In response to the increasing questions and confusion about the Paycheck Protection Program, AGC NYS has compiled a packet of information for our members for the purpose of PPP applications moving forward. This packet of documents is intended to provide a backdrop of information related to market conditions and business concerns specifically in New York State.

Enclosed you will find several documents published by AGC NYS, including our “NY Forward” Recovery Plan, a call to provide additional funding to the MTA as well as the results of the AGC NYS COVID-19 Survey. There are also several documents dedicated to the financial outlook of New York State, as well as media clips following COVID-19 economic concerns related to the Paycheck Protection Program.

We encourage our members to click here to view and keep this document on hand. AGC of America released a national “Recap of Current Construction Business Conditions,” which can be found here.
ASSOCIATED GENERAL CONTRACTORS OF NEW YORK STATE
“NY FORWARD” RECOVERY PLAN

New York’s construction industry is a powerful economic engine during normal times; each $1 billion invested in non-residential construction spending adds about $3.4 billion to Gross Domestic Product (GDP), about $1.1 billion to personal earnings and creates or sustains 28,500 jobs. As Governor Cuomo takes steps to begin to “Unpause” New York, the construction industry is primed and ready to continue working safely and play a crucial role in our State’s economic recovery and resurgence through “NY Forward.”

Construction has been broadly deemed “essential” in New York throughout the COVID-19 crisis under Governor Cuomo’s “New York on Pause” Executive Orders. Our industry—which already had significant experience working safely in hazardous conditions and applying rigorous protocols and utilizing personal protective equipment (PPE) to mitigate exposure to pathogens and other health risks—has developed and honed best practices to mitigate health risks to construction workers and others as construction work has continued across New York during this pandemic.

The construction industry, informed by that experience and driven by our abiding commitment to safety, is exceptionally well prepared for a broader reopening of construction activity that will put more people back to work and help prime and sustain economic recovery.

The Associated General Contractors of New York State (AGC NYS), New York’s leading statewide construction industry organization, representing the full breadth of our industry, building and highway, union and open shop, in every region of our State, offers the following recommendations, procedures and guidelines for the safe resumption of construction activity.

The construction industry, quite literally, built New York. We remain prepared to resume and continue work to help New York rebuild and recover in the wake of the economic damage wrought by this pandemic.

1. COVID-19 Mandatory Policies and Procedures for All Construction Sites and Construction Workers

All contractors must implement a safety plan addressing site policies and procedures to protect their employees from COVID-19. All employees must be trained in established safe practices and are required to follow all measures implemented to protect the workforce from potential exposure to the coronavirus. Safety plans developed to protect employees from COVID-19 must be maintained on the project. Safety plans and procedures related to COVID-19 must be current and modified as site conditions change and to reflect the most current information available by OSHA, CDC, and the NYSDOH.
Employee Health Protection

- Sick employees are not to report to work.

- Any employee exhibiting any of the symptoms below, must report such symptoms to a supervisor (via phone, texting, or email) immediately, and head home from the job site or stay home if already there. Employees that show signs or complain about such symptoms, shall be directed to leave the project site immediately. COVID-19 typical symptoms:
  - Fever
  - Cough
  - Shortness of Breath or difficulty breathing
  - Sore Throat
  - New loss of taste or smell

Prior to starting a shift, each employee will either self-certify or be examined by a qualified person that they:

- Have no signs of a fever or a measured temperature greater than 100.3 degrees.

- Had no cough or trouble breathing within the past 24 hours.

- Have not had "close contact" with an individual diagnosed with COVID-19. “Close contact” means living in the same household as a person who has tested positive for COVID-19, caring for a person who has tested positive for COVID-19, being within 6 feet of a person who has tested positive for COVID-19, or coming in direct contact with secretions (e.g., sharing utensils, being coughed on) from a person who has tested positive for COVID-19, while that person was symptomatic.

- Have not been asked to self-isolate or quarantine by their doctor or a local public health official.

Any employee that exhibits symptoms, answers yes to any items on the daily questionnaire, or who are unable to certify they do not have an elevated temperature, must be directed to leave the work site. If warranted, employees must seek medical attention and receive applicable testing per their health care provider. They are not to return to the work site until cleared by a medical professional if the health care provider determines they may be or have been infected with COVID-19. CDC and NYSDOH guidelines must be followed accordingly.

General site procedures to prevent and limit the transmission of COVID-19

- For applicable projects such as building, transit facilities and secured sites, employees arriving on site are to utilize designated entry points established for the project. Designated entry points should be utilized to eliminate or limit employees from interacting with non-construction personnel. Designated entry points need to be identified within the site safety plan. Unsecured project sites including but not limited to highway work shall be excluded from requiring designated entry points.

- No handshaking or other touching.
• All persons on site must wash their hands upon entering the worksite and periodically over the course of their shift with soap and water or shall use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer comprised of least 60% ethanol or 70% isopropanol.

• Each jobsite must have hand washing stations available for employees when practical. Employees must be aware of proper hand washing procedures and instructions as to how to properly wash one’s hands must be provided onsite. When hand washing stations are not practical, hand sanitizer must be provided. Having both handwashing capabilities and providing hand sanitizer is recommended when it is achievable. All wash stations shall be provided with soap, hand sanitizer, paper towels and a garbage receptacle with a liner. If a worker notices soap or towels are running low or are out, they are to immediately notify their supervisor.

• Each jobsite shall develop cleaning and disinfection procedures following CDC guidelines.

• A “No Congregation” policy is in effect on all construction projects. All employees must adhere to social distancing protocols by maintaining a minimum distance of 6 feet from other individuals. If a construction activity must be performed and it is infeasible to perform that operation while maintaining social distancing, employees must be provided with the appropriate PPE as defined by OSHA and the CDC.

• Where appropriate, employers should stagger shifts and coordinate work activities so social distancing can be maintained.

• Do not convene meetings of more than 10 people. All face to face meetings must be conducted while maintaining social distancing. Employers should utilize cell phones, texting, web meeting sites and conference calls for project discussion when practical.

• Employers must assess the potential exposure to COVID-19 and ensure their employees are provided with the appropriate personal protective equipment. The OSHA document covering “Guidance on Preparing Workplaces for COVID-19” provides worker PPE that is required based on the potential level of exposure to the employee.

• All construction workers shall wear a face covering where social distancing cannot be consistently maintained.

• All employees shall be encouraged to maintain appropriate social distancing when traveling to work or returning home from work. Employees that utilize company vehicles are not to share their vehicle with others to get to and from work. If a construction activity requires more than one employee to occupy the vehicle, appropriate PPE must be worn.

• When entering a machine or vehicle which you are not sure you were the last person to enter, door handles, steering wheel, etc. are to be cleaned and disinfected.

• All high contact surfaces, such as but not limited to, meeting areas, door handles, handrails, personnel hoists, elevators, laptops, tools, bathrooms/porta-potties, etc. shall be cleaned and disinfected at least twice daily.
• Personnel hoists and elevators shall only be used at 50% capacity and employees must be provided with appropriate PPE.

• Cover coughing or sneezing with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash and wash hands, if no tissue is available then cough into your elbow.

• Avoid touching eyes, nose, and mouth with your hands.

• To avoid spreading germs, all employees must clean up after themselves. No person shall be responsible for moving, unpacking and packing up tools or other personal belongings of another individual.

NOTES:

• Every company needs to have an employee working on site who is aware of OSHA and CDC guidelines for protecting their workforce. Employers are responsible for designating an individual that is responsible to ensure safe work practices are being followed and that they are properly trained in policies and procedures related to COVID-19.

• The Governor should consider temporary suspension or modification of any statute, local law, ordinance, order, rule, or regulation, or parts thereof, of any agency during the State’s disaster emergency, if compliance with this statute, local law, ordinance, order, rule, or regulation would prevent, hinder, or delay action necessary to cope with the disaster emergency or if necessary to assist or aid in coping with such disaster. This would include suspension of measures that would ease or enhance compliance with precautions and procedures necessary to mitigate the risk of COVID-19.

2. COVID-19 Liability Protections for General Contractors

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic Governor Cuomo has demonstrated strong leadership, guidance, and support for the employers and employees that are doing the essential work of the construction industry. The Governor’s leadership and guidance have provided clarity for general contractors acting in good faith to protect the health and safety of workers and the general public from this invisible enemy.

The construction industry has taken extraordinary steps to protect the health and safety of workers, but despite our best efforts COVID-19 knows no boundaries. It does not heed warning signs at the workplace, at home, on transportation systems, and in our communities. Daily briefings from medical experts continue to warn the public that the virus will be with us for possibly several cycles or until there is enough testing, contact tracing, and a vaccine.

Despite the projections of health care professionals and government officials the gradual reopening of the economy to allow the greater movement of goods and services will elevate the risk of another COVID-19 outbreak. The gradual reopening of the economy will pose additional health risks and open general contractors to significant legal liability for potential workplace COVID-19 related labor and employment claims. New York State must recognize the significant legal liability posed by COVID-19 and protect responsible general contractors acting in good faith and following applicable statutes, rules, executive orders, and approved sector-specific restart plans.
AGC NYS urges Governor Cuomo to extend meaningful liability protections for responsible general contractors to ensure our economy is not further devastated by COVID-19 related labor and employment lawsuits during the recovery.

3. Regional Approach

Given the vastly different prevalence of COVID-19 infection and exposure in different parts of New York—and the often vastly different nature of construction and density of workers in different regions and environments—we believe that the scope and pace of a resumption of construction activity should be tailored on a regional basis.


AGC NYS and our infrastructure partners in Washington, D.C. are urging the New York State Congressional Delegation to take four important steps related to infrastructure in the next COVID-19 legislation— the “Phase 4” emergency relief and economic recovery package. AGC NYS is currently working with the delegation on an immediate infusion of $4B for the Metropolitan Transportation Authority, $50B in flexible federal funding to offset the potential loss in state transportation revenues; a multi-billion infrastructure package to rebuild New York’s transportation and building infrastructure; funding for cash-strapped local governments; and we stand committed to working with Governor Cuomo to secure additional infrastructure funding for disproportionally COVID-19 impacted states.

Contact:

Mike Elmendorf, President and CEO
AGC NYS
10 Airline Drive, Suite 203
Albany, New York 12205
518-456-1134 Phone
melmendorf@agcnys.org
www.agcnys.org
Overview of the Financial Plan

- **Agency Operations:** Executive agency budgets, with limited exceptions for facility operations and public health and safety, will be reduced by 10 percent from budgeted levels. The Financial Plan assumes that the Judiciary and elected officials will initiate comparable reductions in their budgets for FY 2021. In addition, the CARES Act allows employers to defer the deposit and payment of the employer’s share of Social Security taxes through December 2020. The Financial Plan takes advantage of this interest-free deferral. Accordingly, the State will make no social security payments from April through December 2020, for a savings of $667 million in FY 2021, then repay the deferred amounts in equal installments in December 2021 and December 2022, as permitted in the CARES Act. Lastly, the State is withholding, for a minimum of 90 days, the general salary increases that were scheduled to go into effect on April 1, 2020. The current Financial Plan reflects only the cash-flow impact of the withholding. If a decision is made to withhold the full amount for the fiscal year, it would provide savings of $260 million in FY 2021 and offset the need for reductions elsewhere in the budget.

DOB is imposing a comprehensive set of controls on agency operations that are intended to reduce costs and provide for essential operations. The controls include a strict freeze on hiring and transfers, regardless of funding source, unless expressly approved by DOB. All existing waivers and exemptions to hiring controls, except for those related pandemic response have been revoked. In addition, new contracts or purchase orders for non-personal service expenditures may be initiated only where such expenditures are needed to protect the health, safety and security of employees and citizens, and to ensure the continuation of high priority operations and services. **Lastly, all current and planned capital projects will be reviewed and prioritized by DOB and Executive Chamber. In the interim, agencies and authorities are barred from entering into new contracts for capital projects except where not initiating a project would pose an imminent threat to public health and safety.**

- **Other Savings:** DOB has identified debt portfolio management opportunities and other savings realized in FY 2020 that are expected to recur.

3. **Resource Changes**

The Enacted Budget includes additional resources from the temporary increase in FMAP, as well as the use of FY 2020 surplus and other balances expected to be available in FY 2021.

DOB estimates that, if all the actions and savings are executed as proposed, it would result in balanced General Fund operations in FY 2021 and projected budget gaps for FY 2022 through FY 2024 would be reduced substantially.
NY COVID-19
Preliminary Economic Impact Assessment

Estimating effects of COVID-19 on NY's Economic Output

APRIL 2020
The following preliminary economic impact assessment was compiled by Boston Consulting Group (BCG) at the request of the State to inform our analysis of the worldwide COVID-19 pandemic on the New York State economy and State revenues. As we navigate an unprecedented public health crisis and ensuing economic downturn, it is paramount that we expand our expertise to include a wider variety of ideas and considerations.

As the State develops plans for re-opening the economy, balancing public health with the need to get New Yorkers back to work, this initial assessment will help us understand how those efforts will interplay with the State’s finances.

The economy has been hit hard by policies which were necessary to save lives and stop the spread of the virus. The impacts effect every sector and every region of the State, and the road to recovery will last through State Fiscal Year 2021 and beyond SFY 2022.

Above all, it remains abundantly clear New York State cannot navigate this national crisis on its own and needs federal funding support. The modeling performed by BCG aligns with the State’s revenue forecast, which projects a revenue shortfall of $13.3 billion from the Executive Budget Forecast as a direct consequence of the pandemic.
The lost revenues would diminish the State’s ability to provide services to New Yorkers at a time when they need them most. In jeopardy is funding for health care, hospitals, K-12 schools, first responders, higher education and infrastructure, as well as support for New York City, counties, towns, and villages, and the State’s not-for-profit partners who deliver critical services to the State’s most vulnerable populations. We are already taking the first steps to reduce spending impacting tens of thousands in the state workforce while planning for further actions. In the absence of federal aid, we will have no choice but to move forward with these devastating and unprecedented reductions.

New York is the financial capital of the world and represents 8% of total U.S. GDP. If New York State doesn’t receive adequate levels of federal funding for the public and private sectors that is proportionate with the need and impact of the crisis, our economic recovery -- and the nation’s -- will be weakened.

Under Governor Cuomo’s leadership, the State will recover and build back better than before. New York has recovered and grown through the economic crises of the 1970s, the dot.com bust, the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, the 2008 Great Recession, and Hurricane Sandy. With the help of our governmental partners at the federal level, and the patience and fortitude of New Yorkers, our State will move forward and come back better than before.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Robert F. Mujica Jr.
Director of the Budget
This analysis suggests the total impact on NY’s economy will be $243B over the course of the full recovery relative to pre-Covid economic levels, which is equivalent to ~14% of NY’s 2019 GDP

- Additionally, there is a $202B loss relative to pre-Covid GDP growth trends, bringing the total loss to $445B
- This impact is greater than 9/11 or the 2008 Great Recession which caused an economic impact equivalent to -2% and -10% of Real GDP respectively
- Based on this analysis, the economy would recover to the ‘Pre-COVID’ level in Q1 2023
- Analysis already accounts for the positive economic effects of new Federal aid for unemployment insurance and economic impact payments, suggesting significant funding gaps are likely to remain despite CARES act
- Both the degree of impact and recovery paths vary by industry. However, the impact is widespread, affecting most industries and all NY regions

This analysis is based on several key assumptions - the actual impact could be even more severe

- Short-term impacts. The economy has been deteriorating rapidly, and the pace of deterioration could continue to exceed expectations
- Timing of restart. Analysis assumes restart at the beginning of Q3 2020, which depends on continued success fighting the epidemic and putting in place the conditions which would allow a safe restart minimizing the risk of resurgence
- Pace of restart. Significant uncertainty remains about how quickly certain industries, geographies and population segments will return to normal activity
- Additional epidemic waves. Additional waves (or resurgence due to premature restart) could require re-introduction of health measures interrupting recovery
- Tax structure. Analysis assumes no change to current taxes. However, tax policy decisions could delay the pace and extend the duration of the recovery
The health of the NY economy is crucial to the health of the entire country
- NY is the financial capital of the world, represents 8% of US GDP, including 14% of the Education sector and 12% of the IT sector
- NYC is the #1 US destination for foreign travelers

NY State has been hit harder by COVID-19 than any other State, with almost three times more confirmed cases than the next hardest hit state (NJ)
- 31% of all US COVID-19 cases are in NY
- 37% of all US COVID-19 deaths are in NY

Nationwide social distancing policies have begun to reduce the rate of infections, hospitalizations, and deaths. However, they have also resulted in significant economic harm
- E.g., NY unemployment has risen by 2,104%; credit card sales have gone down by 20%
- Economic impacts translate into pressures on government revenue - NY forecasts that tax revenue could decline by $13.3 billion in SFY 2021 compared to the Division of the Budget’s February forecast, and $61 billion for SFY’s 2021-2024

To estimate the total harm to NY’s economy, we analyzed the impact to date on NY industries, and potential rates of recovery
- Impact based on sources including unemployment claims and credit card sales, with additional analysis performed for key NY industries
- For modeling purposes the “Restart date” for the NY economy is currently assumed to be in early Q3 2020 - consistent with DOB’s latest modeling assumptions - although for specific industries the start date could be sooner or later as public health data permits
- Shape of recovery for key industries informed by performance in past recessions
- Based on inputs above, we estimated total reduction in NY GDP, analyzing interaction effects between industries and regions
NY’s revenues are projected to decline by $13.3 billion from the Division of the Budget’s February forecast. Year-over-year All Funds tax receipts declined by 8.9% or $7.4 billion

- To date New York has not received any funding to offset the revenue shortfall. In the absence of additional revenue, significant reductions in spending will be needed (e.g., 84% of All Funds taxes - excludes Miscellaneous Receipts, Gaming, and Federal Funds - is from sales and personal income taxes, which face steep declines)
- NY will need financial support from the Federal government above and beyond the funding allocated to date. Funding made available so far helps mitigate certain impacts, but leaves significant gaps
- Where possible, analysis already accounts for the positive economic effects of some Federal funding (unemployment insurance, economic impact payments)
- Most funding is aimed at avoiding damage vs. recovering from damage to date
- In some cases, Federal funding being allocated is based on existing formulas and not distributed based on COVID-19 impact / economic need

These analyses represent only potential scenarios based on discrete data from one point in time. They are not intended as a prediction or forecast, and the situation is changing daily.
April 27, 2020

The Honorable Charles E. Schumer
Senate Minority Leader
322 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Nita Lowey
Chairwoman
House Committee on Appropriations
2365 Rayburn HOB
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Senator Schumer and Congresswoman Lowey:

The Associated General Contractors of New York State (AGC NYS) is the leading statewide construction association representing more than 600 members throughout New York State. Over 250 of those Members are general contractors and construction managers constructing public and private commercial, industrial, institutional, multi-family residential and transportation-related construction, including a significant portion of the Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) capital program.

The COVID-19 pandemic has caused a dramatic drop in the ridership of the MTA which has jeopardized the fiscal stability of operations and the capital program. This will cost the MTA an estimated $7.0 to $8.5 billion in reduced fares, tolls, and tax revenues. Based on the current ridership and reasonable forecasts of a slow return to higher (but not pre-COVID-19) levels in 2020, the MTA expects to see losses in fare and toll revenues of $4.7 to $5.9 billion this year, and sizable losses of $1.6 to $1.8 billion in state and local taxes dedicated to the MTA in 2020 as a result of the extraordinary economic downturn facing the region and nation.

In this time of crisis, the New York State Congressional Delegation has demonstrated exceptional leadership and hard work in securing nearly $4 billion in federal transit aid for the MTA and $25 billion for public transportation agencies across the country in the CARES Act. However, as New York slowly recovers from the pandemic and reopens the economy, the MTA will require additional federal aid for the operating and capital needs of this vital transportation system.
The MTA is a critical component of the greater New York City Region’s—and, indeed, the whole of the State’s—economy. AGC NYS requests that the next COVID-19 stimulus legislation includes an additional $3.9 billion to stem the immediate financial hemorrhaging in the MTA’s 2020 operating budget. This is the midpoint of the projected range of the MTA operating deficit attributable directly to the COVID crisis, after subtracting the $3.8 billion slated to be delivered by the CARES Act. In addition to operating aid, Congress should include stimulus funding in the form of capital investments in transit projects. New transit construction is one of the most effective ways to jumpstart the labor market in the short term, and promote steady economic growth in the long term. Without stimulus funding, some of the most critical projects of the MTA’s Capital Plan are at risk, including new signals, ADA accessibility, new buses and train cars, and new service expansion projects that will bring rail service to underserved communities.

Thank you for your continued leadership and hard work to help secure federal transit aid for the MTA. AGC NYS is committed to working with the New York State Congressional Delegation to fight for our fair share of critical federal resources to keep the MTA trains, buses, bridges, and tunnels operating, and funding for critical infrastructure projects.

Very truly yours,

Michael J. Elmendorf II
President & CEO
Associated General Contractors of New York State

CC: Members of the New York Congressional Delegation
Q1 Are you a:
Answered: 76   Skipped: 0

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Q3 What was your federal "Paycheck Protection Program" (PPP) experience?

Answered: 76  Skipped: 0

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Q4 BUILDING GENERAL CONTRACTORS ONLY: On what percentage of existing projects have you experienced delays?

Answered: 41  Skipped: 35

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0% 10% 20% 30% 40% 50% 60% 70% 80% 90% 100%
Q5 HIGHWAY GENERAL CONTRACTORS ONLY: On what percentage of existing projects have you experienced delays?

Answered: 32  Skipped: 44

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<td>10-25%</td>
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Q6 Have you had any projects accelerated due to COVID-19?

Answered: 76  Skipped: 0

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Q7 Have you been forced to reduce workforce/lay off employees?

Answered: 76  Skipped: 0

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Q8 Have you experienced difficulty with employees wanting to exhaust enhanced unemployment benefits instead of returning to work?

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Q9 Have you experienced problems with subcontractors being unable or unwilling to perform work on projects?

Answered: 76  Skipped: 0

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Q10 Have you experienced supply chain disruptions?

Answered: 76   Skipped: 0

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Q11 Have YOU had difficulty acquiring PPE and cleaning/sanitation supplies?

Answered: 76  Skipped: 0

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<td>3.95%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
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</table>
Q12 If you have experienced difficulty acquiring PPE and cleaning/sanitation supplies, which ones?

Answered: 66  Skipped: 10

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ANSWER CHOICES</th>
<th>RESPONSES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Respirators</td>
<td>54.55%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Face Coverings</td>
<td>74.24%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gloves</td>
<td>24.24%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hand Sanitizer</td>
<td>81.82%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other PPE/supplies (please specify)</td>
<td>10.61%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Respondents: 66</td>
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</table>
Q13 Have your SUBCONTRACTORS had difficulty acquiring PPE and cleaning/sanitation supplies?

Answered: 76  Skipped: 0

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ANSWER CHOICES</th>
<th>RESPONSES</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>57.89%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>6.58%</td>
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<tr>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>35.53%</td>
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Q14 Have you had contact from government authorities/enforcement agencies about the "essential" status of ongoing construction projects?

Answered: 76  Skipped: 0

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ANSWER CHOICES</th>
<th>RESPONSES</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>39.47%</td>
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<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>51.32%</td>
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<tr>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>9.21%</td>
</tr>
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<td>TOTAL</td>
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</table>
Q15 If you have had contact from government authorities/enforcement agencies about the “essential” status of ongoing construction projects, what was the outcome?

Answered: 73   Skipped: 3

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ANSWER_CHOICES</th>
<th>RESPONSES</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Project allowed to proceed</td>
<td>39.73%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project stopped; no penalty assessed</td>
<td>2.74%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project stopped; penalty assessed</td>
<td>0.00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Undetermined at this time</td>
<td>1.37%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>56.16%</td>
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TOTAL 73
Q16 Have you experienced a confirmed COVID-19 case within your workforce or on a project?

Answered: 76  Skipped: 0

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ANSWER CHOICES</th>
<th>RESPONSES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>23.68%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>76.32%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>76</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Q19 How would you assess the AGC NYS COVID-19 response and resources?

Answered: 76  Skipped: 0

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ANSWER CHOICES</th>
<th>RESPONSES</th>
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<tr>
<td>Excellent</td>
<td>84.21%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Good</td>
<td>9.21%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fair</td>
<td>3.95%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poor</td>
<td>2.63%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Latest estimates of economic impact in NY is $243B vs. pre-Covid GDP level, and an additional $202B vs. pre-Covid trend, for a total loss of $445B
A third of the total loss occurs in 2020 and the rest over the following 9 quarters until full recovery

NY Real GDP based on 4/23 COVID scenario

Total economic impact estimated at $445B with a full recovery by early 2023

Economic loss to the NY Economy is estimated at $243B vs. pre-Covid GDP level cumulatively over the course of the full recovery, with an additional $202B relative to pre-Covid growth trend, for a total loss of $445B, of which a third occurs in 2020 and the rest in 2021-2023

Real GDP does not fully recover until Q1 2023, when it reaches pre-Covid levels, yet still 7% below where it would have been without the Covid impact, assuming continued baseline GDP growth trend of 2% per year

The trough occurs in late Q2 2020 and coincides with the end of the complete lockdown period

In Q3-Q4 2020 there is a partial but rapid recovery as some pockets of the economy turn back on, albeit at reduced pace

After Q4 2020 and until 2023 the economy is in a slow-recovery mode similar to previous recessions

Notes: NY Real GDP rebased to value in 2019 Q4. Total economic impact is calculated as the “area under water” relative to the most recent peak plus “area above water”, measured as a percentage of pre-recession GDP. GDP impact figures are converted to current dollars based on Q4 2019 level.
Source: BEA, NY DOB, BCG Analysis
New York’s construction industry is a powerful economic engine during normal times. Each $1 billion invested in non-residential construction spending adds about $3.4 billion to Gross Domestic Product (GDP), about $1.1 billion to...
personal earnings and creates or sustains 28,500 jobs. As Governor Cuomo takes steps to begin to “unpause” New York, the construction industry is primed and ready to continue working safely and play a crucial role in our State’s economic recovery and resurgence through “NY Forward.”

Construction has been broadly deemed “essential” in New York throughout the COVID-19 crisis under Governor Cuomo’s “New York on Pause” Executive Orders. Our industry—which already had significant experience working safely in hazardous conditions and applying rigorous protocols and utilizing personal protective equipment (PPE) to mitigate exposure to pathogens and other health and safety risks—has developed and honed best practices to mitigate health risks to construction workers and others as construction work has continued across New York during this pandemic.

And, our industry has been hard at work during this difficult time, continuing to deliver existing transportation, building and infrastructure projects across New York. Most importantly, AGC NYS members have stepped up to help construct facilities to help New Yorkers meet this challenge like emergency hospital facilities needed to meet the rush of COVID-19 patients.

Governor Cuomo this week identified construction as one of the industries that will be part of phase one of his move to “unpause” New York and restart the economy. The construction industry, informed by our experience continuing significant amounts of work during this unprecedented public health crisis, and driven by our abiding commitment to safety, is exceptionally well prepared for a broader reopening of construction activity that will put more people back to work and help prime and sustain economic recovery.

The Associated General Contractors of New York State (AGC NYS), New York’s leading statewide construction industry organization, representing the full breadth of our industry, building and highway, union and open shop, in every region of our State, has prepared a comprehensive list of safety procedures and policy recommendations for the safe and effective resumption of construction activity. You can read the full AGC NYS “NY Forward” Plan at this link.

The AGC NYS plan is focused, first and foremost, on safety. The construction industry, like all industries, will need to continue to adapt to the new reality of COVID-19 for as long as it poses a threat to the health of our workers and the public. Our team has developed a wide-ranging, common sense strategy for procedures and best practice to mitigate the risk of COVID-19 exposure and transmission on construction sites.
Our blueprint for a return to work also includes a call for liability protections for contractors. The construction industry has taken extraordinary steps to protect the health and safety of workers, but despite our best efforts, COVID-19 knows no boundaries. It is an invisible enemy that does not heed warning signs at the workplace, at home, on transportation systems, and in our communities. Daily briefings from medical experts continue to warn the public that the virus will be with us for possibly several cycles or until there is enough testing, contact tracing, and a vaccine to stamp it out. The reopening of the economy will unavoidably pose additional health risks and open contractors to the possibility of significant legal liability for potential workplace COVID-19 related labor and employment claims. New York State must recognize the significant legal liability posed by COVID-19 and protect responsible contractors acting in good faith and following applicable statutes, rules, executive orders, and approved sector-specific restart plans. This is a call that I suspect will be echoed by other essential industries who have continued working—or those who will be among the first to remobilize.

However, our industry cannot return to work if there is no work. The economic upheaval wrought by this virus and the shuttering of much of our economy is almost incalculable. Boston Consulting Group recently conducted an economic analysis on behalf of the State of New York—and the results are staggering. They project an economic impact to the State that erases 14% of our GDP, totaling more than $240 billion through a recession they don’t see us recovering from until the first quarter of 2023. The impact is more severe and longer lasting than both the post-9/11 Recession and the Great Recession of 2008.

That’s a sobering, if not startling, outlook for all of us—but especially so for the construction industry. Our industry rides the waves of the economy, and an economic gut punch like this has potentially devastating implications for both public and private construction markets.

For these reasons, AGC NYS is calling on Washington to focus on infrastructure in the next round of COVID-19 legislation— the “Phase 4” emergency relief and economic recovery package. AGC NYS has called on the New York Congressional Delegation to push for an immediate infusion of $4B for the Metropolitan Transportation Authority. We are pushing for $50B in flexible federal funding to offset the potential loss in state transportation revenues and a multi-billion infrastructure package to rebuild New York’s transportation and building infrastructure and reinvigorate our economy. We are also urging Congress to provide financial assistance for cash-strapped local governments, dealing with the double-hits of massive, unbudgeted costs to deal with the COVID-19 crisis
shore up the municipal bond market, critical to financing public construction projects, which is currently flat on its back.

The COVID-19 pandemic has posed serious, perhaps even existential, threats to our population and economy that were inconceivable to most just a few months ago. Nearly twenty years ago, I served in the Governor’s Office when New York was again the epicenter of an unexpected crisis that took the lives of many New Yorkers, changed those of the rest of us and countless others throughout the world, and upended our economy. At the time, I wondered if life would ever again remotely resemble what it was before that terrible morning. It is easy and quite understandable to feel that way now, but like we did then, New York—and New Yorkers, famous for their resilience—will come back.

Governor Cuomo and his Administration have worked tirelessly to meet this unprecedented threat to our State and its people. I thank and commend them for their herculean efforts. Now, at long last, when we are able to hopefully begin the process of re-opening New York and our economy, the construction industry stands ready and eager to do its part.

After all, the construction industry, quite literally, built New York. Wherever you’re going, unless it is someone’s house—and however you get there—it was probably built by AGC NYS members. We remain prepared to resume and continue the work of New York’s rebuilding and recovery.

*Mike Elmendorf is President and CEO Associated General Contractors New York State.*
Legal group wants essential businesses protected from coronavirus lawsuits

By Priscilla DeGregory and Bernadette Hogan

Albany has already passed laws to protect doctors and medical workers from litigation as they treat patients with COVID-19.

But the Lawsuit Reform Alliance of New York sent a letter to Gov. Andrew Cuomo and top legislators recommending they pass similar measures for essential businesses that could face lawsuits in the wake of the health crisis.

The group recommends protections be extended to manufacturers of coronavirus-related products — such as distilleries making hand sanitizer, owners of hotels and schools that are used in the relief effort, drivers who make necessary deliveries, pharmacies, retailers, senior care facilities, municipalities and public authorities.

“Providing liability protections to our medical professionals, healthcare facilities, and to the valiant volunteers who have returned to medical service, was an important first step,” the group said in the letter.

“Taking additional steps to shield our economy from unique liability exposures and tabling any proposals that may further negatively affect businesses will help provide some certainty in these truly uncertain times.”

Lawyers previously told The Post that courts can expect to see a flood of coronavirus-related cases, including petitions to release at-risk inmates so they won’t be exposed to the virus and suits related to labor laws, insurance coverage, landlord-tenant matters and contract disputes.

The governor’s office didn’t immediately return a request for comment.
Upstate regions could be first to see green light for construction projects

By JOE MAHONEY CNHI State Reporter
Apr 26, 2020

FILE - In this Tuesday, March 24, 2020 file photo, Gov. Andrew Cuomo speaks during a news conference against a backdrop of medical supplies at the Jacob Javits Center that will house a temporary hospital in response to the COVID-19 outbreak in New York. Cuomo, a Democrat, ripped the GOP-led Senate’s version of the coronavirus package as “terrible” for New York and said, based on preliminary reports, that it would send the state some $4 billion in direct aid. (AP Photo/John Minchillo)

John Minchillo

ALBANY — The North Country, the Mohawk Valley and Central New York are expected to be among New York’s first regions where limited business activity will resume in May, Gov. Andrew Cuomo said Sunday.

The first phase in restarting the economy since the shutdown began in March will be to allow construction and manufacturing activity to proceed, the governor said.

Subsequent phases of reopening businesses will hinge on how essential they are as well as infection risks and the companies’ ability to implement safeguards to counter the spread of the COVID-19 virus, he said.
Decisions will be made on a "business by business" basis, based on risk and infection data, he added.

Cuomo noted the hospitality and restaurant industries, as well as retail stores, pose greater challenges in reopening planning. He offered no timetable for when those industries could resume normal activities. They are among the categories of "nonessential" businesses the state has ordered closed since mid-March.

The current statewide shutdown order expires May 15.

The latest New York COVID-19 data indicated the state had 367 new deaths from Saturday to Sunday, bringing New York's overall fatality total to 16,966. The daily death number was the lowest for the state in more than three weeks.

Meanwhile, the number of people being treated at hospitals for the virus fell to 12,839.

The vast majority of deaths have been in New York City, its northern suburbs and Long Island.

Reopening the downstate region will be "problematic," Cuomo suggested, suggesting that will likely be done in tandem with New Jersey and Connecticut to avoid people traveling from closed areas to ones that have opened. But he also acknowledged extending the shutdown would yield serious challenges as the weather turns warmer.

"You can't tell people in a dense urban environment, all through the summer months: 'We don't have anything for you to do, stay in your apartment with the three kids,'" he said. "That doesn't work. There's a sanity equation here."

Citing a decline in new infections and hospitalizations from the contagion, Cuomo said, "As long as we act prudently going forward, the worst should be over." He suggested business operators develop reopening plans that spell out how they will protect customers and workers through social distancing and the use of protective equipment.

Cuomo also pointed out infections are tapering off, with the latest data showing the typical individual who has the virus infects 0.8% of a person. The upstate infection rate is slightly higher, 0.9%, than the downstate rate, 0.75%. "If we keep the infection rate below one person infecting one person, that is where the infection rate continues to drop," he said.

Michael Elmendorf, president of the Associated General Contractors of New York, told CNHI that it "makes tremendous sense" for the state to let the construction industry resume its work on projects, using data tracking trends in infections.

"The reality is this situation is impacting different regions in vastly different ways across the state, and that argues in favor of ramping things up at a different speed depending on the prevalence of the infection in a region," Elmendorf said.

Many construction firms working on public projects have continued during the pandemic but those working on other jobs have had to curtail those operations, he noted.

Cuomo said while there are no formal plans for resuming professional baseball, there may be an opportunity to have teams rely on revenue from televising games, if it remains too risky to have fans in stadium seats

SCHOOL BUDGETS

New York's approximately 700 school districts need to put budgets in place by July 1. But uncertainty looms over how much state assistance will be flowing to them as the projected sums are expected to be impacted by a sharp downturn in state revenue.
Robert Mujica, Cuomo’s budget director, acknowledged state funding cuts to schools could be as high a 20 percent. But he said the levels of funding will be influenced by upcoming congressional actions.

"Between now and May 15, we will have more clarity and more specificity in the financial plan," Mujica said.

Over the weekend, Mujica announced that state spending has to to be reduced by $10 billion from the level approved in the state budget earlier this month due to the abrupt drop in state revenues.

A new assessment of the state's fiscal condition, completed by the Boston Consulting Group at the state's request, found that the recession triggered by COVID-19 will be deeper and longer lasting than the economic downturn that hit the state treasury in 2008.

“Unlike the federal government’, New York State must balance its budget and in the absence of federal assistance, we will have to make deep cuts which could impact a broad range of services," Mujica said in response to that assessment. "New York reflects 8% of U.S. GDP, and without federal support our ability to help lead the nation to economic recovery will be weakened.”

The consulting firm predicted New York's economy won’t fully recover until early 2023, with a "trough" in business activity expected in May or June.

Joe Mahoney covers the New York Statehouse for CNHI's newspapers and websites. Reach him at jmahoney@cnhi.com.
Construction employment declined in 99 out of 358 metro areas from March 2019 to last month as the coronavirus pandemic triggered the first shutdown orders and project cancellations, according to an analysis released by the Associated General Contractors of America today.

Association officials urged federal and state officials to boost investments in infrastructure to help put more people to work amid rising unemployment levels.
“These new figures foreshadow even larger declines in construction employment throughout the country as the pandemic’s economic damage grows more severe,” said Ken Simonson, the association’s chief economist.

KEN SIMONSON

“Unfortunately, the data for April and later months are sure to be much worse. In our latest survey, more than one-third of firms report they had furloughed or terminated workers—a direct result of growing cancellations.”

The largest percentage decline in construction employment between March 2019 and last month occurred in Laredo, Texas, which lost 19 percent or 800 jobs, followed by Lake Charles, La., which lost 18 percent (4,600 construction jobs). Lake Charles had the largest numerical decrease, followed by New York City, which lost 3,500 construction jobs (2 percent).

Construction employment increased over the year in 205 metro areas and was flat in 54. The largest percentage increases in construction employment occurred in Lewiston, Idaho-Wash. (23 percent, 300 jobs), followed by Walla Walla, Wash. (22 percent, 22 jobs). The largest numerical gain occurred in Dallas-Plano-Irving, Texas (10,200 jobs, 7 percent).

Association officials noted that new infrastructure investments would help offset some of the sudden and dramatic declines to demand for construction that have taken place since the start of the coronavirus pandemic.

They noted, for example, that 68 percent of construction firms report in the association’s April 20
23 survey that they have had projects cancelled or delayed during the past two months.

“New infrastructure funding will put more people back to work in high-paying construction jobs in communities throughout the nation,” said Stephen E. Sandherr, the association’s chief executive officer.

“New infrastructure funding will also give a needed boost to manufacturing and service sector firms that supply construction employers, all of which have been hard-hit by the coronavirus and the related economic shutdowns.”
Lawmakers’ ‘prevailing’ slam at hopes of a New York recovery

By Post Editorial Board

April 10, 2020 | 7:

Congress is racing to shore up the nation’s economy amid the corona lockdowns, yet state lawmakers just moved to whack New York’s please unions.

The move came via a mandate they stuffed into the just-passed budget that’ll force the construction industry to pay exorbitant, union-dri wages for private projects that get public aid.

The state Constitution requires “prevailing” (i.e., union) wages for public works, but the new mandate ropes in private developments that tax credits or subsidies totaling at least 30 percent of costs.

It’s nuts: New York desperately needs to jumpstart the economy post-corona, yet this will only discourage developers and kill jobs.

A 2017 Empire Center study found the “prevailing” mandate tacks on 13 percent or more to project costs upstate and 25 percent-plus in the city, just for wages. Union-set work rules under the law drive projects’ price tags higher still.

These add-ons will clobber the economics of many projects; investors will give up on New York and build elsewhere.

SEE ALSO

State lawmakers OK coronavirus-wracked $1
New York state needs “an unprecedented level of economic activity to dig out from the coronavirus, and what we’ve done is put a wet blanket on it,” rails Michael Kracker of Unshackle Upstate. Associated General Contractors President Michael Elmendorf blasts the law as “unconscionable,” with the economy taking “an hourly gut punch.”

Indeed, it defeats the whole point of the public aid: What good are tax breaks and grants if they raise costs at the same time?

Even Gov. Cuomo, who OK’d the law, recognizes its potential harm; an aide notes its January 2022 effective date may be put off.

Yet these projects take years to plan and execute. Investors will surely scrap those they think likely to face prohibitive costs.

Special interests have long dominated the state’s agenda. But Cuomo & Co. should’ve said, “Sorry, this is just not the time.”

FILED UNDER ANDREW CUOMO, CORONAVIRUS IN NY, ECONOMY, EDITORIAL, STATE BUDGET, WAGES, 4/10/20
Construction slowdown is ‘gonna kick us right in the stomach’ says NY exec

BY ROBIN K. COOPER  THE NEW YORK TIMES

Construction continuing during coronavirus outbreak says NY exec

Construction slowdown is ‘gonna kick us right in the stomach’

BY ROBIN K. COOPER

The survey area includes Albany region. Unions in the Capital Region

It might be better if it was stopped, then we would have 21.4 million square feet of our projects just standing on the street.

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For Stevens, president of Dimensional Fabricators, the shutdown stops steel fabrication for new projects, and means he is at a standstill in his Glenville community.

Nurses employ, job-seekers, volunteers, skilled tradesmen and support staff who manage and need some new companies to help them with this, he says.

Some people, he believes it may not be long before opening the Gregor health facility and the surrounding area.

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What's 'essential' construction? Everyone's trying to figure it out on the fly. And it's creating confusion.
You can’t vacuum this much out of the economy and not impact everyone ➤
New York clarifies ‘essential’ construction projects, formalizes changes

The Empire State Development Corp. on Friday outlined a list of construction projects that will be deemed “essential” amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

Among the updates, a state emergency order issued by Gov. Andrew Cuomo on March 20, 2020, which restricted all non-essential business activities, will not extend to the construction industry.

The new state guidelines “nurture what we have been reporting about the various needs and requirements that the public and private sectors have to continue essential activities,” said Melissa Mark-Viverito, chairwoman of the development agency.

The latest order allows for a few industries to continue business as usual, but it’s not clear whether or not businesses will be able to keep the same employees at work.

The full list of projects that can continue during the coronavirus pandemic can be found here.

By Michael DeMasi – Reporter, Albany Business Review

April 9, 2020, 12:02pm EDT

Local, state and federal assistance for Albany region businesses

Local, state and federal assistance for Albany region businesses

Tony Casale’s businesses each affected differently by pandemic

Tony Casale’s businesses each affected differently by pandemic

Johnstown shipping hub reaches 1M tons for $2.4 million

Johnstown shipping hub reaches 1M tons for $2.4 million

Jul. 17

JULY 17

JULY 17

RECOMMENDED

RECOMMENDED

RECOMMENDED

RECOMMENDED

RECOMMENDED

RECOMMENDED

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RECOMMENDED

RECOMMENDED

RECOMMENDED
The construction industry in the Albany region is feeling the tectonic shifts from the coronavirus outbreak, but to its surprise may emerge from the downturn better than anticipated. 

The news came as state officials announced plans to spend $22.5 million in Local, state and federal assistance for Albany region businesses and as the BBL Construction Services LLC is building in downtown Troy.

The company president John deForest couldn't be more optimistic about the future and what the $22.5 million is going to spit out on the development pipeline. The vaccine roll outs are known to create huge economic impetus and it’s not different.

"I think it's going to be pretty inevitable, quite forecastable," he said.

State Senator, said the $22.5 million is going to benefit the manufacturing industry. The uncertainty in the workforce will be a deterrent to the manufacturing sector.

"It's critical for our industrial sector to have the certainty to keep going," Senator said.

For the first time in months, the industry is feeling the impacts of the virus. In the past few weeks, the economy has started to reopen, and some see room for optimism.

"The vaccine roll outs are known to create huge economic impetus and it’s not different," Senator said.

The uncertainty in the workforce will be a deterrent to the manufacturing sector. The vaccine roll outs are known to create huge economic impetus and it’s not different. It's critical for our industrial sector to have the certainty to keep going," Senator said.

Meanwhile, the Albany economy is being hit by the full force of the virus. The uncertainty in the workforce will be a deterrent to the manufacturing sector. The vaccine roll outs are known to create huge economic impetus and it’s not different. It's critical for our industrial sector to have the certainty to keep going," Senator said.

"It's very important to do everything we can to restart the economy," Senator said.

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"The vaccine roll outs are known to create huge economic impetus and it’s not different. It's critical for our industrial sector to have the certainty to keep going," Senator said.
Back On Building

Berger Equities CEO Wendy Schuster said, and he expects there could be more disciplines that won't be able to supply workers because of cash flow or safety reasons.

One carpentry company has already told 400 people to stay home as a precaution,

"A lot of these people need these paychecks, as long as the environment is going. Company founder Josh Schuster said they now no longer allow more than

Related Topics: Bill de Blasio, The Durst Organization, Jonathan Rose Cos., Carlo FullStack Modular President Roger Krulak said. "Projects have slowed down …

of credit, they are worried about a reset of the underwriting requirements,"

operating — or shutting down if they no longer can, in the case of the Durst

"In light of the outbreak of COVID-19, protecting the health and well-being of our

"I think the number of housing units in any given year would definitely dip, and I

Cos., an affordable housing developer.

A full stop of construction would lead to issues in rolling out affordable housing,

chains dependent on consistent demand.

"We are doing everything to keep people from congregating, we are trying to keep

other industries," he said. "But now it's everything from mandatory masks, gloves,

protect their friends and their friends' families.

"Even if there is a procedure in place, people are going to use common sense to

virus, the employer can temporarily lay off workers, however.

crew sizes should be reduced and interaction should be limited. The guidelines

the Building and Construction Trades Council for construction sites that suggest

growing number of these shutdowns," he said. "Workers' safety continues to be the

Bisnow

devotions certainly warrant consideration," Schmitt said.

will surely continue to fight for the exemption, but the foregoing political

he would ultimately defer to the governor's order.

Some in City Hall said last week they disagree that all construction should be

unabated for the time being," Herrick Feinstein LLP partner Brendan Schmitt, a

exempt, after safety concerns on sites were reported throughout the week.

Cuomo deemed construction essential in an executive order last week, exempting

The State Of Affairs

"The question is, 'Do we want to wake up in a year from now with a tremendous

city, most of which are affordable.

Construction principal Eli Weiss, who has six housing development sites in the

industry that can be done and there is a public benefit to keep it going," said Joy

well beyond the virus's impact.

workers showing up, a company spokesperson said. Other projects have shut down

getting increasingly difficult for developers and contractors to keep the projects

Construction is still considered essential work in New York City, but with the state

because of outbreaks of the virus.

Workers' safety continues to be the workers to stay home because of the virus. 

"I think this is setting a new precedent, moving forward, if an employee is sick we
Coronavirus: Construction restrictions could force 4,000 to lose jobs locally

By Geoffrey Wilson and Lance Shaner, Poughkeepsie Journal

March 27, 2020 04:22 PM

Updated March 27, 2020 04:22 PM

The freeze on construction will impact residential and commercial development.

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NY halts nonessential construction projects:

The New York State Department of Health on Friday ruled that nonessential construction projects could continue during the state's coronavirus lockdown, with construction deemed nonessential if it doesn’t “necessary to protect health and safety of the occupants” or to “keep the place running,” according to a memo from the state.

That changed Friday, when Empire State Development — the state’s economic-development branch — issued a memo stating: “We're closing down nonessential construction sites,” Cuomo said. “Some construction is essential to keep the place running, but nonessential construction is going to be stopped.”

That was in stark contrast to the state’s previous policy, which exempted all construction from New York on PAUSE, the state’s lockdown order.

Originally, all construction was exempt from Cuomo's New York on PAUSE order, which took effect March 22. But that directive wasn’t a surprise to the construction industry, which has been in close contact with the governor’s office.

The directive wasn’t a surprise to the construction industry, which has been in close contact with the governor’s office.

The new guidelines stem out of safety concerns centered in New York City, where the highest numbers of COVID-19 cases have been reported, Elmendorf said.

The new directive applies only to nonessential construction projects.

That means that home repair projects, which are not considered essential, would be paused.

This is the latest iteration of the governor’s order, which was first issued March 22, then revised April 2, and then revised again May 1.

The Wellsboro Gazette
Why this company will be ready when 'nonessential' construction sites reopen in New York

By Michael DeMasi  – Reporter, Albany Business Review

Troy reaches a turning point for $2.4 million Pioneer Window buys

Saratoga Prime Group to build 6-story headquarters in downtown Troy

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Hiring vendors for your business?

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In the midst of the novel coronavirus pandemic, the Saratoga County Construction & Real Estate Association has prioritized the health of its members above all else. 

“Everyone's priority is safety,” said Sean Maguire, project manager at Capital Safety Services Inc., which has several construction projects in Saratoga and Schenectady counties.

Maguire said the company had been working with contractor partners to ensure that 

“Before the pandemic, safety meetings were a daily occurrence. But now, they are conducted on a weekly or biweekly basis,” Maguire said. “We have also implemented new protocols that require contractors and subcontractors to have an effectively trained project manager on site.”

The New York Association of General Contractors launched its Construction App in March to help member companies stay connected. Maguire said the Saratoga County Construction & Real Estate Association will soon use the app.

“We have a dedicated section in the app to allow our members to network, share resources, and collaborate in real-time,” Maguire said.

The app has become a valuable tool for companies looking to hire vendors, Maguire said.

“Currently, the app is being used by many member companies to find vendors,” Maguire said. “We are also using it to connect with our members and share the latest news from the industry.”

The Saratoga County Construction & Real Estate Association has set up a Facebook group to help members stay connected and informed about the latest developments in the industry.

“Members are encouraged to join our Facebook group to stay up to date on the latest news and events,” Maguire said.

The Saratoga County Construction & Real Estate Association has also established a COVID-19 Task Force to help members navigate the challenges of the pandemic.

“The Task Force is made up of industry leaders who are working to keep our members informed about the latest guidance from local and state health officials,” Maguire said. “They are also helping to develop strategies to keep our members safe and healthy.”

Are other companies in the region doing the same things as Capital Safety Services Inc.?

“We have seen a number of companies take similar steps to ensure the health and safety of their workers,” Maguire said. “Many companies have also implemented new protocols to help prevent the spread of the virus.”

“We are confident that Capital Safety Services Inc. and similar companies will be ready to resume construction projects when the time comes,” Maguire said.
Cuomo orders 'nonessential' construction to shut down statewide

By ROBIN K. COOPER

Gov. Andrew Cuomo has ordered all nonessential construction projects in New York to shut down statewide for the duration of the coronavirus pandemic.

The AGC of New York, which represents 22,000 workers in the construction industry, dug in its heels and said it would continue to work with the state to interpret its policy.


"We expect that the new order will add further nonessential construction to the list," said J. Eric King, president of the AGC of New York. "Construction is not nonessential. It is essential. It represents the backbone of our economy. It is the lifeblood of our economy. It is the foundation of our economy."

The building and construction trades council represents 22,000 workers in various occupations across the state.

"Construction is a big issue for workers, contractors, and the economy," King said. "It is about how we are going to work on jobs in these challenging times."

The new order, which was ordered statewide, is expected to affect roughly 250 units of construction projects in the New York metropolitan area.

"We have been working closely with the governor," King said. "We are going to work with the AGC of New York to make sure that this order is interpreted in the right way."

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New York’s New Prevailing Wage Law Hinders Construction, Developers Say

By Richard B. Levine

For years, labor leaders have battled with state lawmakers over which government-backed projects must pay a prevailing wage. On Monday, the Cuomo administration announced a broader definition of construction that would require projects to pay the wage.

The requirement was included in the $170-plus billion budget that receives final approval on Monday. The new law, which takes effect Jan. 1, 2022, and a new public-subsidy board can tweak what will be defined as a public-subsidy project, is the most expansive since the state’s first prevailing-wage law was enacted in 1988.

A spokesman for Gov. Andrew Cuomo’s budget division didn’t have an estimate on how many projects will be required to pay the wage. “We’re still analyzing the impact,” the spokesman said.

State lawmakers. It caps a yearslong effort by building trade unions to expand the definition of public works that must pay the wage.

The requirement was included in the budget to “provide our tradespeople and construction workers with higher wages on these projects when the time is right,” said Melissa Ramos, the budget division’s Director of Economics. “Even though it’s not as comprehensive as we would like, it is an important step toward providing wage rates that reflect the value of a skilled workforce,” she said.

Mr. Cuomo, a Democrat, included the expanded-wage requirements when he proposed his budget this year. He said higher wages would be spread throughout the economy as workers spend their additional earnings.

“I see this not as a cost, but a benefit,” Mr. Cuomo said. “We’re going to need an unprecedented level of economic activity to dig out from the deepest economic downturn in our lifetime. If we’re going to create new jobs, we need to create new wages.”

Freeman Klopott, a spokesman for Mr. Cuomo’s Budget Division, noted the new law could be delayed if the public-subsidy board determined it would hurt the economy. He said the new law would provide for a “neutral” process to determine whether public-subsidy projects should be defined by any new or expanded definitions of public works.

State Sen. George Borrello, a Republican from upstate Chautauqua County, said in a statement that the new law “will provide our tradespeople and construction workers with higher wages on these projects when the time is right.”

They said the budget, adopted as the coronavirus spread around the state, should have been more focused on economic recovery.

“The requirement is unacceptable,” said State Sen. William Larkin, a Republican from Orange County. “This is a government-knows-best, costly and inefficient solution that will hurt the economy, hinder growth and cause higher costs. We need to focus on economic recovery.”

Mr. Borrello said the new law will make it harder for developers to find construction companies that want to work on government-backed projects.

“Though not ideal, it definitely is a step in the right direction, and I believe the door is now open to expanding prevailing wage as we’re ready,” Ms. Ramos said.

“I think we should be cautious before we do anything to raise wages on all projects,” Mr. Borrello said. “I think we should move cautiously, and I think we should attack the problem in a systematic way.”

The New York State Project Finance Corporation, which awards projects that are expected to invest in infrastructure,狮子l, said it would review the law’s impact.

“Projects already competing for New York State funding will need to accommodate the new law,” said Tom Barone, the group’s President.

A spokesman for the State Public Facilities Office said it was reviewing the law.

“They said the budget, adopted as the coronavirus spread around the state, should have been more focused on economic recovery.”

By the end of the year, the state has received 1,475 complaints involving one-time, $2.6 million college tuition hikes that will be offset by college savings plans.

The Wall Street Journal
New York, NY

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By the end of the year, the state has received 1,475 complaints involving one-time, $2.6 million college tuition hikes that will be offset by college savings plans.
The Loews Kansas City convention hotel in Kansas City, Mo., on April 4, 2020. The opening of the $367 million development.

The Hilton Columbus Downtown hotel in Ohio could have levers酒店 management could use to persuade guests to return to hotels with or without the convention business. It could offer things such as reduced rates, complimentary parking or a gift card for the restaurant, for example. An industry expert estimates that it’s costing hotels about $50 a room a day in lost business.

Lenders have either provided or will provide at least $22 billion in bridge financing to hotel companies with a medium-term economic outlook. The American Airlines and Delta Airlines cut their flight schedules. $48.5 million hotel.

About 1.6 million hotel workers have lost their jobs in March. Hyatt Hotels Corp. furloughed the roughly 450 employees it needed. But in mid-March, Hyatt had 121,000 employees. Hyatt and the Hilton cut staff to just 30% of pre-Covid staffing levels.

Projects on the horizon include $22 billion in bridge financing for large hotels.

As of Tuesday, the Hilton said it was planning to open new conventions in 2021. According to STR, the convention growth projections that were an engine for luxury hotel growth and conventions were turned upside down.

The largest credit-manipulated agency’s 1.6 million workers were also furloughed.

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Hotels that rely on these types of business, like AmericInn, are struggling. In New York, the AmericInn by Wyndham in New York is an example of the breadth of the offend in the industry.

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Coronavirus slams brakes on Stewart's Shops' $75 million construction plan

Stewart's Stores Corp. in Ballston Spa was supposed to be building seven new stores and renovating a few more in the first three years of its $50 million building program. But Covid-19 and the construction slowdown have left the company scrambling. Some communities have struggled to get the projects started,的意义。
Most construction spending falls in March; Industrial Info reports drop in projects

The first impacts of the pandemic on construction spending showed up in the Census Bureau’s data for March, posted on Friday. Although total spending put in place increased 0.9% at a seasonally adjusted annual rate from February and 4.7% from March 2019, the increase was concentrated in the volatile residential improvements segment, which jumped by $17 billion (10%) over the month. All other categories—public, private nonresidential and new residential construction—slipped by a combined 0.5% for the month. Notably, spending declined from February in 10 of the 11 private nonresidential categories in Census’s press release. The exception was communication construction, which edged up 0.3%, possibly reflecting spending on facilities to meet demand for better connectivity for home-based work, education and entertainment. The private segments with the steepest year-over-year (y/y) declines and some of the steepest for the month all experienced a sharp drop in usage by late March: lodging, -2.2% for the month and -13% y/y; amusement and recreation facilities, -1.9% and -15%, respectively; and private education, -1.6% and -18%. Overall, private nonresidential spending slid 1.3% and 1.8%, respectively. Public construction spending increased 0.7% for the month and 7.9% y/y. The largest public segment, highway and street construction, jumped 4.6% and 5.5%, respectively, helped both by mild winter weather and an acceleration of projects in states that allowed contractors to close more lanes or work longer hours as traffic declined. The next-largest segments slipped for the month: education, -0.3% (up 4.9% y/y) and transportation structures, -0.4% (up 6.1% y/y). The latter was pulled down by a 2.8% monthly drop in transit construction as transit systems experienced huge drops in ridership. In contrast, public spending on other land, air and water transportation increased 0.4% for the month and 8.6% y/y; some airports accelerated projects as flights and passengers decreased. New single-family construction fell 2.0% for the month, as potential homebuyers stayed in place. 

Project-tracking firm Industrial Information Resources reported on Friday that its count of 12 categories of industrial project starts dropped 9.8% in the first quarter (Q1) of 2020 from Q1 2019, with an 11% decrease in the value of those starts. The firm reported it “is tracking...nearly $160 billion worth” of “active” U.S. projects “that have been delayed or otherwise affected by covid-19.”

Construction employment, not seasonally adjusted, increased y/y between March 2019 and March 2020 in 205 (57%) of the 358 metro areas (including divisions of larger metros) for which the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) provides construction employment data, fell in 99 (28%) and was unchanged in 54, according to an analysis AGC released on Tuesday. The data covered the March 12 payroll period, generally before the pandemic triggered project suspensions and layoffs. (BLS combines mining and logging with construction in most metros to avoid disclosing data about industries with few employers.) The largest gain again occurred in the Dallas-Fort Worth-Irving metro division (10,200 combined jobs, 7%). The largest percentage gain occurred in Lewiston, Idaho-Wash. (23%, 300 construction jobs), followed by Walla Walla, Wash. (22%, 200 combined jobs). The largest job loss occurred Lake Charles, La. (-4,600 construction jobs, -18%), followed by New York City (-3,500 combined jobs, -2%). The largest percentage loss occurred in Laredo, Texas (-19%, -800 combined jobs), followed by Lake Charles. Five metros set new lows for March construction employment; 69 set new highs, in records dating back to 1990.

Total compensation (wages, salaries, and benefits, including required employer payments) for all construction industry employees increased 0.5% in Q1, BLS reported on Thursday. Compensation had increased 0.7% in Q4 2019 and 0.8% in Q1 2019. Wages and salaries in construction also increased 0.5% in Q1, vs. 0.8% in Q4 2019 and 0.7% in Q1 2019. Over the past 12 months, compensation increased 3.1%, compared to 2.8% in the previous 12 months, while wages and salaries rose 3.6% (vs. 2.9%). BLS reported that the “reference date” for
the data was March 12. “Response rates for March were comparable with prior releases, and no changes in estimation procedures were necessary” to account for the pandemic.

Inflation-adjusted gross domestic product (real GDP) fell 4.8% at a seasonally adjusted annual rate in Q1, following a 2.1% gain in Q4 2019, the Bureau of Economic Analysis reported on Wednesday. There were contrasting results for nonresidential and residential investment. Real gross private domestic investment in nonresidential structures (including wells and mines) declined 9.7% (vs. -7.29% in Q4). Real investment in commercial and health care structures decreased by 8.6% (vs. 1.2%); manufacturing structures, -25% (vs. 2.1%); power and communication structures, 3.3% (vs. 5.1%); and other non-mining structures, -19% (vs. -10%).

Real residential investment in permanent-site structures soared 27% (vs. 8.9%). Real investment in single-family structures jumped 33% (vs. 16%), while multifamily structures investment decreased 1.0% (vs. -19%). Real government gross investment in structures increased 7.5% (vs. 5.0%). Federal investment soared 43% for defense structures and 30% for nondefense structures; state and local investment rose 6.2%. The GDP price index increased 1.3% in both periods. The price index for nonresidential structures investment climbed 1.6% (vs. 1.1% in Q4). The price index for residential investment rose 2.0% (vs. 2.4%). The price index for government investment in structures rose 1.8% (vs. 1.6%).

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