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April 29, 2016

Hon. Carl Heastie

Speaker
New York State Assembly
LOB Room 932
Albany, NY 12248

Dear Speaker Heastie:

The Building Congress urges the Assembly to pass A8239, authorizing the City of New York to employ the design-build construction method on two mission-critical projects.

Design-build allows public agencies to procure a single project team to both design and build public works. Today, the City is confined to using only a single type of project delivery – design-bid-build – for virtually all construction projects in its \$8 billion annual capital program. This approach requires two procurements: the City agency first retains a designer to develop plans for a project. Once this process is complete, the agency must then undertake another procurement for a construction team to build the project.

Critically, the New York City Department of Transportation is seeking design build authority in order to reconstruct the Brooklyn Queens Expressway triple cantilever section in Brooklyn Heights more rapidly. Using traditional procurement methods would be tremendously disruptive, and have impacts on the City and its economy well beyond the physical confines of the project.

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New York State agencies that have used design-build have recorded a number of successes: the New New York Bridge and the Kosciuszko Bridge are prime examples of the method's time- and cost saving benefits. These projects progressed faster and remained closer to initial budget projections than other large projects procured using traditional design-bid-build.

It is time for New York State to enable the City to use design-build project delivery, a delivery method with proven results. The Building Congress urges the Senate to pass authorizing legislation, A8239.

Very Truly Yours,



Carlo A. Scissura, Esq.
President & CEO
New York Building Congress