Stop Arm Camera Bill Passes Both Houses – Last week, the Senate and Assembly passed the Stop Arm Camera Bill which authorizes counties, cities, towns and villages to enter into agreements with school districts to implement a stop arm camera program, providing them with another tool to fight the illegal passing of stopped school buses. This program is optional and would require such local government to pass a local law “imposing monetary liability on the owner of a vehicle” for failing to comply with stop arms and empowering them “to install and operate school bus photo violation monitoring systems.” The system cannot be installed until the school district and the county, city, town and/or village enter into an agreement. Due to geographic considerations, where a district enters into an agreement with a county, there cannot be separate agreements with the cities, towns and villages within such county. The cost of such programs will be the responsibility of the municipality. The fines associated with the new law will accrue to the participating county, city, town or village in which the violation occurred but the fine amounts are dictated by the statute as follows: $250 for a first conviction; $275 for a second conviction within 18 months; and $300 for a third conviction within 18 months. The new law also requires annual reporting by the participating municipality about certain aspects of the program and its results.

Bill Requiring Mandatory Enforcement of Domestic Violence Orders Passes Both Houses – Last week, a bill passed both houses that would make local governments with police departments liable to individuals with orders of protection who are injured by individuals who are the subject of the order. While the purpose of the legislation is to incentivize enforcement of orders of protection, the bill would impose a substantial unfunded mandate because subjecting law enforcement agencies to liability for failing to enforce orders of protection would expose local governments to litigation costs and civil damage awards. Moreover, if enacted, this legislation would supplant local law enforcement experts’ decision-making responsibilities regarding the management of law enforcement resources with the State Legislature’s view that enforcing orders of protection trumps all other law enforcement activities. NYCOM opposes this bill
and has sent a letter to the Governor’s office urging a veto. We encourage you to do the same if you have similar concerns.

**Shortened In Rem Tax Foreclosure Process Bill** – NYCOM’s bill (A. 4403 - McDonald / S. 1864 - Gaughran) that would shorten the *in rem* tax foreclosure redemption period for abandoned property has already passed the Senate and is on the Assembly floor. We anticipate that it could be voted on as soon as next week. NYCOM’s memorandum in support of this bill can be found [here](#).

**Hearing Held on Municipal Deposit Options** – On Monday the Assembly held a hearing about expanding municipal depository options to include credit unions. Both NYCOM and the Association of Towns submitted testimony in support of this proposal. (NYCOM’s testimony can be viewed [here](#).) In addition, NYCOM has been supportive of a bill (A. 3262 – Zebrowski / S. 6079 Sanders) that would expand municipal depository options to include credit unions as well as savings banks. We encourage you to use NYCOM’s memorandum in support to advocate for passage of this bill.

**Transportation Funding Request** – As we mentioned in the last Advocacy Update, NYCOM’s primary focus for the remainder of the legislative session is to secure the restoration of $65 million in Extreme Winter Recovery funding (a.k.a. pothole aid), as well as a long overdue increase in CHIPS (beyond the $438 million that was included in the Adopted Budget) and an increase in the reimbursement rate for the 38 cities who maintain state arterial highways. When the Governor, Senate and Assembly negotiated the enacted State Budget, it was with the understanding that a supplemental capital budget – including additional transportation funding – would be approved prior to the end of session. In order to ensure this commitment is fulfilled, it is essential that you communicate with the Governor and your representatives in both the Senate and Assembly on these issues, as this funding is critical to the improvement of your roads, bridges and highways and the overall quality-of-life in your communities. Many of you have already done so by using this sample letter which can be customized by you and transmitted to the Governor and your Senator and Assembly member urging them to support these initiatives. We strongly encourage the rest of you to send letters as well. With only 13 days of session left, time is of the essence.