



MEMORANDUM OF SUPPORT

BILL: S.7608-A (Lanza) / A.9872-A (Rozić)

SUBJECT: Requires the Commissioner of Transportation to Develop and Present to the Governor and Legislature Long-Range and Five-Year Capital Plans

DATE: May 12, 2016

The Associated General Contractors of New York State, LLC (AGC NYS) the leading statewide trade association representing the construction industry strongly supports S.7608-A (Lanza) / A.9872-A (Rozić), which requires the commissioner of transportation to develop and present to the governor and legislature a five-year capital plan, with defined projects, that is subject to public review prior to the passage of the state budget.

There is wide spread agreement among elected officials and the public that New York needs to invest in its infrastructure if we are going to remain competitive and create jobs because our crumbling roads and bridges are in serious need of attention and, more importantly, are in serious need of a multi-billion dollar capital commitment from the State. The final 2016-17 New York State Budget achieved transportation parity between the New York State Department of Transportation (DOT) and the Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) with over \$55 billion of transportation investments statewide, including \$27.14 billion for DOT and Thruway programs and \$27.98 billion for the MTA programs.

AGC NYS concurs with the sponsors of this bill that unlike the MTA, DOT is not statutorily required to submit a publically-reviewable 5-year or 20-year capital plan. The legislature and the public need to know what transportation projects will advance in the upcoming years, on what schedule, and at what funding levels. The lack of a comprehensive long-term funding plan for the DOT has a crushing impact on infrastructure systems, jobs, and economic growth in our state. Essentially every industry in our state relies upon roads and bridges – either to get goods to market, users to services, or workers to their jobs. 78% of New York’s goods are shipped via truck – that’s over \$800 billion worth of economic impact. Only with substantial, recurring 5-year transportation capital plans for New York’s state and local infrastructure systems can the Empire State become a national economic leader with first-rate infrastructure.

This bill amends state finance law by adding new section 22-d to require the commissioner of transportation to develop and present to the governor and legislature a twenty-year intermodal, long-range state transportation plan and a five-year capital program. The commissioner of transportation shall also annually develop and submit to the governor and the legislature a list of scheduled projects that includes estimated funding levels. The initial and all subsequent twenty-year and five-year plans shall be aligned with the capital planning schedule of the metropolitan transportation authority.

AGC strongly supports and urges the swift passage of S.7608-A/A.9872-A.