

AVIATION ADVANCES IN NY LEGISLATURE'S ONE-HOUSE BUDGETS

Earlier this month, both the Senate and Assembly released their One-House Budget Bills in response to Governor Hochul's Executive Budget Proposal for the 2025-26 State Fiscal Year (SFY). The Executive Budget includes no new funding for a Round III for the Upstate Airport Economic Development and Revitalization initiative and held the Aviation Capital Grant Program flat at \$12.5 million. NYAMA had lobbied the Governor to support \$250 million for a Round III and an increase for the capital grant program to \$40 million. Her Executive Budget did not include these increases. Fortunately, the Senate and Assembly both proposed enhancing capital funding for aviation in their budget proposals.

Senate One-House Capital Budget – Transportation

- The Senate adds \$250 million for the Round III for the Upstate Airport Economic Development program (Renamed: Airport Competition Fund)
- The Senate increases the Airport Capital Grant Program by \$12.5 million, for a total of \$25 million
- The Senate adds \$20 million to the Syracuse Hancock Regional Airport Authority for the design of a new parking deck and associated land improvement

Assembly One-House Capital Budget – Transportation

- The Assembly increases to \$25 million the Airport Capital Grant Program, up from \$12.5 million

Next Steps:

The release of the One-House Budget Bills and subsequent Joint Budget Conference Committee meetings that took place earlier this month is a critical step in the State Budget process. Next up is three-way negotiations between the Governor, Senate, and Assembly to seek an agreement on a final state spending plan. Although the deadline for approval of the budget is April 1st, the Governor and legislature did not complete its work on time and we can expect a delay of several more days (or maybe weeks) before a complete state budget is adopted.

The proposed increases for state-funded airport and aviation programs included in both the Senate and Assembly budgets are certainly a positive development and advances NYAMA's goals of boosting state investment in airport infrastructure. NYAMA commends the leadership of New York Legislative Aviation Caucus Chairs Assemblymember Donna Lupardo and Senator Monica Martinez and the nearly 100 Caucus members for these proposed airport funding increases.

This progress is a credit to NYAMA's advocacy and the strong participation among our members at our Advocacy Day event in Albany in late February. These legislative funding proposals are an acknowledgement of the need for sustained investment in airport infrastructure, as advocated by NYAMA and its industry partners. The return on this public investment in airports has been clearly demonstrated by the New York State Department of Transportation's recent report on the benefits of aviation to New York's economy; an \$80 billion impact.

What NYAMA is currently doing:

1. NYAMA sent letters to Senator Jeremy Cooney, Chair of the Senate Transportation Committee and Caucus Co-Chair Senator Monica Martinez, thanking them for their leadership in securing these higher levels of funding in the Senate One-House Budget.

2. NYAMA is sending letters to Assembly Majority Aviation Caucus Members to urge them to match the Senate higher funding levels in their own Assembly One-House budget.
3. NYAMA members in these selected Assembly Districts will be contacted by Bruce Geiger and encouraged to follow-up the NYAMA letter with phone calls to these legislators to request that they contact their Assembly leadership to urge them to support maximizing funding levels for their airports and the aviation communities in the final budget agreement.

NYAMA will continue to keep our members informed of any progress and ways in which you can be helpful as the state budget situation continues to change from day to day.