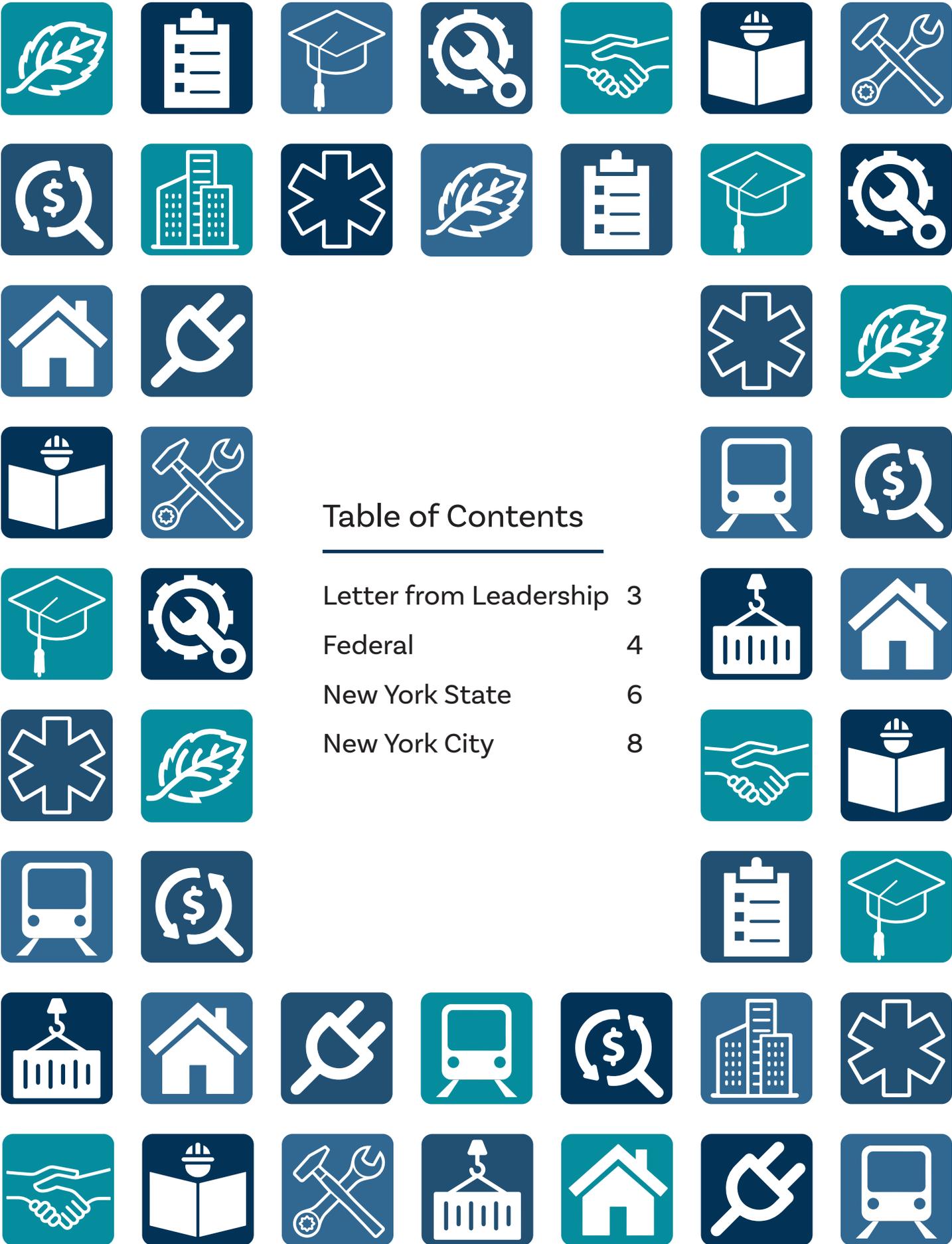


# 2018 Policy Agenda

Strengthening the Region



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Dear Friends,

The New York Building Congress, a broad-based membership association dedicated to promoting the growth and success of the construction industry in New York, is pleased to present its policy priorities for 2018.

Now in its 97th year, the Building Congress works to advance an industry-wide agenda focusing on economic and infrastructure investment, job creation, and professional exchange in close coordination with its more than 530 member organizations comprising more than 300,000 skilled tradespeople and professionals working in all industry sectors. The Building Congress advocates sound public policy, promotes productive capital spending, encourages public/private partnerships, and evaluates the implementation of major government projects.

As the leading voice for our industry, the New York Building Congress is enormously proud of our advocacy efforts on the city, state and federal levels of government. The 2018 Policy Agenda reflects a focus on all five boroughs of New York City, the broader metropolitan region and the country at large. As we execute our priorities, the Building Congress will work to gather input from industry, business, and civic organizations as well as community leaders to encourage broad consensus on infrastructure investment, public policy initiatives, and related issues affecting the building industry.

Please look out for updates on the Policy Agenda throughout the year at [www.buildingcongress.com](http://www.buildingcongress.com).

Very Truly Yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Carlo Scissura'.

Carlo A. Scissura, Esq.  
President and CEO

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Milo Riverso'.

Milo E. Riverso  
Chairman

# FEDERAL POLICY AGENDA



## COMPLETE THE GATEWAY PROGRAM

The rehabilitation of the northeast rail corridor and the Gateway Program, which would repair the two current cross-Hudson tubes and construct two new passenger rail tunnels connecting New York and New Jersey is the country's most critical infrastructure development of the last two decades.

Combined with expanded capacity at New York's Penn Station, the project would transform the commute of hundreds of thousands of people and provide access to new jobs, industries and economic opportunities, all while ensuring the stability of our nation's economy. Gateway would also create 72,000 jobs over the next 11 years in New York and New Jersey alone, not to mention the additional jobs created to repair other areas of the corridor.

The rail corridor - a 457-mile line connecting Washington, Baltimore, Philadelphia, New York and Boston - links the largest concentration of people, jobs, and economic productivity in the United States. It ties together our global centers for education, healthcare, technology, media, and finance, all of which are expected to fuel economic growth in the next century. The region's 52 million residents produce over \$3 trillion in economic output and support 20 percent of all U.S. jobs.

The Gateway Program is the keystone to the rail corridor, which is busiest and most complex of any section in the western hemisphere. In 2017, the corridor served 260 million passengers, a figure that is projected to double over the next 25 years.

### Overview

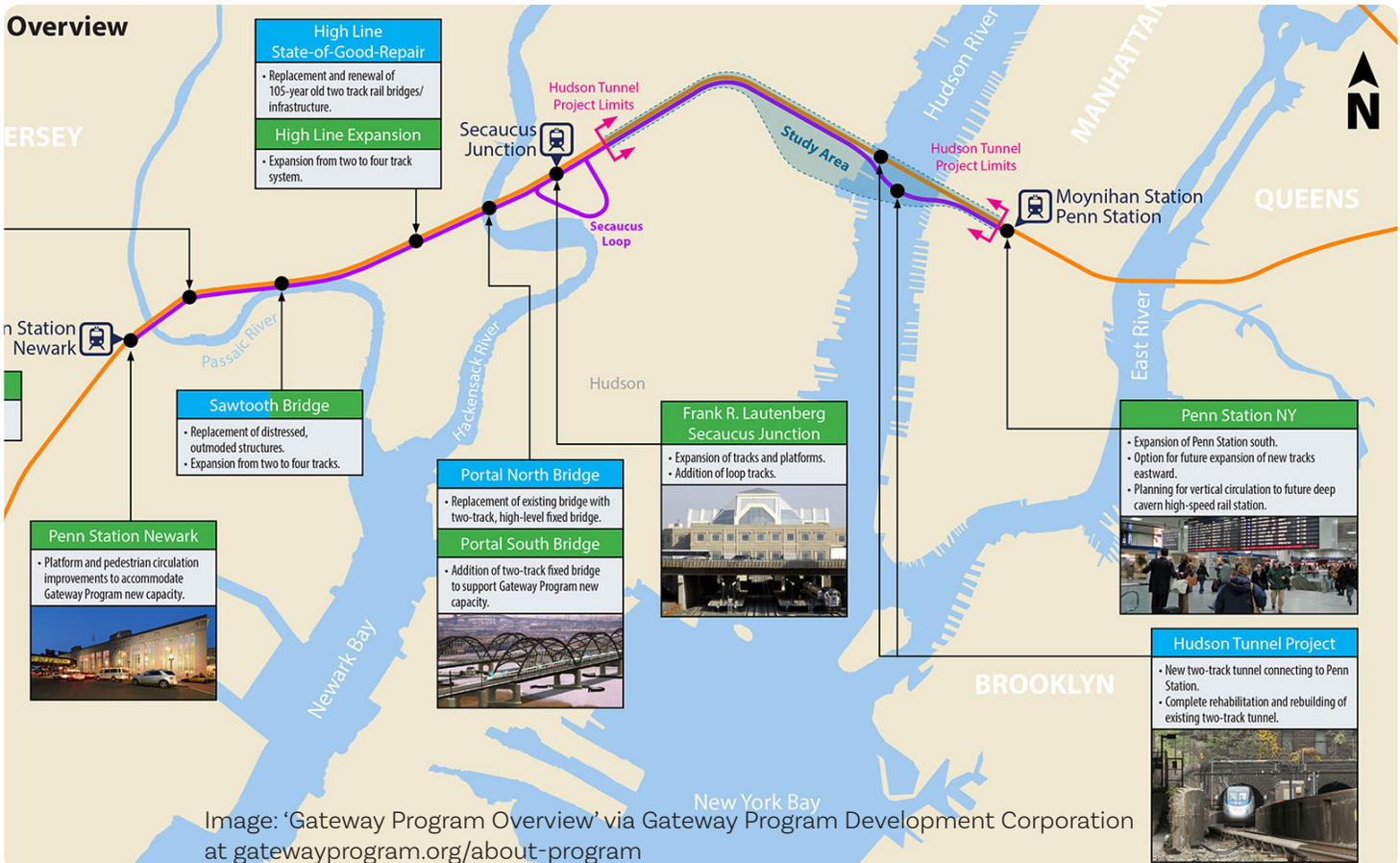


Image: 'Gateway Program Overview' via Gateway Program Development Corporation at [gatewayprogram.org/about-program](http://gatewayprogram.org/about-program)

# FEDERAL POLICY AGENDA



Image: 'Ready to Build: Hudson Tunnel Project' via Amtrak at [media.amtrak.com/media-images/](https://media.amtrak.com/media-images/)



## COMPREHENSIVE NATIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE PLAN

According to the American Society of Civil Engineers, American infrastructure across all sectors needs more than \$3 trillion in investment to both bring systems up to a state of good repair and accommodate population growth.

In the absence of robust investment and a vision for America's future growth and development, existing systems will further deteriorate, leading to more congestion, pollution, and lost productivity, among other challenges. In order to advance effective infrastructure policy that addresses current concerns and meets future needs, the Trump Administration and Congress should take the following steps:

1. Develop and pass a comprehensive national infrastructure plan that includes dedicated funding for specific highways and mass transit networks, passenger and freight rail, aviation, ports, inland waterways, flood control, drinking water and wastewater, as well as energy production and transmission infrastructure
2. Increase annual federal expenditures across infrastructure sectors by a total of \$500 billion over 10 years—fiscal year 2018 to 2027—through a combination of increased user fees and tax code changes to raise general fund revenues
3. Reform federal infrastructure programs to increase accountability and ensure that each dollar produces the greatest possible social, environmental, and economic return on investment

# NEW YORK STATE POLICY AGENDA



## ENSURE PROGRESS ON THE STATE'S INFRASTRUCTURE AGENDA

Governor Andrew Cuomo has made major infrastructure investment a central focus of his administration, focusing on several key agencies and projects. The Building Congress will closely monitor progress on these projects throughout the year and urge full, protected funding during budget season and implementation, construction and completion of critical elements. This includes protecting funding and advancing implementation of the MTA's \$29 billion five-year capital plan and New York State DOT's \$22 billion, five-year capital plan.

In addition, the State must be a major force for investment in and advancement of major new expansion projects that will enable our state and region to thrive in the next century. The Building Congress will publicly urge advancement of new projects and innovative funding proposals to ensure these projects move forward.



## APPROVE TRAFFIC PRICING PLAN

To ensure the funding necessary to meet and expand the State's ambitious infrastructure agenda, new, dedicated revenues must be provided. The Building Congress supports the Fix NYC Commission Plan for traffic pricing on vehicles entering the Manhattan central business district.

The plan will provide funding to deliver short and long-term improved mass transit options for commuters and create a predictable and dedicated flow of revenue for vital capital projects. By reducing the number of vehicles on the road, congestion pricing will also ensure faster, more reliable commute times, increase economic activity and job productivity and decrease fuel consumption and harmful vehicle emissions, improving air quality and the public health.



## AUTHORIZE ALTERNATIVE PROJECT DELIVERY METHODS

Under the leadership of Governor Cuomo, the state has design-build project delivery to great success on a range of new bridges, airport facilities and schools, as well as for emergency construction following Superstorm Sandy. The resulting reductions in both cost and schedule have been dramatic. However, New York City still cannot use design-build for its construction projects and is seeking authorization to use design-build and other alternative project delivery systems for vital, time-sensitive projects, but has been unsuccessful.

The Building Congress will make alternative project delivery authorization for both the City and State a top priority during the 2018 legislative session. While it may not be suitable across the board, there are many critical projects that would benefit substantially from design-build. Chief among the candidates is the rehabilitation of the Brooklyn-Queens Expressway triple-cantilever - a multibillion-dollar construction project that is in urgent need of repair.

# NEW YORK STATE POLICY AGENDA



Image: 'Brooklyn-Queens Expressway Triple Cantilever' via Brownstoner at [www.brownstoner.com/development/brooklyn-queens-expressway-promenade-robert-moses/](http://www.brownstoner.com/development/brooklyn-queens-expressway-promenade-robert-moses/)



## 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, terrorist attacks or other emergencies that fall outside normal procurement.

The Building Congress will lead efforts to finally pass essential legislation that will permit the building industry to play an essential role on behalf of government during times of crisis.



## ENSURE CLEAN & AFFORDABLE POWER FOR NEW YORK

The closure of the Indian Point Energy Center, which provides over 2,000 megawatts of clean energy for New York, poses significant risks to New York's energy consumers unless new, clean, affordable sources of energy are put on line. The Building Congress' Energy Outlook report anticipated a growing demand for energy, driven by the tremendous development underway in Hudson Yards, the World Trade Center and other rapidly developing parts of the City.

The Building Congress will closely monitor progress on the closure of Indian Point and ensure that a clean and affordable plan to replace the loss is met. The Building Congress will convene its Energy Committee regularly with parties

# NEW YORK CITY POLICY AGENDA



## PROMOTE A FIVE-BOROUGH INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT STRATEGY

The Building Congress will promote ambitious projects that improve mobility, economic opportunity, and growth throughout New York City. Working with local stakeholders and industry experts, the Building Congress will work to define neighborhoods, industries and infrastructure needs that have been overlooked and recommend opportunities for investment.

A number of major infrastructure projects are being planned and have been made public, including the Gateway Program, Phase II of the Second Avenue Subway, and the JFK Master Plan, that will also need the support of the City and the industry as they move into development.

In addition, the City must look beyond the current slate of projects and plan for the next generation of critical infrastructure investments that will allow the City to accommodate the growth it is struggling to accommodate. The Building Congress will define these projects and promote them to ensure they are given serious consideration by the public and decision makers.



## ENSURE ROBUST CAPITAL SPENDING BY THE CITY OF NEW YORK

New York City spends more on public infrastructure in the five boroughs than any other government entity. Recent years have seen the City make unprecedented levels of investment to protect, maintain and expand its network of schools, libraries, hospitals, parks, roads and bridges, water and sewer systems, and other core components that ensure the quality of life for all residents. It is critical the City continue to make similar levels of investment in 2018 and demonstrate a longer-term commitment in its Ten-Year Strategy, as the population continues to grow and the economy expands.

The Building Congress will monitor the City's Fiscal Year 2018 Preliminary and Executive Capital Budgets to ensure that spending continues to flow to critical infrastructure. The Building Congress will offer detailed analyses and testimony on Budget details and work with the Administration and City Council, as needed, if concerns arise.



Image: 'Kathleen Grimm School for Leadership and Sustainability at Sandy Ground' via New York City School Construction Authority at <http://www.nycsca.org/>

# NEW YORK CITY POLICY AGENDA



## ENCOURAGE STRATEGIC REZONING INITIATIVES

As New York City's population and employment numbers hit record highs, the need for buildable land is growing especially strong. To accommodate the growth, the City must continue to explore and develop comprehensive rezoning strategies throughout the five boroughs.

Successful rezoning efforts should promote growth of livable neighborhoods, foster jobs and economic development, invest in essential services and infrastructure and create housing for all income levels. In addition, plans should epitomize smart growth strategies by positioning high-density zones at the transit hubs and major thoroughfares.

The Building Congress will work with the de Blasio administration, elected officials and local communities to support future rezoning initiatives and turn their collective vision into reality.

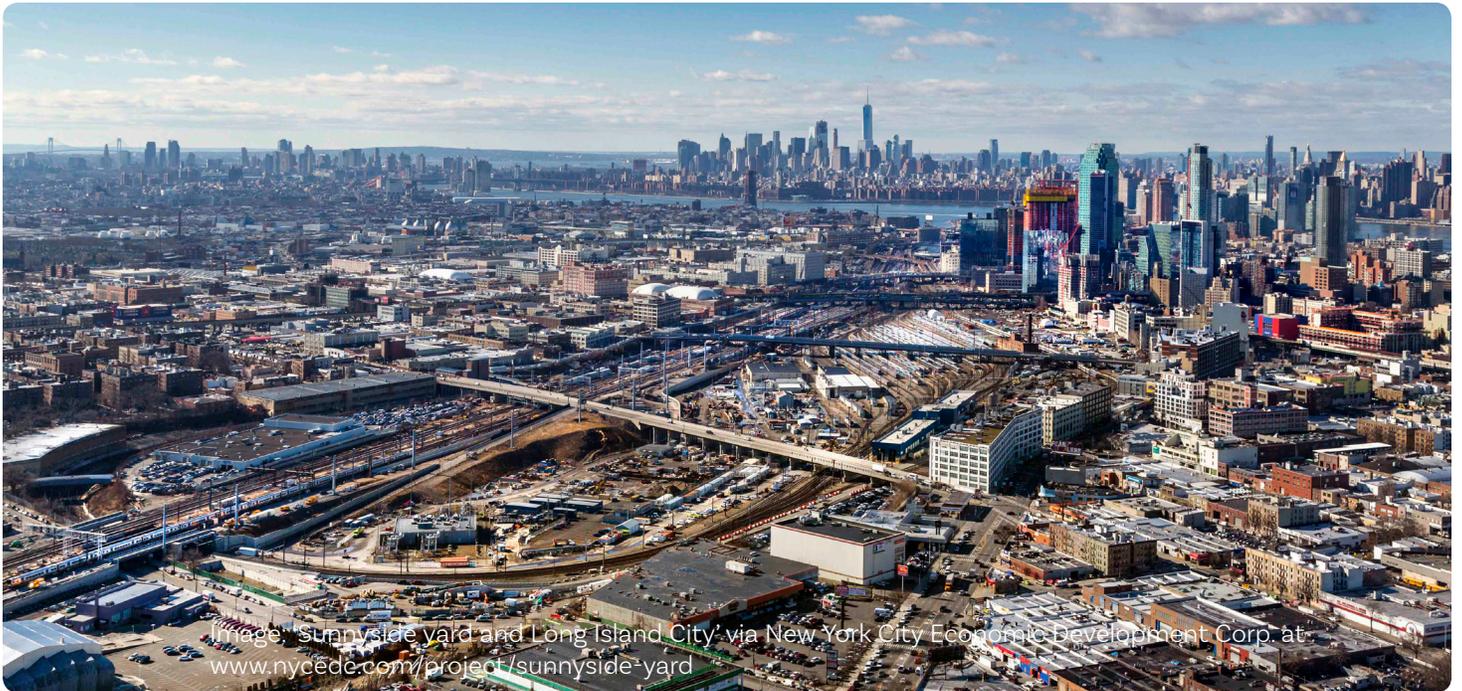


Image: Sunnyside Yard and Long Island City via New York City Economic Development Corp. at [www.nycedc.com/project/sunnyside-yard](http://www.nycedc.com/project/sunnyside-yard)



## MAKE THE NEW YORK CITY CAPITAL PROGRAM MORE EFFICIENT

The City of New York consistently spends between \$8-10 billion every year on vital capital projects throughout the City. However, the City budget planning process is opaque, and capital project procurement, management and delivery are inefficient.

The Building Congress will continue to work with City officials to make meaningful improvements to procurement practices to speed projects into construction, and improve management during construction and closeout to avoid delays, scope changes and speed up payment.

The Building Congress will also encourage the City to prepare and present a more transparent capital budget. A more transparent budget will allow elected officials to better track capital program progress, detect cost overruns, and allow City officials to engage in more rational long-term planning.

# NEW YORK CITY POLICY AGENDA



## IMPROVE THE CITY'S MWBE PROGRAM

The City plans to increase its goals for participation of minority- and women-owned firms in the City's capital construction program in the coming year. The Building Congress supports the full engagement of emerging businesses in the City's capital program. However, the City must improve MWBE capacity-building programs and provide additional resources to ensure meaningful inclusion and development of MWBE firms can take place.

The Building Congress will work with the City to look closely at its programs and practices, suggest areas for improvement, and seek their implementation.



Image: 'Infrastructure Upgrades Along Southern Blvd in the Bronx' via New York City Department of Design and Construction at <http://www1.nyc.gov/site/ddc/about/press-releases/2017/pr-022817-south-bronx-infrastructure.page>



## ADVANCE NEW YORK CITY'S AFFORDABLE HOUSING INITIATIVE

Mayor de Blasio had taken significant steps to address New York City's housing crisis. With the expanded goal to build and preserve 300,000 affordable units by 2026, it is critical the City continue to make the necessary levels of investment in 2018 and build the pipeline of housing for all income levels.

The Building Congress supports further legislation and enhance incentive programs designed to spur construction and rehabilitation of housing that is affordable to New Yorkers of all income levels. The Building Congress will monitor the City's investment levels for new and preserved housing programs to ensure that spending continues to these critical projects.

# NEW YORK CITY POLICY AGENDA



## EXPAND AND IMPROVE PROJECT-BASED STEAM EDUCATION

The Building Industry is facing a shortage of design and construction professionals, and diversity within its ranks. A variety of excellent Project-Based STEAM learning programs supported by the New York Building Foundation, the charitable arm of the Building Congress, are educating and training the next generation of design and construction professionals inside New York’s public schools and beyond.

The Building Congress and Building Foundation will undertake to expand access to these programs, encourage systematizing them as a single “pipeline” from early childhood into entry in the workforce, and seek more consistent funding for industry-focused education in New York City schools.



## SUSTAINABLE DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION

Climate change is perhaps the toughest challenge New York City will face in the coming decades. Tasked with lowering emissions and our reliance on fossil fuel, New York City serves as a national leader combating climate change through our built environment. The City has taken enormous efforts to implement long-term carbon reductions in emissions produced by the city’s energy supply, buildings, transportation, and solid waste.

The Building Congress will support efforts to incentivizing hyper-efficient, resilient and healthy new private-sector buildings and requiring decarbonization and retrofits of municipal buildings. In addition, the Building Congress will work to make sure our workforce is prepared, through expanded energy efficiency training for operators, property managers, architects, engineers and developers on emerging strategies for cost-effective, hyper-efficient buildings.

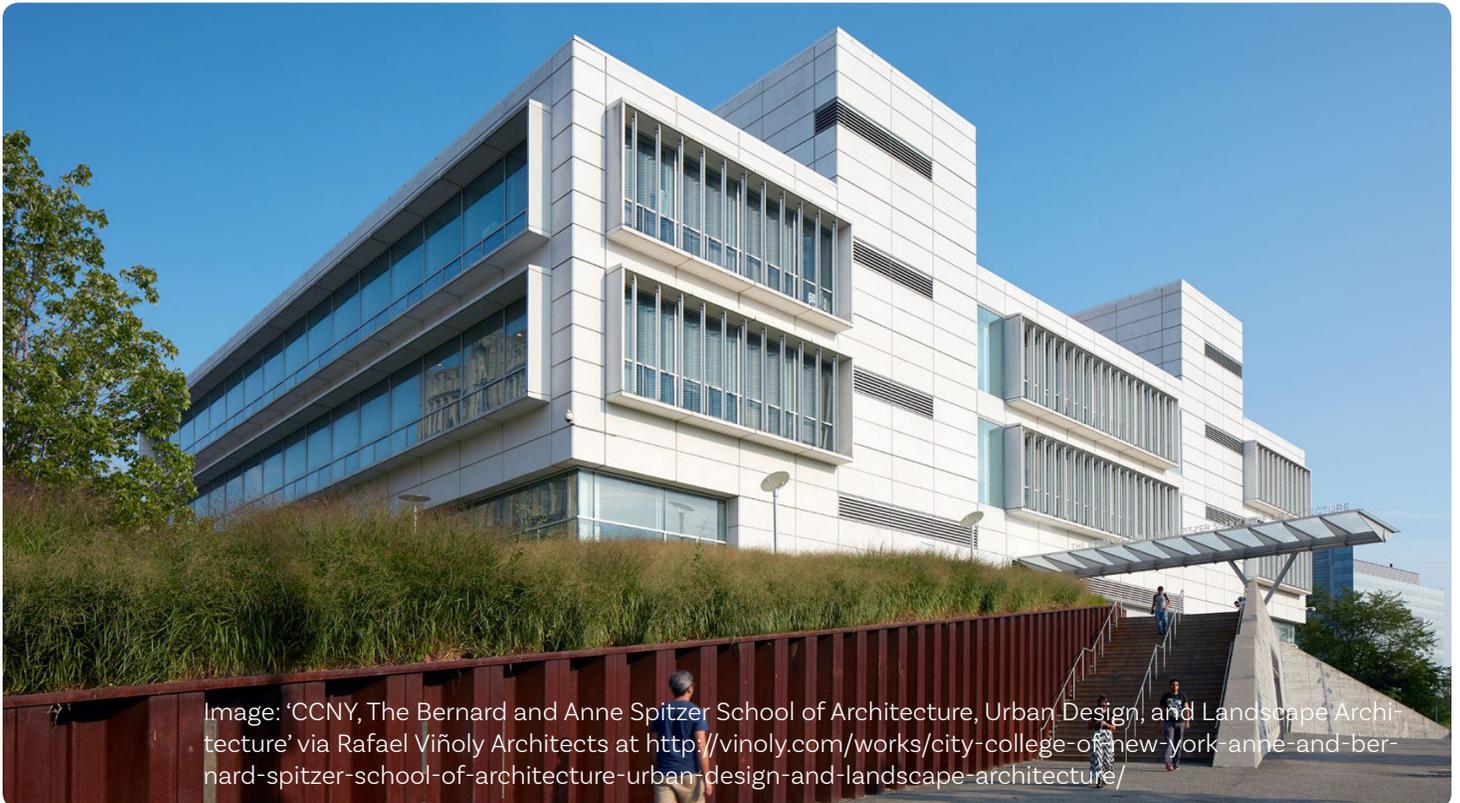


Image: ‘CCNY, The Bernard and Anne Spitzer School of Architecture, Urban Design, and Landscape Architecture’ via Rafael Viñoly Architects at <http://vinoly.com/works/city-college-of-new-york-anne-and-bernard-spitzer-school-of-architecture-urban-design-and-landscape-architecture/>

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