

## **NYAMA SCORES MAJOR NEW YORK BUDGET VICTORIES**

### **Budget Agreement Secures Federal Aid, Revives Critical Airport Funding Program**

Governor Andrew Cuomo and legislative leaders recently announced a budget agreement that will maximize federal funding for New York airports and re-establish and enhance an important airport financial assistance program that had gone unfunded for the past four years.

“The New York Aviation Management Association appreciates the support of our legislators, the Governor, and especially those state lawmakers who are members of the New York Legislative Aviation Caucus,” said Ann Crook, NYAMA’s President. “The gains for aviation in this budget are directly attributable to the strong leadership of Senator William Larkin and Assemblywoman Donna Lupardo as co-chairs of the 100+ member bi-partisan Aviation Caucus.”

The budget legislation, expected to be adopted before the start of the next state fiscal year that begins on April 1st, will include \$10 million in new capital funding for both the state match of federal Airport Improvement Program (AIP) grants, and for airport projects under the state’s Airport Improvement and Revitalization (AIR ‘99) program.

The AIP funding is important because the FAA is only providing 90% federal funding to most airports instead of the historic 95%. NYAMA successfully argued that the \$4 million in the proposed budget to cover the state share of federal airport projects is expected to be far short of what will be necessary to ensure that all available federal funding for airport projects will be tapped by New York going forward.

NYAMA also urged the restoration of millions of dollars of capital funding to the state’s AIR ‘99 program, which has been unfunded since the 2009-10 fiscal year. The AIR ‘99 program is vital to the revitalization of airports by funding construction, reconstruction, reconditioning and preservation of facilities. It also provides financial assistance for related engineering services, purchases of airport equipment—including navigational aids—land acquisition and easements, and technical assistance for airports, such as preparation of studies to attract, retain, or improve air carrier or air cargo services and the development of airport business plans.

The AIR ‘99 program is also enhanced in the budget by an increase in the maximum grant from \$300,000 to \$1 million.

“NYAMA is pleased with this renewed commitment to airports and aviation in New York as demonstrated by this budget agreement that protects New York’s share of federal funding for airports and restores the critical AIR ‘99 program,” Ms. Crook said. “NYAMA will now work to make sure these programs will be sustained in subsequent Executive Budgets and hopefully funded at higher levels in the future,” Ms. Crook concluded.

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*The New York Aviation Management Association (NYAMA) -- New York's "Voice of Aviation," -- has nearly 13,000 members and affiliate members, including the National Business Aviation Association and Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association, and represents over 120 commercial service and general aviation airports, fixed based operators, consultants, engineers and other aviation industries and professionals who believe that serious economic development efforts at the state and regional levels necessitate strong public investment in New York's aviation assets and facilities.*