To: Mayors, Managers, Administrators, Fiscal Officers and Attorneys

From: Barbara Van Epps, NYCOM Deputy Executive Director

The State Legislature is back at the Capitol working to finalize the State Budget for fiscal year 2020-21 which begins today. Many of the final bills are still being negotiated and as a result, we are awaiting details on things like amending discovery reform, siting of renewable energy projects, authorization for e-bikes and e-scooters, expansion of prevailing wage, along with other initiatives. It is our understanding that the siting of small wireless facilities and the legalization of adult-use cannabis will not be part of the final Budget.

Here is what we know at this time:

AIM Funding – The Budget makes no changes to the amount of AIM funding for cities, villages and towns and the associated AIM-related payments that certain villages and towns receive from county sales tax revenue.

Transportation Funding – CHIPS is funded at the current $438 million and the Budget includes the additional $65 million in Extreme Winter Recovery funding.

Water and Sewer Infrastructure Funding – The Budget includes an additional $500 million for drinking water and wastewater infrastructure funding, similar to what was proposed in the Executive Budget.

Discovery Reform Implementation Aid – The Budget includes $40 million, which would be transferred from the Office of the Manhattan District Attorney, to support local services and expenses related to discovery reform implementation, including but not limited to, digital evidence transmission technology, administrative support, computers, hardware and operating software, data connectivity, development of training materials, staff training, overtime costs, litigation readiness, and pretrial services. Eligible entities include, but are not limited to counties, cities with populations less than one million, and law enforcement and prosecutorial entities within towns and villages.

Mid-Year Budget Reduction – The Budget includes language that would permit the State Budget Director to make uniform reductions to appropriations if the State Budget becomes unbalanced because revenues fall below projections or expenditures rise above projections during a given period. The proposed reductions would be shared with the Legislature and they will have ten days to prepare and adopt their own plan. If the Legislature does not do so, the Budget Director’s proposed reductions would go into effect automatically.

We will continue to provide you with updates as more information becomes available.