

NY
BC NEW YORK
BUILDING
CONGRESS



2019 POLICY AGENDA



2019 POLICY AGENDA

Message from the Chairman and President & CEO

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 2019.

Now in its 98th 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 our more than 550 member organizations, comprised of more than 250,000 skilled tradespeople and professionals working in all industry sectors. We look forward to elevating all their accomplishments and leading this esteemed organization to new heights through a member and policy-driven agenda focused on growth and service.

The Building Congress is enormously proud to be the leading voice of our industry, and we work tirelessly to ensure that the construction sector's accomplishments and contributions to the success of New York are fully appreciated. We've maintained a strong tradition of supporting sound public policy, promoting productive capital spending, encouraging public/private partnerships, and evaluating the implementation of major government projects. The Building Congress has promoted competence and productivity in the workplace, with special emphasis on public service, teamwork, and partnership with government.

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 2019 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 visit www.buildingcongress.com throughout the year for updates on the Policy Agenda.

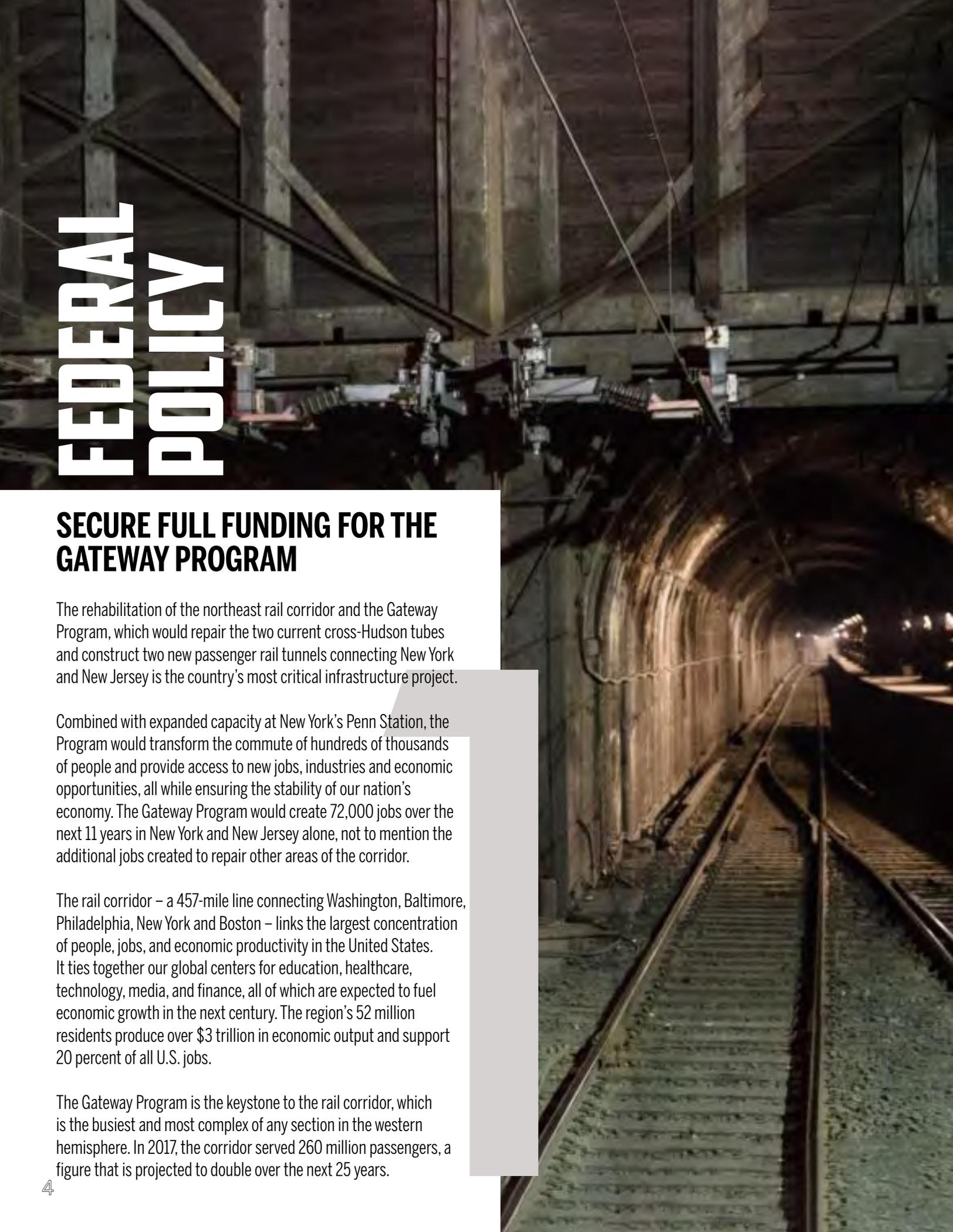
Very Truly Yours,


Carlo A. Scissura, Esq.
President and CEO


Milo E. Riveroso, Ph.D., PE., CCM
Chairman



FEDERAL POLICY



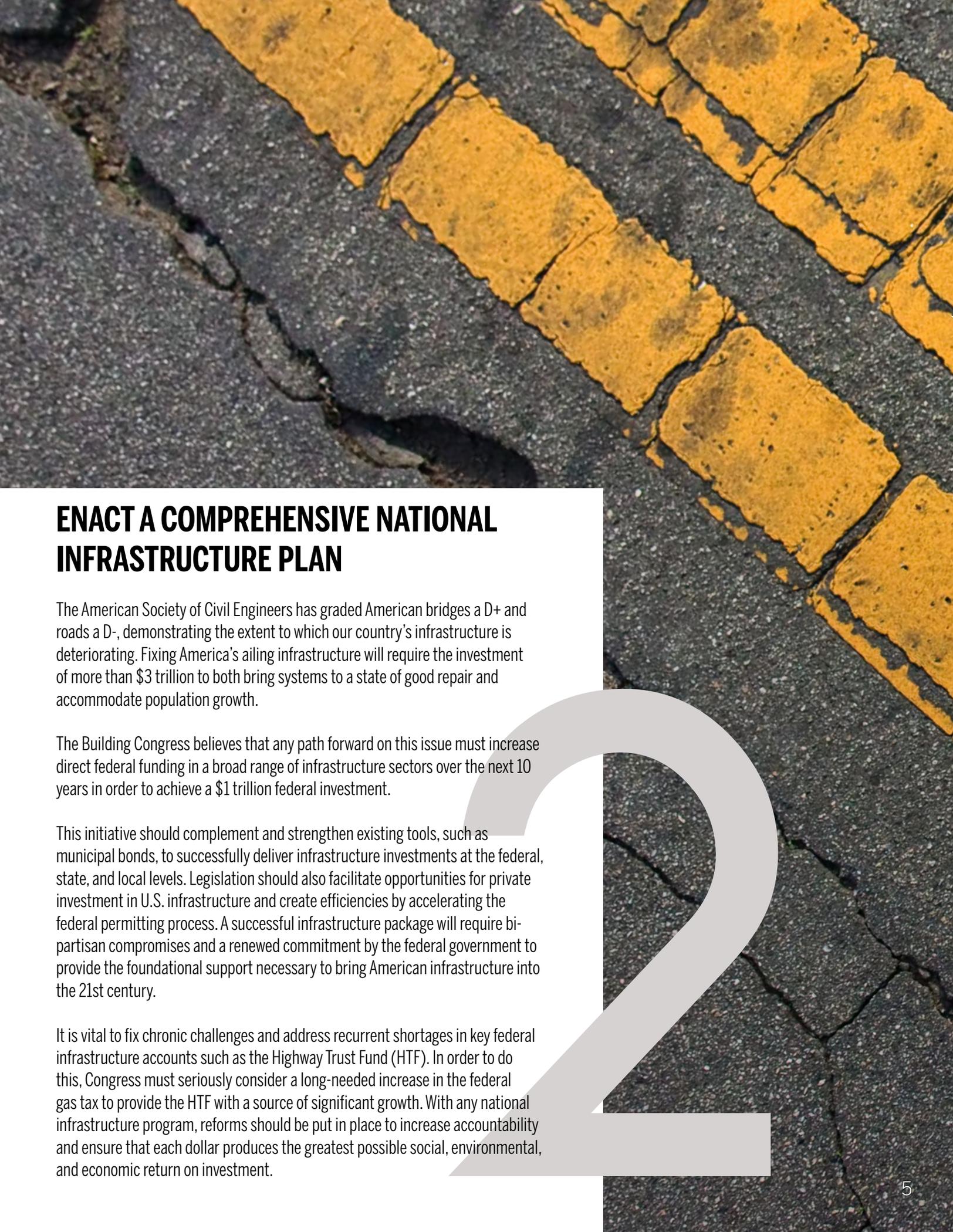
SECURE FULL FUNDING FOR THE GATEWAY PROGRAM

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 project.

Combined with expanded capacity at New York's Penn Station, the Program 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. The Gateway Program would 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 the 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.



ENACT A COMPREHENSIVE NATIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE PLAN

The American Society of Civil Engineers has graded American bridges a D+ and roads a D-, demonstrating the extent to which our country's infrastructure is deteriorating. Fixing America's ailing infrastructure will require the investment of more than \$3 trillion to both bring systems to a state of good repair and accommodate population growth.

The Building Congress believes that any path forward on this issue must increase direct federal funding in a broad range of infrastructure sectors over the next 10 years in order to achieve a \$1 trillion federal investment.

This initiative should complement and strengthen existing tools, such as municipal bonds, to successfully deliver infrastructure investments at the federal, state, and local levels. Legislation should also facilitate opportunities for private investment in U.S. infrastructure and create efficiencies by accelerating the federal permitting process. A successful infrastructure package will require bipartisan compromises and a renewed commitment by the federal government to provide the foundational support necessary to bring American infrastructure into the 21st century.

It is vital to fix chronic challenges and address recurrent shortages in key federal infrastructure accounts such as the Highway Trust Fund (HTF). In order to do this, Congress must seriously consider a long-needed increase in the federal gas tax to provide the HTF with a source of significant growth. With any national infrastructure program, reforms should be put in place to increase accountability and ensure that each dollar produces the greatest possible social, environmental, and economic return on investment.



ADVANCE NEW YORK STATE'S INFRASTRUCTURE AGENDA

Governor Andrew Cuomo has made 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 the 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.

Governor Cuomo's 2019 "Justice Agenda" proposes a new, \$150-billion infrastructure plan that will create hundreds of thousands of jobs. The NYBC supports the Governor's efforts to modernize existing facilities and building new ones across the state, including bridges, airports and train stations.



APPROVE A CONGESTION 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 Plan for congestion pricing on vehicles entering the Manhattan central business district.

The plan will provide dedicated funding to deliver improved short and long-term 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 used 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.

In 2018, the City of New York was given authority to use design-build on a project-by-project basis after

successful advocacy efforts from the New York Building Congress. New York State law now gives the City authority to rebuild a portion of the Brooklyn-Queens Expressway, create new jails to replace Rikers Island and fix NYCHA buildings using the streamlined process.

The Building Congress will seek to modernize New York's public procurement construction laws to provide public owners with a wider variety of procurement and delivery modes, as necessary and appropriate, to reduce costs, speed delivery and improve quality and safety. While it may not be universally suitable, there are many critical projects that would benefit substantially from alternative delivery methods.



The Mario M. Cuomo Bridge, an example of Design-Build in use today.



ENSURE CLEAN AND 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 the state's energy consumers unless new, clean, affordable sources of energy are established.

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 New York State's progress on the closure of Indian Point and ensure that a clean and affordable plan to replace the energy loss is met.



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 legislation that will permit the building industry to play an essential role on behalf of government during times of crisis.



SUPPORT PROJECTS CRITICAL TO THE FUTURE OF OUR REGION

The City and State must be a major force for investment in and advancement of major new expansion projects that will enable our region to thrive in the next century. The Building Congress will publicly urge advancement of ongoing and new projects as well as innovative funding proposals to ensure these projects move forward. These projects include, but are not limited to:

- Critical maintenance and redevelopment of the New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) facilities
- Brooklyn Queens Connector (BQX) light-rail transit
- Rehabilitation of the triple-cantilever portion of the Brooklyn-Queens Expressway
- Closing of Rikers Island and the building of four modern, community-based jails
- Port Authority of New York & New Jersey airport facilities including the LaGuardia Airtrain, Redevelopment of LaGuardia and JFK Airport and upgrades to Newark Airport
- Redevelopment of the Port Authority Bus Terminal
- Planning and Replacement of the Outerbridge Crossing
- Phase 2 and 3 of the Second Avenue Subway Expansion
- Successful completion of the East Side Access Program and LIRR Third Track



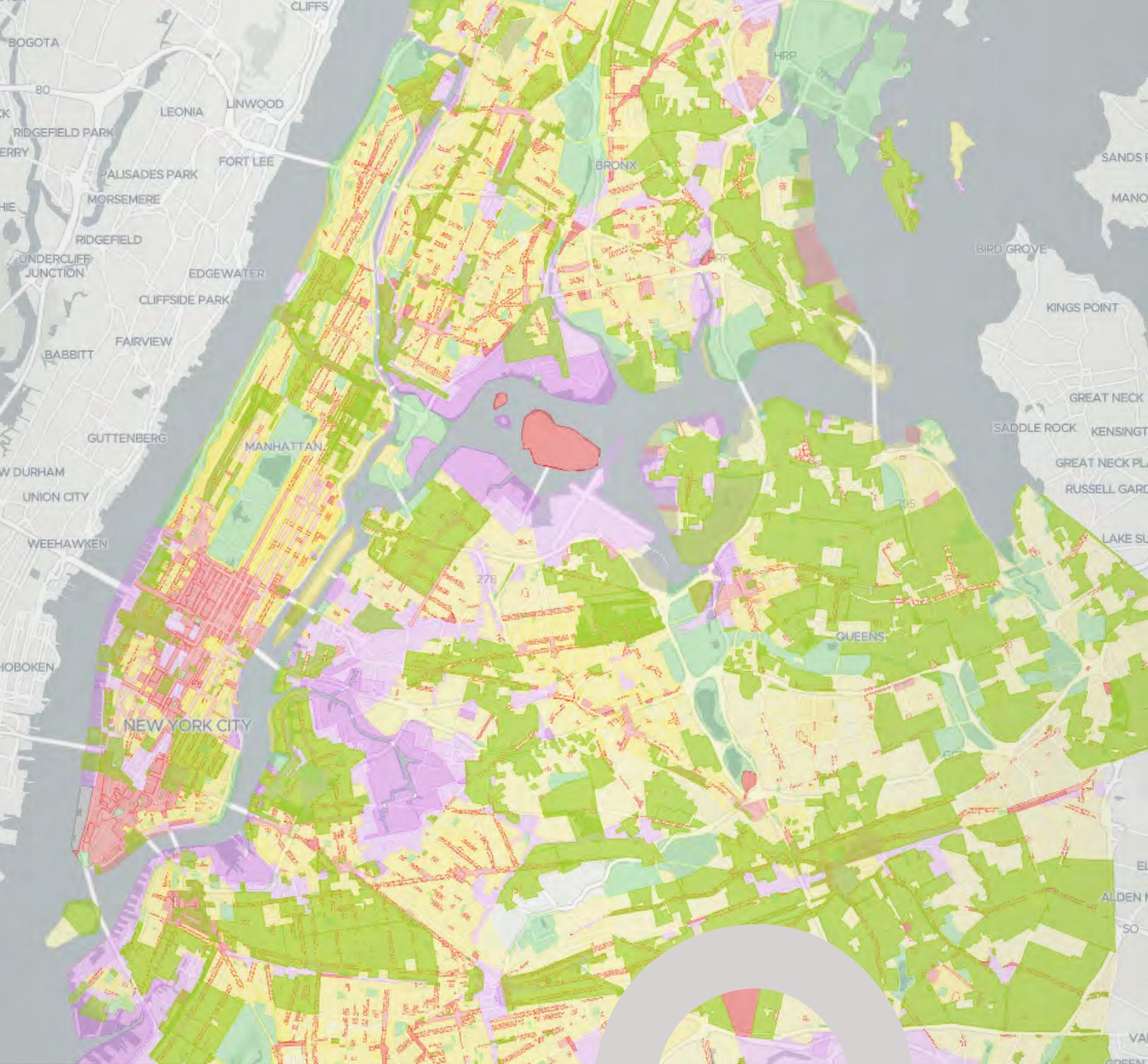
PROMOTE A FIVE-BOROUGH INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT STRATEGY

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. To achieve a five-borough strategy, we call on the Mayor to establish a city-wide infrastructure council to coordinate among citizens, elected officials and government agencies on our most critical needs.

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 New York to accommodate projected growth. Through our “Building the Future of New York” report series, the Building Congress will define these projects and promote them to ensure they are given serious consideration by the public and decision makers.

NEW YORK CITY POLICY





ENCOURAGE STRATEGIC REZONING INITIATIVES

As New York City's population and employment numbers hit record highs, the need for buildable land is growing particularly 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 transit hubs and major thoroughfares. The Building Congress will work with Mayor de Blasio's administration, elected officials and local communities to support future rezoning initiatives and turn their collective vision into reality.

MAKE THE NEW YORK CITY CAPITAL PROGRAM MORE EFFICIENT AND TRANSPARENT

The City of New York consistently spends between \$8 and \$10 billion every year on vital capital projects throughout the five boroughs. 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 and scope changes and speed up payment.

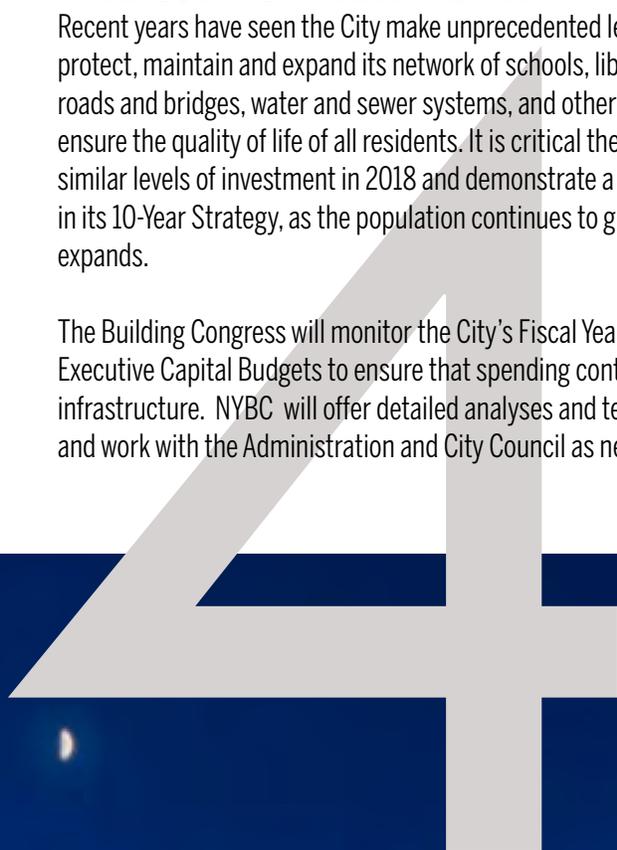
The Building Congress will also encourage the City to prepare and present a more transparent capital budget. A more transparent budget will allow elected officials to better track capital program progress, detect cost overruns, and allow City officials to engage in more rational, long-term planning.



ENSURE ROBUST CAPITAL SPENDING BY THE CITY OF NEW YORK

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 of all residents. It is critical the City continue to make similar levels of investment in 2018 and demonstrate a longer-term commitment in its 10-Year Strategy, as the population continues to grow and the economy expands.

The Building Congress will monitor the City's Fiscal Year 2019 Preliminary and Executive Capital Budgets to ensure that spending continues to flow to critical infrastructure. NYBC will offer detailed analyses and testimony on budget details and work with the Administration and City Council as needed.





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.

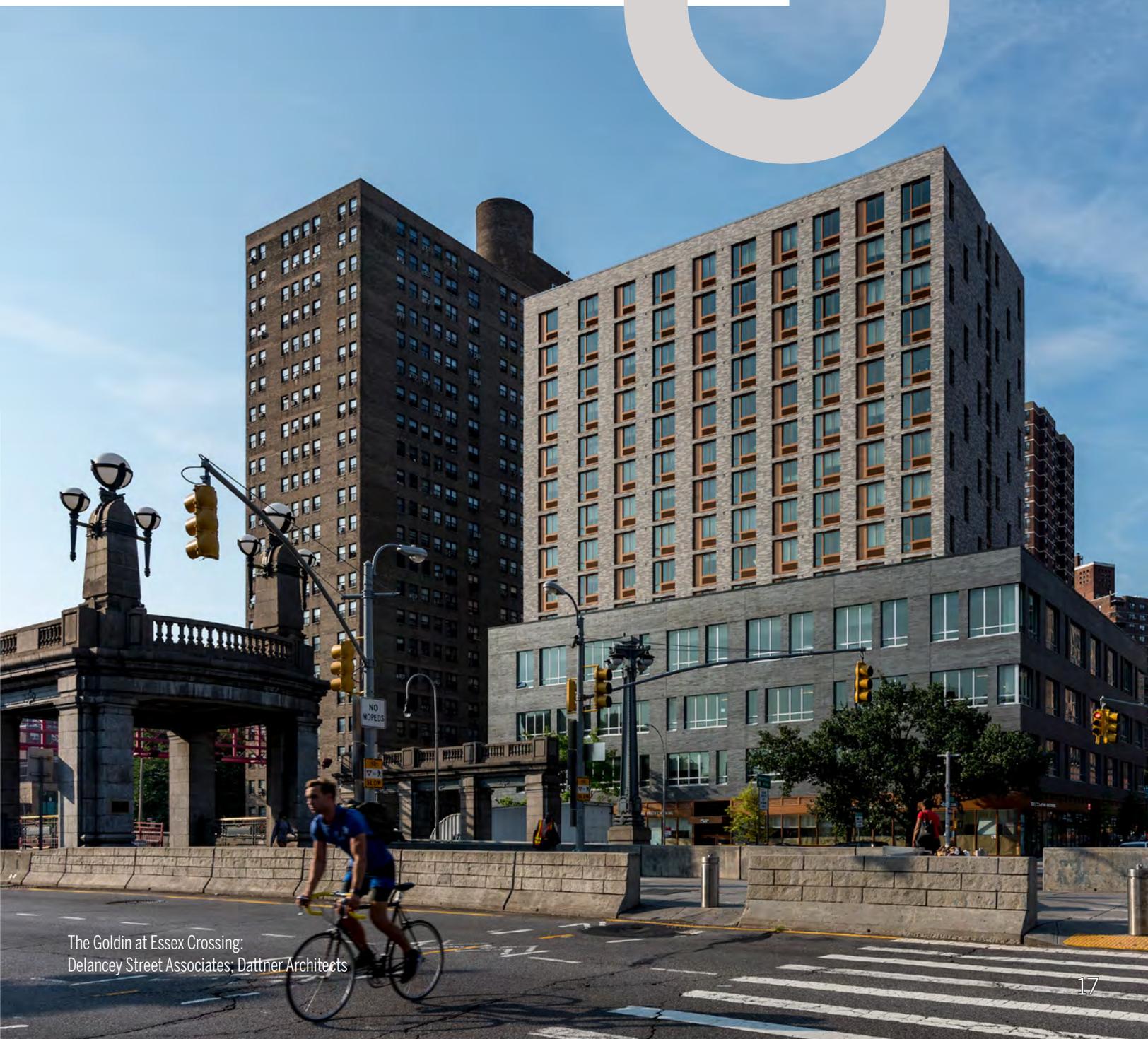
The Building Congress will work with the City to look closely at its programs and practices, suggest areas for improvement, and seek their implementation.

Photo by Michael Calcagno

ADVANCE NEW YORK CITY'S AFFORDABLE HOUSING INITIATIVE

Mayor de Blasio has 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 2019 and build a pipeline of housing for all income levels.

The Building Congress supports further legislation and enhanced 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 on these critical projects continues .



The Goldin at Essex Crossing:
Delancey Street Associates; Dattner Architects



IMPROVE STEAM EDUCATION

The building industry is facing a shortage of design and construction professionals and requires additional 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.

SUPPORT SUSTAINABLE DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION

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 energy supply, buildings, transportation, and solid waste. The Building Congress will support efforts to incentivize energy-efficient, resilient and healthy buildings. In addition, the Building Congress will work to make sure our workforce is prepared, through expanded training for operators, property managers, architects, engineers and developers, on emerging strategies for cost-effective, hyper-efficient buildings.





New York Building Congress
1040 Avenue of the Americas
21st Floor • New York, NY
10018
Tel: 212.481.9230
www.buildingcongress.com

The New York Building Congress is a membership coalition of business, labor, association, and government organizations promoting the design, construction, and real estate industry in New York City.

Whether supporting strategic economic development initiatives, pressing for new sources of financing dedicated to infrastructure programs, or advocating improvements to procurement practices, the Building Congress is a leading voice on the benefits of keeping New York City building for its future.