

**Testimony of
Andrew S. Hollweck
Senior Vice President
New York Building Congress
on
The Port Authority of NY&NJ
Proposed 2017-2026 Capital Plan**



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The New York Building Congress is pleased to support the Port Authority's proposed \$32 billion 2017-2026 Capital Plan. It is a robust, forward-looking proposal that leverages the Port's physical and financial assets to truly modernize and expand the regional transportation network. This is a budget with great promise.

These investments could not be made at a more critical time: an era of sustained growth has buoyed the region for nearly twenty years. There are literally millions more residents, millions more jobs, and an unprecedented increase in gross regional product since 1990.

In many ways, the New York metropolitan region is a new place from what it was a quarter century ago. While this transformation has been overwhelmingly positive, it has also strained our public infrastructure to its limit. Maintaining a state of good repair – while absolutely essential – is no longer enough. The region must replace old infrastructure and expand constrained systems to accommodate all of this tremendous growth.

With this preamble, the Building Congress is excited about the Port's strategic approach to maintaining, rebuilding and expanding its core facilities. Capital spending is proposed

at record levels to effectively build new airports, build full replacements for a number of major facilities, and create new rail infrastructure that will add capacity for our region for the next century.

This is precisely the visionary approach to long-term planning and investment that all major capital agencies should be undertaking and which government should try to emulate.

While the Plan in its entirety largely addresses state of good repair projects, there are several projects which truly steer the region towards a more stable future:

- Ongoing reconstruction of both LaGuardia and JFK airports.
- A new AirTrain connection to LaGuardia Airport.
- The complete replacement of the Lincoln Tunnel Helix.
- Reconstruction of a range critical components on the George Washington Bridge, most notably a full replacement of the Bridge's suspender cables.

And, perhaps most important, the Capital Plan provides essential funding for the Gateway Program. This funding is the first major, multi-billion-dollar commitment of capital funds to what many call the most important infrastructure project in the entire country. The Port's commitment of nearly \$3 billion will enable the Gateway Development Corporation, housed at the Port, to continue design and commence construction of key components of this project in the coming years.

The Gateway Program will transform transportation in our region and we are thrilled that the Port is investing meaningfully into this project. The Building Congress will assist the Port in advocating for the essential federal dollars required to complete this generational project. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.