Statement from NYCOM Executive Director Peter A. Baynes Concerning Outlines of Final State Budget

“Reports coming from state budget negotiations suggest that, for the tenth consecutive year, there will be no increase in AIM funding for cities, villages and towns. It is beyond comprehension that, in the context of a $160 billion spending plan, the Governor and State Legislature would once again neglect the single most important state program for municipal property tax relief. This is even more shocking coming ten days after both the Senate and Assembly included an AIM increase in their one-house budgets.

“At the same time, our state’s largest city would be struck with an outlandish mandate that would take control of the property tax away from a local government. The proposal that would allow the MTA Board to unilaterally intercept New York City property tax revenue is an absolute violation of a municipality’s right to control its own future. If implemented, this would siphon billions of dollars away from essential public services provided by New York City to its 8.5 million residents. The state has no business dictating how property taxes that fund local public safety, infrastructure maintenance and other services are used in New York City — or any municipality. NYCOM joins with the City of New York in strongly opposing such an unprecedented power grab for a state authority at the expense of local government.”