

NYC Capital Budget Tops \$11 billion in FY 2019



New \$33 Million Far Rockaway Library, Under Construction. Image Courtesy Queens Library

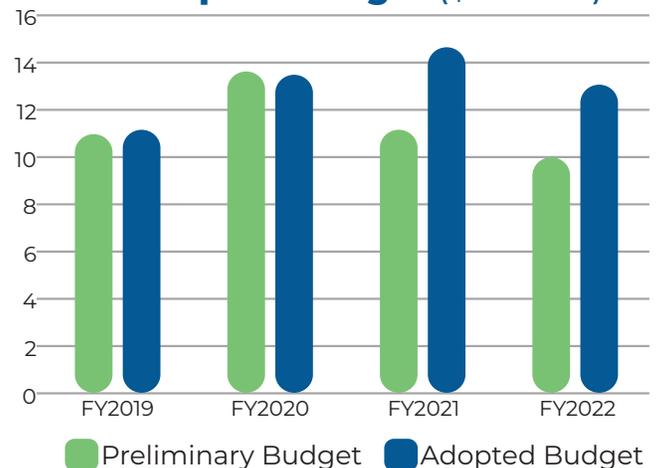
Infrastructure spending by the City of New York continues to move in the right direction after years of declining investment. The New York City Council agreed to a budget for Fiscal Year 2019 that includes an unprecedented \$52.5 billion in capital spending for the next four years. Divided into an \$11.2 billion FY-2019 budget and a \$41.3 billion three-year capital program in FY2020-2022, the adopted budget shows growing expenditures and sustained investment in New York’s built environment.

Between FY 2019 and 2020, spending grows from \$11.2 billion to 13.5 billion, a 17% change. The next period, between FY 2020 and 2021, expenditures grow to \$14.7 billion and then level off at \$13.1 billion in FY2022. The budget is largely congruent with priorities set in the 10-year strategy released last year. The City continues to invest heavily in public schools, housing, resiliency efforts, transportation, and parks, with the largest increases in capital commitments earmarked for repairs and upgrades to the City’s roads and bridges, as well as the installation of new water mains throughout the five boroughs.

Several much-needed capital projects this budget addresses include:

- 51 Public Building Projects
- \$326 million for Supportive Housing
- \$284 million for Police Department Facilities
- \$60 million for NYC Libraries
- \$150 million School Accessibility Projects
- \$40 million for NYCHA Infrastructure

Preliminary vs. Adopted NYC Capital Budget (\$ billions)



NEW CAPITAL BUDGET SUBCOMMITTEE

The 2019 Capital Budget exceeds the total four-year expenditures proposed in the April-released Commitment Plan by \$585.7 million, but also includes new transparency measures instituted by the newly formed Capital Budget Subcommittee, chaired by Councilmember Venessa Gibson.

In its first year, the subcommittee worked to ensure that budget allocation was consistent with realistic expenditures and that line-items for capital projects were well-detailed. The resulting budget is one that is both extensively thorough and committed to the city's growth.

After many years, the City Council is now taking an in-depth look at increasing areas of transparency, ending the practice of "frontloading" a disproportionate amount of the Capital Commitment plan in the current year. Instead, the subcommittee reduced these excess appropriations, by \$5.8 billion in FY 2019 and redistributed \$6.4 billion from the Capital Commitment Plan to the out years in the Adopted Budget.

Under the new subcommittee, economic development remains an important focus of the City Council. Over the next four years, \$86.6 million is going to the Brooklyn Naval Yard and \$61 million will be allocated for economic development projects along the industrial waterfront and for commercial purposes.

“Whether it’s transit, roads, bridges, hospitals, schools or libraries, dedicated investment in infrastructure is essential to maintaining a safe and vibrant New York. This approved capital budget shows that the City Council and the Mayor’s administration are focused on investing in public works, which in turn facilitates a tremendous increase in private investment.”

Carlo A. Scissura
President and CEO, New York Building Congress

DESIGN-BUILD AUTHORITY

This year, 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. State law now gives the City authority to use design-build to rebuild the triple-cantilever portion of the Brooklyn-Queens Expressway, create new jails to replace Rikers Island and fix NYCHA buildings, all scheduled to start construction over the next three years. The de Blasio Administration and New Yorkers can expect to save money and time using design-build.

New York City Capital Expenditures Since 2001
(\$ billions)

